

NEW CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

BYLAWS

Proposed March 21, 2022

ARTICLE I. NAME AND ADDRESS.

- A. **Name.** The name of the organization is the New Catholic Community (NCC).
- B. **Address.** The address of the organization is: 1612 Garden Street, Austin, Texas 78702.

ARTICLE II. MISSION, PURPOSE AND GOALS.

- A. **IRC Section 501(c)(3) Non-profit Purposes.** This corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- B. **Mission.** The New Catholic Community (NCC) unites inclusive Catholics as a national community comprised of laity, religious and clergy. Centered on the regular, communal celebration of the Eucharist, reading the “signs of the time,” and embodying Old Catholic values within the context of contemporary life, the New Catholic Community adheres to the principles of the Declaration of Utrecht (1889), the Bonn Agreement (1931) and the Lambeth Quadrilateral (1886), bringing unity and harmony to diverse expressions of inclusive Catholicism.
- C. **Purpose.** The New Catholic Community brings together inclusive Catholics desiring to walk with others in *synodos*, thus building up the reign of God both in holiness and in numbers. Because of its membership criteria, the New Catholic Community also serves as an accrediting organization of inclusive Catholic clergy and religious.
- D. **Goals.** The New Catholic Community aspires to live out a new mode of Catholicism, faithfully following Christ in the 21st-century context through an Old Catholic ecclesial model in relationship with communities that enjoy full communion with the Union of Utrecht of Old Catholic Churches. The New Catholic Community engages in bridge-building among likeminded, inclusive Catholics who share similar visions and ideals.
- E. **Policy on Non-Discrimination.** In no way shall the activities and operation of the New Catholic Community discriminate based on race, ethnic background, color, class, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. Based on availability and without exception, all persons shall have access to the programs which the New Catholic Community offers.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP.

- A. **Eligibility for Membership.** Membership in the New Catholic Community is open to all baptized laity, religious and clergy who:
 - 1. Affirm the 1889 Declaration of Utrecht, the 1931 Bonn Agreement, and the 1886 Lambeth Quadrilateral;
 - 2. Believe that such sister churches as the Union of Utrecht of Old Catholic Churches, the Philippine Independent Church, the Anglican Communion, the Roman Catholic Church,

and the Orthodox Catholic Churches are part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church;

3. Embrace as clergy all those admitted to Holy Orders in the same, as well as those within the inclusive Catholic movement who are validly ordained in the apostolic succession;
4. Believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist;
5. Embrace the sacramental life of the Church as means of God's grace;
6. Pay membership dues; and
7. Keep the Rule of life of the New Catholic Community.

B. Rule of Life. Members of the New Catholic Community commit themselves to living the Rule of Life of the New Catholic Community, namely to

1. Center their spiritual life on the Eucharist;
2. Find appropriate ways to grow in their spiritual lives, including spiritual direction and the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours for clergy and religious;
3. Make use of the sacrament of Reconciliation;
4. Pray for their spiritual siblings of the New Catholic Community;
5. Participate in events of the New Catholic Community to the extent possible; and
6. Provide mutual support and encouragement to the New Catholic Community.

C. Members Subject to Bylaws & Policies. All Members shall be subject to the Bylaws and Constitution of the New Catholic Community.

D. Application for Membership. Applications for membership shall be submitted to the New Catholic Community office in such form and accompanied by such supporting documents, as the Council may determine.

E. Dues.

1. The annual dues for Members shall be recommended by the Council and approved by the Annual Synod.
2. The dues year for a new Member of the New Catholic Community shall be for one year from the date on which payment of membership dues is received. The dues year for a renewing Member shall be for one year from the date on which membership was previously set to expire.

ARTICLE IV. ANNUAL SYNOD.

A. Governing Body. The general governing body of the New Catholic Community shall be known as the Annual Synod. The Annual Synod is comprised of all individual Members.

