

One Parish Planning Process

One Parish Planning is the process parish families will use to restructure and reenvision parish life while preparing to become one canonical parish. The result of this discernment is the One Parish Plan that will be given to the archbishop to officially form the new single parish.

The OPP process will include multiple groups interacting at various points all with unique roles. To begin this work, each parish family will form a Parish Family Advisory Council comprised of 9-12 parishioners who are the key consultative body. These members represent all the parishes in the parish family, and they are focused on helping the parish family discern its future parish life.

Five Stages of One Parish Planning



1. Organizing & Kickoff

Gather the team to determine roles, responsibilities and timelines for planning.

2. Who are we?

This stage sets the foundation of the parish family and the larger community, generating information about the people, ministries, gifts and opportunities. It also introduces a set of viability and baseline metrics for the parish family to track progress and evaluate the impacts of new initiatives.

3. Who do we want to become?

This stage considers the unique makeup and needs of the community and the desires for the future parish. During this time, the parish family will set a community vision and initiatives that reflect that vision.

4. How do we get there?

Using the community vision and initiatives, the parish family will develop a concrete plan in this stage. Specifically, the parish family will examine all areas of parish life and set priorities while determining the best use of resources.

5. What should we be called?

Based on the shared vision and the plan, the parish family will select several potential names for their new parish that reflect the charism and vision of the new parish. These names will be submitted in the One Parish Plan for Archbishop's discernment and final selection.

Assembling the One Parish Plan

By following the planning process, it will be easy for parish families to extract key decisions into a templated document, along with key worksheets and selected new parish names. These will be assembled into the official One Parish Plan.

From One Parish Plan into a New Parish

Once the parish family assembles the One Parish Plan, it is submitted to the Review Committee for feedback. The Review Committee, comprised of Archdiocesan staff as well as priests, parish staff, and lay leaders from across the archdiocese will ensure all the components of the plan are present and may provide specific recommended adjustments to the One Parish Plan. For example, the Review Committee may find that a parish family increased the number of offered Masses, but this would require the priest to celebrate five Masses when they shouldn't celebrate more than three. Or perhaps a parish family submits a plan to build a new parish hall but does not include the fundraising strategy to support the project.

After the Review Committee has approved the One Parish Plan, it will be delivered to the archbishop, who will consult with the Presbyteral Council about each plan. The Presbyteral Council will provide their insights, after which the archbishop will either approve the plan or request further revisions.



To learn more about the One Parish Planning Process, visit archseattle.org/partners