

The Colorado Covenant Regarding the Unity of the Bishops of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

Preamble

We the bishops of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, having been called by the Lord Jesus and chosen by the people of God for the ministry of the Gospel of Christ entrusted to us, that we might better serve our sisters and brothers in mutual love and fidelity, do agree among ourselves to make the following solemn promises to God, to each other, and to every member of our beloved Communion:

Holiness

- When we are together we promise to devote ourselves to pray fervently and sincerely so that we might better discern the will of God.
- We together agree to hold each other accountable for our own personal spiritual growth and development, so that we may increase in both love and wisdom for the sake of our sisters and brothers to whom we are called to serve.

A Culture of Mutuality

- We agree to open each meeting with a passage from the New Testament that expresses the virtues of our life in Christ.
- We agree to be present to Jesus Christ and to each other, to listen to each other with compassion, and to respond to each other actively, diligently, and practically in mutual charity.
- We agree to relate to one another with honesty and integrity.
- We agree to foster authentic friendship and affection with one another.

Orienting New Bishops

- We agree to create and implement an orientation process for new bishops that makes explicit the norms and practices we have agreed upon.
- We agree to behave in a manner consistent with our norms especially when receiving new bishops among us.

Meeting Face to Face and by Teleconference

- We agree to meet together in person at least once a year, to meet in conjunction with ECC events, to visit each other when in one another's localities, and to meet regionally when possible.
- We agree to participate on conference calls at least monthly.

Common Vision and Mission

- We agree to develop a mission and vision statement for ourselves as a council of bishops, which will be in accord with the Constitution of our Communion.
- We agree that we will open each meeting with a prayer that reflects our mission and vision.

Unity and Reconciliation among Ourselves

- We promise to hold our unity with each other as paramount and essential to our calling.
- In the face of disagreement and conflict, we promise to avoid severing dialogue and communion and to actively seek reconciliation.

In the Face of Conflict

- We agree to persevere through conflict with one another to resolution with each other using gospel values and principles. (e.g., Matt 18)
- We agree that the Presiding Bishop is charged to take initiatives to resolve conflict among ourselves. We agree to cooperate with these initiatives.

In the Face of Disagreements

- Consensus will be our ideal in discerning the will of the Holy Spirit in Council decision making. There may be a situation in which consensus is not reached, and we will then acknowledge that we have yet to fully discern the will of the Holy Spirit. In such cases we will simply report the various perspectives on the Council without announcing a decision. We will then choose appropriate action to continue to resolve the matter over a reasonable period of time.

Other Commitments regarding Unity

- We agree to consistently adhere to our mission and vision statements and to the Constitution of the ECC.
- We agree that the Episcopal Council will appoint an observer bishop to every diocesan synod, other than a bishop of that diocese.
- We agree to only ordain persons outside the ECC with the approval of this Council.
- We agree to review and amend as needed this covenant at our annual retreat.

Trusting that we have been led by the Holy Spirit in the development of this Covenant, we the undersigned solemnly promise to bind ourselves to each other in love, and to these agreements so mentioned on this day, April 21, 2016, at Estes Park, Colorado.

Signed,

Francis Krebs, Presiding Bishop, ECC

Armando Leyva, Bishop Ordinary of the ECC Diocese of California

Raphael Adams, Vicar Forane for the MidAmerica Region of ECC and Vicar to Religious Orders

Thomas Altepeter, Suffragan Bishop for the Pacific NW Region of ECC

Peter Hickman, Presiding Bishop Emeritus and Auxiliary Bishop of the ECC Diocese of California

Rick Hollingworth, ECC Suffragan Bishop Emeritus