B. Powers of the Annual Synod. The Annual Synod shall:

1. Elect the Officers and Members of the New Catholic Community Council, as provided in these Bylaws;
2. Amend these Bylaws;

3. Adopt beliefs and resolutions pertinent to the mission and purpose of the New Catholic Community;
 4. Approve the annual membership dues recommended by the Council;
 5. Take such other actions as deemed appropriate by the Annual Synod, to act on behalf of, or to further the purposes of, the New Catholic Community.
- C. Delegation by the Annual Synod.** The Annual Synod may delegate to the New Catholic Community Council or to its Council Leadership Committee any of its powers except:
1. The annual election of Officers and Members of the New Catholic Community Council;
 2. The amendment of these Bylaws; and
 3. Final approval of annual membership dues.
- D. Meeting of the Annual Synod.** The Annual Synod shall hold one regularly-scheduled meeting every calendar year, ideally to coincide with the beginning of the fiscal year. The Minister General may call a special meeting of the Annual Synod, with approval from the New Catholic Community Council and with a 30-day notice to all Members. Appropriate technology will be employed so that Members can virtually attend the Annual Synod.
- E. Quorums and Voting.**
1. A quorum of the Annual Synod shall consist of the Members who are present at a scheduled meeting of the Annual Synod.
 2. Unless otherwise specifically provided by these Bylaws, a majority of those present and voting shall govern. No proxy vote shall be permitted.
 3. Only Active Members shall be voting Members at the Annual Synod.
- F. Parliamentary Procedure.** All proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* and other rules of procedure consistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE V. THE COUNCIL.

- A. Delegation to the Council.** Apart from those duties that cannot be delegated by the Annual Synod in Article IV. Section C above, the Annual Synod authorizes the Council to act on its behalf between meetings of the Annual Synod.
- B. Composition of the Council.** The NCC Council shall be composed of the New Catholic Community's Council Members, elected in accordance with the provisions of Article V, below; and the New Catholic Community's Officers, elected in accordance with the provision of Article VI, below.
- C. Eligibility.** Each Officer or Council Member shall be a Member of the New Catholic Community. Except in the case of the Minister General or Immediate Past Minister General, any Officer or Council Member of the Council who ceases to be a Member of the New Catholic Community shall cease to be a Member of the Council.
- D. Diversity.** All Members who participate in the Annual Synod will be mindful of the value of ensuring diverse voices on the Council.

- E. Unexpired Terms.** The Minister General shall nominate for Council approval a Member to fill any vacancy on the Council. Any Officer or Council Member elected or appointed to an unexpired term shall serve only until the end of the next Annual Synod following the date of the Officer's or Council Member's appointment.
- F. Timing of Officer and Council Member Elections.** Elections for all Officer and Council Member positions that expire during a given year shall be hosted during the Annual Synod.
- G. Exclusivity of Offices.** No person shall be a candidate for more than one office.
- H. Terms of Office.** All elected terms of office shall begin at the completion of the Annual Synod. All Council Members are elected to three-year terms, with no Officer remaining in the same for more than two terms, and with staggered terms, such that roughly a third of Council Members are elected each year.
- I. Requirements for Nomination.** To be nominated for an Officer or Council Member position, a candidate must submit:
1. A completed application;
 2. The candidate's biographical information;
 3. A signed statement confirming the candidate's willingness to serve, if elected.
- J. Officer and Council Member Elections.** Officer and Council Member Elections are conducted as follows:
1. If there is more than one nominee for any Officer or Council Member position, voting shall be by written ballot or electronic means. All ballot language shall be approved by the Nominations Committee.
 2. If there are two candidates for an Officer or Council Member position, the candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected. If there are three or more nominees for an Officer or Council Member position, and no candidate receives a majority vote of the Members present and voting, a run-off election shall be conducted between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes.
 3. If there is a tie for a majority vote for an Officer or Council Member position, the balloting shall be repeated for that position as many times as necessary to obtain a majority vote for a single nominee.
- K. Quorum of Council.** A majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum.
- L. Meetings of the Council.** The Council shall hold at least four meetings annually.
- M. Duties of the Council.** The Council shall supervise, control, and direct affairs of the New Catholic Community, within the limits of and consistent with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Resolutions approved by the Annual Synod. The Council will:
1. Adopt the New Catholic Community's budget;
 2. Establish such policies, as it deems appropriate in fulfilling its responsibilities under these Bylaws;
 3. Appoint such agents as it may consider necessary;

4. Make recommendations to the Annual Synod;
5. Take any other necessary actions, not reserved to the Annual Synod;

N. Removal of Council Members.

1. The Council shall review the service of any Council Member who is absent for more than a third of regularly-scheduled meetings.
2. Any Council Member may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Council when, in the Council' judgment, the Council Member being considered for removal has failed to faithfully perform the Council Member's responsibilities, or the Council Member's removal is in the best interest of the New Catholic Community.

