WORLD COMMUNION OF CATHOLIC, EPISCOPAL AND ORTHODOX CHURCHES

Communio Mundialis Ecclesiarum Catholicarum, Episcopalium et Orthodoxarum

"Ut Omnes Unum Sint" (John 17:21)

MINISTRIES & CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Canonical Framework for Ecclesial Diversity and Charismatic Unity

I. The Principle of Legitimate Autonomy and its Canonical Limits

The WCEOC operates under a profound respect for the legitimate autonomy of all signatory and affiliated jurisdictions, churches, ministries, and religious communities, provided that such autonomy strictly aligns with the immutable moral, doctrinal, and anthropological foundations established by this Global Communion.

While affiliation does not absorb or alter the internal day-to-day governance of its participants, all member jurisdictions must firmly safeguard and defend the faith as articulated by the General Secretariat and the magisterial decrees of the Communion, specifically the decree De Conservatione Depositi Fidelis. Consequently, internal autonomy is bounded by the following non-negotiable criteria:

• Moral and Doctrinal Alignment: All affiliated communities must unyieldingly defend the sacredness of human life from the moment of conception until natural death, maintaining an absolute rejection of abortion and euthanasia. Furthermore, they must preserve traditional

Christian anthropology, strictly rejecting gender ideology, materialistic philosophies, and revolutionary or revisionist doctrines that distort the biblical understanding of human nature.

• Liturgical and Sacramental Practice: Within the boundaries of orthodox Christian morality and historic apostolic tradition, each community retains jurisdiction over its specific historic rites, formulas of divine worship, and the administration of local sacraments.

• Administrative Governance: Affiliated jurisdictions retain control over their internal legislative, judicial, and administrative structures, including the sovereign management of their patrimony, financial assets, and local canon law, insofar as they do not violate the international statutes of the WCEOC.

• Ministerial Standards: While each tradition manages its internal processes for holy orders, the recognition, validity, and structure of ministries within this Global Communion must strictly respect the historic apostolic tradition and the foundational tenets of Holy Orders upheld by the WCEOC.

II. Recognized Ecclesial Traditions under the Christian Foundation

Embracing the ecumenical breadth of Christ's Church, the WCEOC officially recognizes, welcomes, and validates the ministries of various traditions—spanning Catholic, Orthodox, Episcopal, Anglican, Protestant, Reformed, and Apostolic/Pentecostal expressions—on the absolute condition that they remain entirely faithful to the traditional, historical, and non-negotiable foundations of the Christian Faith.

The WCEOC serves as a sacred fellowship for those who, despite differing in liturgical style, external rites, or historical administrative development, stand firmly united against secularism and modern ideological deviations. By demanding adherence to traditional biblical morality, the Communion ensures a harmonious witness that testifies to the unchangeable Truth of Jesus Christ.

III. Typology of Recognized Ministries

Within the WCEOC canonical framework, ministries are classified to ensure apostolic order, mutual respect, and standard recognition across international borders:

1. Sacred Ordained Ministries (The Clergy)

Comprising the historic threefold ministry of Bishops, Priests (Presbyters), and Deacons, who exercise spiritual oversight, administer the Holy Sacraments, and provide pastoral care to the flock of Christ, operating in strict compliance with the apostolic tradition and the canonical mandates of the WCEOC.

2. Religious Orders & Monastic Communities

Confraternities, societies of apostolic life, monasteries, and religious institutes operating under specific historic rules, vows, or evangelical counsels of devotion, unceasing prayer, and charitable works.

3. Lay & Parachurch Ministries

Evangelistic associations, theological seminaries, missionary societies, specialized chaplaincies (military, hospital, prison, and corporate), and social assistance organizations that operate as specialized expressions of Christian charity and the proclamation of the Gospel.

IV. Canonical Coexistence and Mutual Respect

All ministries and communities within the WCEOC pledge to adhere to the fundamental spirit of Christian charity, recognizing the shared orthodox foundations of fellow members. No affiliated jurisdiction shall interfere in the internal affairs, valid historical practices, or internal administrative boundaries of another member community.

Through this disciplined and principled coexistence, bounded by an unshakeable commitment to Christian truth, the WCEOC manifests true visible unity amid legitimate diversity, striving collectively to fulfill the Lord’s priestly prayer: "That they all may be one."

Official Notice from the General Secretariat:

Christian communities, jurisdictions, or specialized ministries seeking canonical affiliation, registration, or mutual recognition within the WCEOC must formalize their petition through the Office of the Secretary General and Canonical Moderator, The Most Reverend Bishop Assis Léo Padilha e Souza, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D. All inquiries must be directed via the official communication channels provided on our institutional portal.