

Eparchial Consultative Bodies

Consultative Body	General Description	Membership	Existence
1. College of Eparchial Consultors (CCEO c. 271)	The college of eparchial consultors assists the eparchial bishop in the governance of the eparchy in accord with the provisions of common and particular law. At times, the law requires the eparchial bishop to consult the college, and to obtain its consent.	The college is comprised of no less than six priests, and no more than twelve, who are members of the presbyteral council at the time of their appointment by the eparchial bishop.	The college of eparchial consultors is a required body within the eparchy. It is to be established for a five-year term, but it continues its functions even after that time until a new college is constituted. The college of eparchial consultors continues in existence during a vacant or impeded see.
2. Eparchial Pastoral Council (CCEO cc. 272-275)	The eparchial pastoral council exercises a three-fold responsibility, under the governance of the eparchial bishop. It investigates, evaluates, and proposes practical conclusions regarding matters pertaining to the pastoral welfare of the eparchy. Unlike the diocesan pastoral council in the Latin Catholic Church, the eparchial pastoral council is not required to convene annually (CIC c. 514, §2).	The pastoral council consists of clerics, religious or members of societies of common life, and especially lay people. In so far as possible, the council is to be representative of the eparchy with respect to persons, associations and other endeavors. If suitable, the eparchial bishop can invite others to be members of the pastoral council even if they are ascribed in other Churches <i>sui iuris</i> . The manner of determining membership on the pastoral council is left to the eparchial bishop and should be articulated in the council's statutes.	Unlike the college of eparchial consultors or the presbyteral council—which are required by canon law—the establishment of the pastoral council is left to the discretion of the eparchial bishop should pastoral circumstances within the eparchy recommend it. The pastoral council is to be established for a definite period of time. It goes out of existence when the eparchial see is vacant.
3. Eparchial Assembly (CCEO cc. 235-242)	The eparchial assembly assists the eparchial bishop in those things concerning the special needs or usefulness of the eparchy. At the discretion of the eparchial bishop, the assembly's advice may lead to the promulgation of laws, declarations or decrees.	<i>In iure members:</i> the coadjutor bishop and auxiliary bishops; protosyncellus, syncelli, judicial vicar; eparchial finance officer; eparchial consultors; rector of the eparchial major seminary; protopresbyters; at least one pastor from each district within the eparchy, to be elected by all of those who have the care of souls there; members of the presbyteral council; some delegates from the pastoral council (if it exists), elected by the council in a manner determined by particular law; some deacons, elected according to particular law; superiors of monasteries <i>sui iuris</i> , and some superiors of other institutes of consecrated life which have a house in the eparchy, elected in a manner determined by particular law; lay persons elected by the pastoral council (if it exists), or elected in some other manner determined by the eparchial bishop. The number of lay persons is not to exceed one-third of the eparchial assembly. <i>At the eparchial bishop's discretion:</i> <i>As members</i> other persons, even of other Churches <i>sui iuris</i> . <i>As observers</i> persons from non-Catholic Churches or ecclesial communities.	The eparchial assembly is convened as often as circumstances warrant it in the judgment of the eparchial bishop, after he has consulted the presbyteral council. It is the right of the eparchial bishop to convene the eparchial assembly, to preside over it personally or through another, and to transfer, postpone, suspend or dissolve it. If the eparchial see becomes vacant, the eparchial assembly is suspended by the law itself until the new eparchial bishop issues a decree to continue or terminate it.
4. Eparchial Finance Council (CCEO cc. 262-263)	The eparchial finance council assists the eparchial bishop in the preparation of the annual budget, the appointment of the eparchial finance officer, and in offering general oversight of the administration of the temporal goods of the eparchy. The eparchial bishop is to hear the finance council concerning the more important acts related to eparchial financial matters and, in some instances he must obtain the council's consent.	The eparchial finance council is comprised of the eparchial bishop (who acts as the council's president), the eparchial finance officer, and other suitable persons who are also, if possible, expert in civil law. Persons are appointed to the council by the eparchial bishop following consultation with the college of consultors, unless a different manner has been delineated by particular law. Those related to the eparchial bishop up to the fourth degree inclusive of consanguinity or affinity may not be members of the council. No mention is made in the common law regarding a minimum or maximum number of persons who are to comprise the finance council, nor is the question of a term of office considered. Such matters are determined by particular law.	The finance council is a required body under canon law. The council does not dissolve during a vacant or impeded see.
5. Eparchial Presbyteral Council (CCEO cc. 264-270)	The presbyteral council is a group of priests representing the eparchial presbyterate which assists the eparchial bishop by offering its advice regarding the pastoral needs and welfare of the eparchy. The eparchial bishop hears the presbyteral council in matters of greater importance and he is obliged to consult it in certain circumstances.	Some priests are <i>ex officio</i> members of the presbyteral council, others are appointed by the eparchial bishop, and another portion are priests who are elected by the presbyterate according to the provisions of particular law. The members of the presbyteral council are designated for a term determined in the statutes so that the whole council, or at least some part of it, is renewed within a five-year period.	The eparchial bishop is obliged to establish a presbyteral council within the eparchy. If the eparchy is vacant, the presbyteral council ceases to exist and its function is carried out by the college of eparchial consultors.