ARTICLE VI. COUNCIL OFFICERS.

- A. Officer Positions.** The Officers of the New Catholic Community shall be Minister General, Deputy Minister General, Immediate Past Minister General and Secretary.
- B. Election of Officers.** The Minister General Elect, Deputy Minister General, Secretary of the New Catholic Community shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Annual Synod. In order to be eligible to be nominated for one of the foregoing Officer positions, the nominee must be a Member of the Council of the New Catholic Community, and must be present at the Annual Synod at which the election for these positions is being held, unless unable to attend due to medical reasons. Elections of Officers shall be elected utilizing the same procedures as those set forth for the election of Council Members as set forth in Article V above.
- C. Succession of Minister General to Immediate Past Minister General.** So that the New Catholic Community might benefit from the wisdom and experience of Immediate Past Minister General, this position will not be subject to election.
- D. Continuing Eligibility for Office.** Except in the case of the Minister General, or Immediate Past Minister General, any Council Member who ceases to be a Member of the New Catholic Community shall cease to be a Member of the Council, as of the date of the expiration of membership.
- E. Resignation of an Officer.** The Minister General may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Council. Any other Officer may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Minister General. Such resignations shall be effective upon receipt. Officer vacancies shall be filled on accordance with the provisions of Article VI, Section H, below.
- F. Duties of Specific Officers.**
 - 1. Minister General.** The duties of the Minister General shall be to.
 - a. Preside at all meetings of the New Catholic Community Council and perform duties as provided in these Bylaws and as assigned by the Council;
 - b. Be the official representative of the New Catholic Community at international, national, state, and regional meetings. If the Minister General is unable to attend such meetings, then the Minister General's designee shall represent the New Catholic Community;
 - c. Serve as a voting *ex officio* Member of all committees, but shall not count toward a quorum of any committee.

2. **Deputy Minister General.** The duties of the Deputy Minister General shall be to:
 - a. In the event of the Minister General's absence or refusal or inability to act, the Minister General Elect shall perform the duties of the Minister General. When thus acting as Minister General, the Minister General Elect shall have the power of and be subject to all restrictions placed upon the Minister General.
 - b. Perform other duties as provided in these Bylaws and as assigned by the Minister General.
 - c. Unless otherwise specified by these Bylaws, the Deputy Minister General shall serve as a non-voting *ex officio* Member of all committees, but shall not count toward a quorum of the committee.
3. **Secretary.** The duties of the Secretary shall be to record and maintain the minutes of all meetings of the New Catholic Community.
4. **Treasurer.** The duties of the treasurer shall be to:
 - a. Be responsible for the supervision of all funds and securities and financial records of the New Catholic Community, and may delegate to a designee any or all of the duties of that office, except the right to vote;
 - b. Make an annual financial report to the Annual Synod and other reports as may be requested by the Council or Council Leadership Committee.
5. **Immediate Past Minister General.** The Immediate Past Minister General shall perform all duties as assigned by the Minister General.

G. Removal of Officers.

1. The Council shall review the service of any Officer.
2. Any Officer may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Council when, in the Council's judgment, the Officer being considered for removal has failed to faithfully perform the Officer's responsibilities, or the Officer's removal is in the best interest of the New Catholic Community.

H. Officer Vacancies.

1. Vacancies occurring for the positions of Deputy Minister General, Secretary and Treasurer shall be filled by nomination from the Council Leadership Committee, with the consent and confirmation of the Council. Such appointee shall serve the unexpired term of that office.
2. If there is a vacancy for any reason in the office of Immediate Past Minister General, the vacancy shall not be filled.
3. If there is a vacancy for any reason in the office of Minister General, the vacancy shall not be filled, and the Minister General Elect shall perform all duties of the office, for the balance of the Minister General's original term. Service as Acting Minister General for the balance of the preceding Minister General's term shall not prevent the Minister General Elect from assuming the duties of the Minister General after the next Annual Synod.

