



## **BY-LAWS** **for the** **HOUSE OF PASTORS**

### ARTICLE ONE

The House of Pastors (HOP) is one of the two legislative bodies of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion (ECC) created by the Constitution and Canons of the ECC (Canon 3). The membership is defined by Canons 3.1 - 3.3. These By Laws are an implementation of Canon 3.4. All actions of the HOP shall be in conformity with the Constitution and Canons.

### ARTICLE TWO

Guidelines for Voting and Elections:

1. In order to pass motions of any sort, the HOP must have a quorum of 50% +1 of the full membership of the House.
2. Every 2 years during Synod the HOP shall elect a President and Vice-President. Upon the vacancy of the Presidential office, the sitting Vice-President will be elected President by acclamation unless there is a motion to the contrary ratified by a majority vote. The election for President must be carried by at least 60% of the votes cast.
3. No person shall serve as President and/or Vice-President more than a four (4) year consecutive term.
4. No person from the same household or community may serve together in the elected leadership of the HOP.

### ARTICLE THREE

The primary responsibilities of the President of the HOP are:

1. to serve on the Leadership Council of the ECC and to participate with other members of the Council in planning the next Synod.
2. to conduct the sessions of the HOP during Synod, specifically:

- a. to convene meetings sessions in a timely manner
- b. to appoint note-takers
- c. to adhere to the agenda and keep the HOP on task
- d. to entertain timely motions to expedite the agenda
- e. to recognize delegates in discussion in such a way that a diversity of opinion can be expressed
- f. to call for a time of prayer if the discussion becomes acrimonious
- g. to appoint monitors, if the President finds it helpful, to help in any of the above tasks, but in all cases the guidance of the meeting resides with the President;

3. to contact delegates concerning any item requiring a vote during the interim between Synods (e.g., review and confirmation of intercommunion agreements—Canon 5.1).

4. to facilitate communication among its members in between Synods.

#### ARTICLE FOUR

The primary responsibilities of the Vice-President of the HOP are:

1. to serve in the place of the President if the latter is unavailable or incapable of serving.
2. to serve on the Leadership Council of the ECC with the President of the HOP and to participate with other members of the Council in planning the next Synod.

#### ARTICLE FIVE

Delegates have a responsibility to assist the President in keeping the meeting on task. They may do so by entering into discussion to move toward action and by making motions to aid in that process.

1. Motions may be of the following varieties:
  - a. Resolution
  - b. Amendment of a Motion, which must be accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion
  - c. Motion to Table in order to allow more time for study of the issues
  - d. Motion for Closure or to Call the Question in order to move toward a vote.
2. All motions require a second. All motions are open for discussion, with the exception of a Motion to Move for Closure or to Call the Question, which immediately moves to a vote.
3. No motion will be made while a previous motion is still under discussion.

4. The maker of a motion may withdraw it at any time.
5. The seconder of a motion may withdraw the second at any time, in which case another delegate may second it. If there is no second, the motion dies for lack of a second.
6. A point of order or a point of clarification takes precedence in all discussions. The President has the responsibility to judge whether a point of order or clarification is relevant and her/his decision may be overridden by a majority vote.

#### ARTICLE SIX

Steering Committee will be formed by the newly elected President and will serve as the President's advisory body. It will consist of the President (who will chair the committee), the Vice-President, and 4-6 additional members to be selected by the newly elected President. Members of the House will be asked to indicate their interest and willingness to serve on the committee. The new President will select the committee members from among this list and will announce her/his decision for the Steering Committee composition at the last session of the House of Pastors in Synod. The HOP as a collective body will affirm and bless its new leaders before formal presentation to the joint session of Synod.

The Steering Committee will meet at least every other month by phone conference and at other times when convened by the President. The Steering Committee will assist the President in planning for the next Synod.