

Charter: Governance Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Governance Committee is to strengthen board governance, clarify organizational structure, measure board effectiveness, and ensure alignment with National through standardized practices to support effective leadership.

Accountability

The Governance Committee is accountable to the Board of Directors and shall report at least quarterly on their activities. They shall prepare an annual report for the Council that includes the activities and membership of the committee and any subcommittees.

Areas of Responsibility

- **Measure board effectiveness** by ensuring that all board members fulfil requirements and complete all required trainings.
- **Ensure Board compliance with Bylaws** which outline SVDP's governance, purpose, organizational structure, and operational procedures, in alignment with SVDP USA, the Society's Rule, and federal requirements of SVDP as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.
- **Manage the new board onboarding process** to support the critical governance role of the board, ensure that all new members receive the same foundational knowledge and are equipped with the tools they need to contribute effectively, and ensure new board members fully understand and align with the organization's mission, vision, and core values.
- **Develop training and professional development opportunities** to reinforce the spiritual and service-oriented nature of the organization, and to build the board's capacity to govern and to fundraise.
- **Manage Safeguarding Program:** Ensure Vincentian compliance with VIRTUS & Safeguarding requirements and best practices for the just and respectable treatment of all neighbors.
- **Assist in the Conflict Resolution Policy** requirements for complaints, conflicts, or concerns that are serious and have been escalated.
- **Manage board member election processes** when applicable.

Membership

The Chair of the Governance Committee shall be appointed by the Council President for a renewable 3-year term: Membership of the Finance Committee shall include three to five members:

- shall include at least 1-2 Vincentians who are active members of their home Conference, are complete and up to date in all required and expected trainings and have recent experience of home visits or other direct service to neighbors.
- shall include key staff and/or key stakeholders with the needed financial expertise to contribute to the advancement and fiduciary responsibility of the board

Time Commitment

- Committee meets quarterly
- Members may be assigned to participate in meeting periodically with Conferences/Parish Families