4. If there is a vacancy for any reason in any office which cannot be filled by these provisions for succession to office, the Council shall appoint from its own membership an Officer *pro tempore* to perform the duties of the vacated office until the office is filled by an election by the Annual Synod at its next annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII. COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

- A. **Council Committee Composition.** The Council Leadership Committee shall appoint members to special committees authorized by the Council Leadership Committee, to fulfill specific assignments. These committees may include Council Members, members of the Executive Staff, and interested persons. Special committees shall report their findings to the Council Leadership Committee and the Council. Committees shall be dissolved upon completion of the assigned task or vote of the Council Leadership Committee. The Minister General, Minister General Elect, and the Chancellor shall be *ex officio* members of all committees, unless otherwise provided by Council action.
- B. **Appointment of Committee Members.** The Council Leadership Committee shall appoint the Chair, Vice Chair and Members of all Committees.

ARTICLE VIII. COUNCIL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE.

- A. **Membership on Council Leadership Committee.** The Council's Leadership Committee is comprised of the New Catholic Community's Minister General, Deputy Minister General, Immediate Past Minister General, and Secretary.
- B. **Meetings of the Council Leadership Committee.** The Council Leadership Committee shall meet from time to time, subject to the call of the New Catholic Community's Minister General. Meetings shall require seventy-two hours prior notice to the Council Leadership Committee, unless the Minister General makes a written certification of the existence of an emergency, in which case all Officers will be contacted by phone and/or text message with notification of the meeting. Council Leadership Committee meetings may be held in person or through virtual means.
- C. **Quorum of the Council Leadership Committee.** A quorum of the Council Leadership Committee shall consist of three (3) Officers. It shall not be required that the Officers necessary to establish a quorum be in the same physical location.

ARTICLE IX. EXECUTIVE STAFF.

- A. **Employment.** The Council, with the advice and recommendation of the Council Leadership Committee, may contract a Chancellor.
- B. **Duties of the Chancellor.** The Chancellor shall:
 1. Manage, supervise, and direct the operation of the New Catholic Community within the authority delegated by the Council or the Council Leadership Committee.
 2. Be the custodian of the records and maintain minutes of all proceedings of the New Catholic Community, its Council and Council Leadership Committee, and shall see that all notices are duly given, as provided in these Bylaws.
 3. Supervise other Staff and consulting personnel as hired by the Chancellor within the parameters of the Council-approved budget, who shall undertake such duties,

responsibilities, and authority as may be delegated by the Chancellor and who shall be responsible to the Chancellor. The Chancellor, as authorized by the Council through its approval or amendment of the New Catholic Community's budget, may employ, supervise, and discharge all personnel.

4. Sign all contracts that are authorized by the Council and other obligations and undertakings in the name of the New Catholic Community, unless specifically prohibited by these Bylaws or by further resolutions, policies, rules, or regulations, as may be adopted by the Council.
5. Collect and account for all income collected by the New Catholic Community.
6. Ensure that all funds of the New Catholic Community shall be deposited to the credit of the New Catholic Community in such depositories as the Council may select.
7. Issue all required bills, drafts, acceptances, checks, endorsements, or other payments, where such payments have been approved as a part of the New Catholic Community's budget.

C. Vacancy. If there is a vacancy for any reason in the position of Chancellor, the Council Leadership Committee may designate an Acting Chancellor to serve until the Council shall contract a Chancellor. The Acting Chancellor shall have all the power and perform all the duties of the Chancellor.

ARTICLE X. FISCAL AND LEGAL PROCEDURES.

A. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the New Catholic Community shall be January 1 through December 31.

B. Compensation and Reimbursement.

1. No Officer or Council Member shall receive compensation for services rendered. Certain expenses incurred by Officers and Council Members in attending to the business of the New Catholic Community may be paid by the New Catholic Community, in accordance with policies adopted by the Council.
2. No Member of the Council shall serve for compensation as an employee, consultant, or independent contractor of the New Catholic Community.

C. Contracts. Except as otherwise provided by in these Bylaws, the Council Leadership Committee may authorize any Officer or agent to enter into contracts and to execute or draw any instruments on behalf of the New Catholic Community, so long as the expenditure of any funds made necessary by such contract has been approved in the New Catholic Community's budget, including any amendment thereto.

