

REALIGNMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES



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In the spring of 2006, a survey outlining a proposed realignment of standing committees was sent to parish councils. Forty four responses were received that provided input on the proposal. No conclusions were drawn from the small sample received.

The national executive decided that more input was needed from the grassroots members in an effort to understand their values and needs. A survey was developed and sent to all 1,333 councils on October 31, 2006 in a parish council mailing. The survey was focused on the primary activities of the council, the standing committees that are active within the council and the degree to which standing committees could be combined.

Two hundred and sixty four responses were received. Councils listed their three primary activities as follows:

1. fund-raising
2. spiritual development
3. parish assistance

The top 10 activities of councils were listed as:

1. fund-raising
2. spiritual development activities
3. parish assistance
4. community life activities
5. deceased ministry
6. social events
7. youth ministry
8. meetings
9. charitable donations
10. fellowship

Standing committees, in order of importance to councils, were listed as:

1. spiritual development
2. parish activities
3. Christian family life
4. organization
5. community life
6. education and health
7. communications
8. resolutions
9. legislation

The positions considered able to be combined:

1. resolutions and legislation
2. recording and corresponding secretaries
3. Christian family life and community life
4. collapse of all standing committees in favour of an executive-driven-project-model

In January 2007, focus group questions were developed based on the data collected from the survey. The focus groups were designed as a qualitative research method to further examine the issues surrounding the current structure of the standing committees. Focus groups were established at 2007 diocesan and provincial conventions to assess council concerns and suggestions regarding the proposed realignment of standing committees. Input was received from 33 of the 47 diocesan councils and all of the provincial councils.

The questions were divided into two categories:

1. realigning the standing committees should be the focus of the national executive at this time
2. the focus of the national executive should be on other issues

The data gathered from the focus groups suggested that the national executive should focus on education, structure, image, recruitment, membership participation/retention and interest.

Based on all of the data gathered, the national executive has concluded that the realignment of standing committees will not be a focus of the League at this time.

The input received including the key findings and suggestions will be considered by a committee that will be planning a strategy to deal with recruiting, retention and image of the League.

For further information on the results of the survey and focus groups contact your provincial president. †

Magazine Deadlines:

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