

## **What does it mean to be a mission?**

St. Francis is not a separate entity from the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri (COEDMO). St. Francis **IS** COEDMO while St. Michael and St. George, Holy Communion, Emmanuel, etc. legally are separate entities from COEDMO.

## **What does this mean practically?**

1. **We do not have a banner at the Cathedral representing us while parishes do.**
2. **The Bishop is the Rector of this parish.** The Vicar serves in his place.
  - a. This means the Bishop can remove the Vicar at any time without the consent of the members of the mission.
  - b. This is not the case in parishes.
3. **The lay leadership is not a vestry**—a legal entity that governs a parish. It is instead a Bishop's Committee.
  - a. The Standing Committee—which is the lay leadership board of the diocese—is the legal entity that governs St. Francis.
  - b. What this means is that when we want to make decisions like leasing a portion of our building, as we did beginning in March, 2023, COEDMO had to sign the lease. The Warden and I are not the legal representatives of St. Francis. Standing Committee is.
4. **We received financial and logistical support from the diocese since our founding in 1991.**
  - a. Historically, St. Francis has received \$30,000 from the diocese each budget year. Our last step to becoming a parish was to do without financial support which we have done in 2024 and plan to again in budget year 2025.
  - b. Because we are part of COEDMO, there are a few logistical pieces that the diocese handles for St. Francis (i.e. a dispute over personal property tax with STL county). As a parish, we will have to do these things ourselves.
5. **In all other ways, we function as a parish.**
  - a. Pay an assessment to the Diocese of 12.5% of our gross income.
  - b. Have to apply for grants to receive diocesan funding like all parishes.

## How do we become a parish?

Timeline for St. Francis' to become a parish. **Highlighted items are complete.**

Step 1.	January 2024	Start of year one without diocesan financial support . <i>Canon IV.4 §2</i>
Step 2.	January 2025	Start of year two without diocesan financial support. <i>Canon IV.4 §2</i>
Step 3.	February 2, 2025	St. Francis' annual meeting; offer motion to seek parish status. <b>IF</b> motion passes by 2/3 majority, then proceed to step 4. <i>Canon IV.4 §2</i>
Step 4.	After motion passes from step three	Draft a petition requesting to be a parish; petition signed by 50 adult members who have been parishioners >1 year. <i>Canon IV.4 §§1&amp;2</i>
Step 5.	Promptly after the motion passes and petition signed	People of St. Francis' present petition to the Bishop. <i>Canon IV.4 §1</i>
Step 6.	After petition presented to the Bishop	Bishop denies or, with advice and consent of Standing Committee, grants the petition. <i>Canon IV.4 §3</i>
Step 7.	Promptly after step 6	St. Francis' prepares Articles of Incorporation on forms provided by diocesan Chancellor for approval. <i>Canon IV.4 §5</i>
Step 8.	Promptly after step 7 but no later than early October 2025	St. Francis' holds a special meeting in conformity with the Canons to adopt Articles of Incorporation and Parish bylaws. <i>Canon IV.4 §4</i>
Step 9.	October 2025	Parish submits to the Bishop written application for admission <b>at least 20 (10/24/25) days before the meeting of Convention.</b> <i>Canon IV.4 §6</i>
Step 10.	November 2025	Bishop either disapproves or endorses the petition. If the Bishop endorses the petition, it is referred to the Committee on Lay Credentials and the Admission of New Parishes. <i>Canon IV.4 §6</i>
Step 11.	November 2025	Committee on Lay Credentials and Admission of New Parishes responds to the Bishop and Secretary of Convention at least 5 days before (11/9/25) next meeting of Convention. <i>Canon IV.4 §6</i>
Step 12.	November 2025	If approved by the Committee on Lay Credentials and Admission of New Parishes, the Committee submits the application to Convention for action. <i>Canon IV.4 §6</i>
Step 13.	November 14-15, 2025	Convention approves St. Francis parish status
Step 14.	December 2025	If approved by Convention, Articles submitted to the MO Secretary of State. <i>Canon IV.4 §5</i>