D. Loans. No loan shall be contracted on behalf of the New Catholic Community, and no negotiable paper other than checks shall be issued in its name, except as authorized by the Council.

E. Deposits. All funds of the New Catholic Community shall be deposited to the credit of the New Catholic Community in such depositories as the Council may select or as may be selected by an Officer or agent designated by the Council.

- F. Books and Records.** All Council Members of the New Catholic Community, upon written demand, stating the purpose of the demand, have the right to examine and copy, in person, or by agent, accountant, or attorney, at any reasonable time, for any proper purpose, the books and records of the New Catholic Community relevant to that purpose, at the expense of the Member.

ARTICLE XI. LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY.

- A. Limitations of Liability.** No Officer of the New Catholic Community shall be personally liable to the New Catholic Community for monetary damages for any act or omission in their capacity as an Officer or Council Member; provided, however, that the foregoing provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of an Officer or Council Member for (1) breach of their duty or loyalty to the New Catholic Community, (2) an act or omission not in good faith or that involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law, (3) a transaction from which the Officer or Council Member received an improper personal benefit, whether or not the benefit resulted from an action taken within the scope of their office, or (4) an act or omission for which the liability of an Officer or Council Member is expressly provided in statute. An amendment or repeal of the Article shall be prospective only, and shall not adversely affect any limitation on the personal liability of an Officer or Council Member of the New Catholic Community existing at the time of such amendment or repeal. In addition to the circumstances in which an Officer or Council Member of the New Catholic Community is not personally liable as set forth in the preceding sentences, an Officer or Council Member shall not be liable to the fullest extent permitted by an amendment to the Texas statutes hereafter enacted that further limits the liability of the Officer or Council Member.
- B. Indemnification.** The New Catholic Community shall provide the broadest indemnification permitted by law to encourage service to the Council. Members of the Council, Officers, and employees of the New Catholic Community shall not be personally liable for any acts performed or omitted for the New Catholic Community in objective or subjective good faith. The New Catholic Community shall defend and indemnify the Members of the Council, Officers, or employees against any pending or threatened action, suit, or proceeding, civil, or criminal, to which any Council Member, Officer, or employee is or may be made a party by reason of having been a Council Member, Officer, or employee of the New Catholic Community, provided that the Council Member, Officer, or employee acted in good faith and reasonably believed that their conduct was in the New Catholic Community's best interest. The defense of such actions shall include payment of any and all expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, court costs, expert witness fees, and other reasonable expenses actually incurred by the Council Member, Officer, or employee in connection with or pertaining to proceedings, judgments, decrees, fines, penalties, or other amounts paid in satisfaction, in settlement of, or in connection with the defense. The New Catholic Community may purchase insurance providing similar coverage for the Council Members, Officers, and employees. Nothing herein shall be deemed to prevent compromise of any litigation where the compromise is deemed advisable in order to prevent greater expense or cost in the defense or prosecution of such litigation. Indemnification for any damages or expenses by a Council Member, Officer, or employee by way of this Article shall only apply to such amounts as are not payable and paid by the terms and conditions of any errors and omissions insurance policy purchased in favor of the New Catholic Community, its Council Members, Officers, and employees. The indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed to be exclusive of any others

rights to which any persons indemnified may be entitled under any regulation, agreement, or otherwise. The indemnification provided by this article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other power to indemnify or right to indemnification that the New Catholic Community or any person referred to in this Article may have or acquire under state and federal laws. Indemnification shall continue and inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, successors, and administrators of persons entitled to indemnification under this Article. In a criminal proceeding, the person may be indemnified only if he or she had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was New Catholic Community unlawful. The New Catholic Community will not indemnify a person who is found liable to the New Catholic Community or is found liable to another on the basis of improperly receiving a personal benefit from the New Catholic Community.

ARTICLE XI. COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

The Council may organize and participate in nonprofit associations or other legal entities whose mission and bylaws the Council determines to be consistent with the New Catholic Community's beliefs and these Bylaws. The Council may withdraw from further participation whenever it determines that further participation would not be in the New Catholic Community's best interest.

ARTICLE XIII. DISSOLUTION OF THE NEW CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.

