

# CCOC

## Catholics for Change in Our Church

Catholics for Change in Our Church (CCOC) are individuals who have joined together in an effort to bring about positive change for the laity and clergy in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report on August 14, 2018, made the Church in Pittsburgh ground zero for the global abuse crisis. All of us have been placed in a crisis of conscience because we are supporting and have supported a church hierarchy that can act without our knowledge and input. We, the People of God in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, call upon the church hierarchy to work with us to collaboratively move the church forward and to provide a template of change. We seek to work with anyone or any group seeking the same!

On the evening of September 20, 2018, a group of 200 committed, hurting and outraged Catholics met for an evening of prayer and listening. Catholics for Change in Our Church was formed that evening! Since then we have been joined by many more members. A follow-up workshop on November 13, 2018 “Our Hearts Are Broken: Mending the Breach,” resulted in five Focus Groups created to further discuss a lay response: 1) Support of Abuse Survivors and Their Families; 2) Financial Transparency; 3) Reducing Clericalism; 4) Lay Oversight of Diocesan Functions; and 5) Strengthening and Diversifying the Clergy. These CCOC Focus Groups began meeting to form a collective dialog leading to corrective actions with the ultimate goal of revitalizing the Faith Community through healing and restoring trust through transparency. Another large gathering of CCOC members occurred on March 31, 2019. Two more Focus Groups were created: Engaging and Empowering Youth in Our Church & Pathways to Lay Leadership in Our Church. A governance model was also adopted for CCOC that day.

The structure of CCOC is an unincorporated association, which means we are de-centralized in our approach to governance. CCOC has a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and seven (7) Focus Groups. The Coordinators of the Focus Groups serve as an Executive Committee with the Chairperson of CCOC. The Chairperson seeks to coordinate communications between the Focus Groups and CCOC’s general membership to keep people informed and determine the overall direction for the group at large. When the Chairperson cannot serve, the Vice Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson.

The Focus Groups are where most of the work of CCOC occurs. They meet on a regular basis to discuss members’ thoughts and feelings about issues, and determine strategy and action plans for their Group.

**Focus Groups** The seven (7) Focus Groups of CCOC are:

- Support of Abused Victims, Survivors and Their Families in Our Church
- Financial Transparency in Our Church
- Reducing Clericalism in Our Church
- Strengthening and Diversifying the Clergy in Our Church
- Pathways to Lay Leadership in Our Church
- Engaging and Empowering Youth in Our Church
- Lay Oversight of Diocesan Functions in Our Church, including whistle-blower protection

Each Focus Group has a Coordinator or Co-Coordiators as determined by the members of that Focus Group. More information about the Focus Groups can be found on the next page.

If you wish to join CCOC, please register by sending an email with your name and parish (if applicable) to [CCOCwithhope@gmail.com](mailto:CCOCwithhope@gmail.com). You will then be kept inform of what is happening within CCOC.

## **FOCUS GROUPS and Their Coordinators for Catholics for Change in Our Church (CCOC)**

*If you are interested in joining a Focus Group, please send an email expressing this interest to the Focus Group Coordinator listed below with their email, and they will contact you with more information about the Focus Group and when their next meeting will be.*

### **1. Supporting Abuse Victims/Survivors and Their Families in Our Church**

Focus Group Coordinator:

John Costantino

Email: [john\\_costantino@yahoo.com](mailto:john_costantino@yahoo.com)

*(Note underscore “\_” between “john” and “costantino” in email address)*

### **2. Financial Transparency in Our Church**

Focus Group Co-Coordinators:

Jan Hayes

Email: [janhayes1122@gmail.com](mailto:janhayes1122@gmail.com)

Jane and John Pillar

### **3. Reducing Clericalism in Our Church**

Focus Group Co-Coordinators:

Regina Gentile

Email: [reginagentile@gmail.com](mailto:reginagentile@gmail.com)

Andy Bechman

Marlene Milik

Paula Nettleship

### **4. Strengthening and Diversifying Clergy in Our Church**

Focus Group Co-Coordinators:

Betsy Cwenar

Email: [betsy00@verizon.net](mailto:betsy00@verizon.net)

Denise Charron-Prochownik

### **5. Pathways for Lay Leadership in Our Church**

Focus Group Co-Coordinators:

Gretchen Jezerc

Email: [gjezerc@gmail.com](mailto:gjezerc@gmail.com)

Ed Brett

Dr. Michael Lamb

Barb McCarthy

Jim McCarville

Evy Severino

### **6. Engaging and Empowering Youth and Young Adults in Our Church**

Focus Group Coordinator:

Samantha Calorie

Email: [Samantha.calorie@gmail.com](mailto:Samantha.calorie@gmail.com)

### **7. Lay Oversight of Diocesan Functions in Our Church, including Whistleblower Protections**

Focus Group Coordinator:

*Position is currently vacant. If interested in this Focus Group, please send an email expressing interest in this Focus Group to [CCOCwithhope@gmail.com](mailto:CCOCwithhope@gmail.com)*