In the event of dissolution of the New Catholic Community, dissolution shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code Section 501c(3), the Articles of Incorporation, and Texas law. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, upon dissolution of the New Catholic Community, assets will first be used to pay all debts and obligations; remaining funds shall be distributed for Internal Revenue Code Section 501c(3) of the public purposes. The precise formulas for distributions, and the timing thereof, shall be determined by the Council.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS.

These Bylaws may be amended at the Annual Synod by a vote of the majority of the Members present and voting, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment shall be posted on the New Catholic Community's website for review at least thirty (30) days before consideration by the Annual Synod.

Appendix A

The Declaration of Utrecht (1889)

1. We adhere faithfully to the Rule of Faith laid down by St. Vincent of Lerins in these terms: "*Id teneamus, quod ubique, quod semper, quod ab omnibus creditum est; hoc est etenim vere proprieque catholicum.*" For this reason we preserve in professing the faith of the primitive Church, as formulated in the œcumenical symbols and specified precisely by the unanimously accepted decisions of the Œcumenical Councils held in the undivided Church of the first thousand years.
2. We therefore reject the decrees of the so-called Council of the Vatican, which were promulgated July 18th, 1870, concerning the infallibility and the universal Episcopate of the Bishop of Rome, decrees which are in contradiction with the faith of the ancient Church, and which destroy its ancient canonical constitution by attributing to the Pope the plentitude of ecclesiastical powers over all Dioceses and over all the faithful. By denial of this primatial jurisdiction we do not wish to deny the historical primacy which several Œcumenical Councils and Fathers of the ancient Church have attributed to the Bishop of Rome by recognizing him as the *Primus inter pares*.
3. We also reject the dogma of the Immaculate Conception promulgated by Pius IX in 1854 in defiance of the Holy Scriptures and in contradiction to the tradition of the centuries.
4. As for other Encyclicals published by the Bishops of Rome in recent times for example, the Bulls *Unigenitus* and *Auctorem fidei*, and the Syllabus of 1864, we reject them on all such points as are in contradiction with the doctrine of the primitive Church, and we do not recognize them as binding on the consciences of the faithful. We also renew the ancient protests of the Catholic Church of Holland against the errors of the Roman Curia, and against its attacks upon the rights of national Churches.
5. We refuse to accept the decrees of the Council of Trent in matters of discipline, and as for the dogmatic decisions of that Council we accept them only so far as they are in harmony with the teaching of the primitive Church.
6. Considering that the Holy Eucharist has always been the true central point of Catholic worship, we consider it our right to declare that we maintain with perfect fidelity the ancient Catholic doctrine concerning the Sacrament of the Altar, by believing that we receive the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ under the species of bread and wine. The Eucharistic celebration in the Church is neither a continual repetition nor a renewal of the expiatory sacrifice which Jesus offered once for all upon the Cross: but it is a sacrifice because it is the perpetual commemoration of the sacrifice offered upon the Cross, and it is the act by which we represent upon earth and appropriate to ourselves the one offering which Jesus Christ makes in Heaven, according to the Epistle to the Hebrews 9:11-12, for the salvation of redeemed humanity, by appearing for us in the presence of God (Heb. 9:24). The character of the Holy Eucharist being thus understood, it is, at the same time, a sacrificial feast, by means of which the faithful in receiving the Body and Blood of our Savior, enter into communion with one another (I Cor. 10:17).

7. We hope that Catholic theologians, in maintaining the faith of the undivided Church, will succeed in establishing an agreement upon questions which have been controverted ever since the divisions which arose between the Churches. We exhort the priests under our jurisdiction to teach, both by preaching and by the instruction of the young, especially the essential Christian truths professed by all the Christian confessions, to avoid, in discussing controverted doctrines, any violation of truth or charity, and in word and deed to set an example to the members.
8. By maintaining and professing faithfully the doctrine of Jesus Christ, by refusing to admit those errors which by the fault of men have crept into the Catholic Church, by laying aside the abuses in ecclesiastical matters, together with the worldly tendencies of the hierarchy, we believe that we shall be able to combat efficaciously the great evils of our day, which are unbelief and indifference in matters of religion.

Appendix B

The Bonn Agreement (1931)

The Bonn agreement reads as follows:

Each Communion recognizes the Catholicity and independence of the other, and maintains its own.

Each Communion agrees to admit members of the other Communion to participate in the Sacraments.

Intercommunion does not require from either Communion the acceptance of all doctrinal opinion, sacramental devotion or liturgical practice characteristic of the other, but implies that each believes the other to hold all the essentials of the Christian Faith.

The third paragraph makes it clear that intercommunion does not affect the independent lives of the churches, but rather that it affirms their unity in the riches and fullness of Christ.

What does this mean in practice?

Lay people

The members of both churches may participate in each other's pastoral, congregational and sacramental life.

Priests

Since the orders of each church are recognized by the other, priests and deacons of Anglican and Old Catholic Churches can fully participate in each other's ministries. Old Catholic clergy can serve Anglican congregations and vice versa.

Bishops

Bishops participate in the consecrations of bishops of both churches and have regular consultations at many levels. They also administer the sacrament of confirmation in each other's churches.

Appendix C

The Lambeth Quadrilateral (1886)

We, Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, in Council assembled as Bishops in the Church of God, do hereby solemnly declare to all whom it may concern, and especially to our fellow-Christians of the different Communion in this land, who, in their several spheres, have contended for the religion of Christ:

Our earnest desire that the Savior's prayer, "That we all may be one," may, in its deepest and truest sense, be speedily fulfilled;

That we believe that all who have been duly baptized with water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, are members of the Holy Catholic Church.

That in all things of human ordering or human choice, relating to modes of worship and discipline, or to traditional customs, this Church is ready in the spirit of love and humility to forego all preferences of her own;

That this Church does not seek to absorb other Communion, but rather, co-operating with them on the basis of a common Faith and Order, to discountenance schism, to heal the wounds of the Body of Christ, and to promote the charity which is the chief of Christian graces and the visible manifestation of Christ to the world.

But furthermore, we do hereby affirm that the Christian unity can be restored only by the return of all Christian communions to the principles of unity exemplified by the undivided Catholic Church during the first ages of its existence; which principles we believe to be the substantial deposit of Christian Faith and Order committed by Christ and his Apostles to the Church unto the end of the world, and therefore incapable of compromise or surrender by those who have been ordained to be its stewards and trustees for the common and equal benefit of all men.

As inherent parts of this sacred deposit, and therefore as essential to the restoration of unity among the divided branches of Christendom, we account the following, to wit:

The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the revealed Word of God.

The Nicene Creed as the sufficient statement of the Christian Faith.

The two Sacraments – Baptism and the Supper of the Lord – ministered with unfailing use of Christ's words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.

The Historic Episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the unity of His Church.

Furthermore, Deeply grieved by the sad divisions which affect the Christian Church in our own land, we hereby declare our desire and readiness, so soon as there shall be any authorized response to this Declaration, to enter into brotherly conference with all or any Christian Bodies seeking the restoration of the organic unity of the Church, with a view to the earnest study of the conditions under which so priceless a blessing might happily be brought to pass.

Appendix D

The Huntington Agreement (2022)

The following statement for New Catholic Community members was approved by initial formulators convened on March 1, 2022 during the annual retreat of the Society of Old Catholic Priests at the Roman Catholic Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Lloyd Harbor, Huntington, New York.

1. I believe that the Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation.
2. I believe that the pre-Nicene Church provides a model and hermeneutic for the contemporary living of our faith.
3. I believe that the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds are a sufficient statement of Christian faith.
4. I esteem the seven traditional Catholic sacraments, and I believe that the sacraments should not be denied to God's children based on such factors as gender, gender identity or marital status.
5. I recognize that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and are temples of God's Spirit, and I encourage all baptized Christians to participate in the life and the sacraments of the Church.
6. I esteem the historic episcopate, locally-adapted.
7. I reject clericalism and esteem a community-centered, synodal Church where all major decisions and elections take place with the full and active participation of lay and ordained members at all levels.
8. I testify that I possess apostolic succession through the laying on of hands.
9. I embrace the Council of Constance Principle: I agree not to function as a bishop unless called by the New Catholic Community to serve as a bishop. If I was previously consecrated as a bishop, I agree to self-identify as a presbyter/priest rather than as a bishop.
10. I agree to fulfill the formational, educational and professional standards for members of the New Catholic Community.