

VIRTUAL ECC 2020 SYNOD At-A-Glance Schedule :: October 12 – 14, 2020

Times are Pacific Daylight Time – convert to your time zone.

PDT	MONDAY 10/12	PDT	TUESDAY 10/13	PDT	WEDNESDAY 10/14
9:00 - 9:45 AM	<b>Convening of the ECC 2020 Synod</b> Presiding Bishop Francis Krebs	9:00 - 10:30 AM	<b>Keynote</b> Rev. Trish Vanni Our Treasures for the Next Generation	9:00 - 10:30 AM	<b>Keynote</b> Rev. Carol Howard Merritt Living Forward, Understanding Backward
9:45 - 11:00 AM	<b>Keynote</b> Bp. Rafe Adams ECC Ecclesiology	10:30 - 10:40 AM	<b>Break</b>	10:30 - 10:40 AM	<b>Break</b>
11:00 - 11:10 AM	<b>Break</b>	10:40 - 11:30 AM	<b>State of the Communion</b> Presiding Bishop Francis Krebs	10:40 - 11:30 AM	<b>House of Laity</b> House of Pastors Business Meetings
11:10 - 12:00 PM	<b>Communion</b> Plenary Session	11:30 - 12:30 PM	<b>House of Laity</b> House of Pastors Business Meetings	11:30 - 1:00 PM	<b>Keynote Q &amp; A</b> Rev. Carol Howard Merritt Healing Through Parish Transitions
2:00 - 2:50 PM	<b>FORUM OPTIONS</b> 1. Parish Fundraising Kimberly Rubendall 2. Mary Magdalene Society Art Bavoso	2:00 - 2:50 PM	<b>Diocesan/Regional Gathering</b>	2:00 - 2:50 PM	<b>Parade of Parishes</b> John Duffy Burke
3:00 - 3:50 PM	<b>FORUM OPTIONS</b> 1. Franciscans of Reconciliation Rev. Dr. Fred Ball 2. Old Catholic 101 Bp. Francis Krebs 3. Human Trafficking Jennifer Reyes Lay	3:00 - 3:50 PM	<b>FORUM OPTIONS</b> 1. Benedictines of Holy Wisdom Rev. Michael Seger 2. Cultivate our Climate Jennifer Reyes Lay 3. Anti-Racism Strategies Dcn. Joan Crawford	3:00 - 3:50 PM	<b>FORUM OPTIONS</b> 1. Social Justice In Your Parish Alice Bradley/Carol-Ann Blow 2. Music Ministers Gathering Rev. Denise Roberts 3. The Divine Feminine Erin Duffy Burke
4:00 - 5:00 PM	<b>Opening Liturgy</b> ECC 2020 Synod	4:00 - 5:00 PM	<b>FORUM OPTIONS</b> 1. Chaplains Gathering Rev. David Gerardo 2. Refugees in the USA Church World Services 3. Gathering of Youth & Young Adults Annie Hayes	4:00 - 5:00 PM	<b>Closing Ceremonies</b> ECC 2020 Synod

# VIRTUAL ECC 2020 SYNOD Schedule

## October 12 – 14, 2020



### Monday 10/12/2020

Times are Pacific Daylight Time – convert to your time zone.

#### 9:00-9:45am – CONVENING of the ECC 2020 SYNOD

#### 9:45-11:00am – Keynote: ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC COMMUNION ECCLESIOLOGY

Ecclesiology, ecclesiastical polity, and ecclesial life: all three are essential to being and doing church. Ecclesiology guides and informs ecclesiastical polity and ecclesiastical polity shapes ecclesial life. What is ecclesiology? What is the ECC's ecclesiology? *Bishop Raphael Adams OFR was ordained to the priesthood of the ORCC Diocese of Michigan and the Central States in 1973, elected auxiliary bishop in the fall of 1988, and consecrated in February 1989. Upon retiring from the ORCC, he was received into the ECC in 2010. In the course of his forty-seven years of ministry, Bishop Rafe has served as a pastor, institutional chaplain, mental health recovery program consultant to Lutheran social Services of Illinois, and Assistant Professor in the College of Allied Health Professions of Rush University. He currently serves as bishop of the Ecumenical Catholic Diocese of Mid-America and vicar for ECC religious orders.*

**11:00-11:10am – BREAK** Enjoy musical ensembles and original compositions of our ECC musicians and music ministries.

#### 11:10-12:00pm – COMMUNION PLENARY SESSION

#### 12:00-2:00pm – LUNCH

#### 2:00-2:50pm – FORUM OPTIONS

##### PARISH FUNDRAISING

Let's discuss ideas that are attainable, easy, take little to no money, and simply need your members to participate in. This is not grand scale pledging or soliciting. These are ideas that involve you and the community. When I started working on fundraisers in our small parish, we made almost \$4000 in 2 years. I enjoy finding ways to raise money and look forward to sharing and discussing ideas with you! *Forum facilitator Kimberly Rubendall is a 10-year member of All Souls ECC in Reading, Pennsylvania. She has also served on the committee for Reading Pride Celebration for 9 years. If you've attended previous Synods then you know Kimmie's enthusiasm is uplifting and contagious!*

##### MARY MAGDALENE SOCIETY

This forum will include the purpose of the Mary Magdalene Society, its history to date, the activities it has sponsored so far, and what the plans are for the future. *Forum facilitator Art Bavoso has 52 years of professional experience exclusively in the nonprofit field. He is the Owner*

*and President of Third Sector Enterprises, Inc., a company that provides consulting, coaching, and training services for nonprofit organizations.*

### **3:00-3:50pm – FORUM OPTIONS**

#### **FRANCISCANS OF RECONCILIATION**

That word "Franciscan" says so much that it is impossible to capture the spirit of Francis, or those who have followed him for over 800 years, with one word. The word "Franciscan" says so much that it overflows with all the characteristics that make up what people feel, believe, and desire when they hear that sweet word. It goes beyond definition, border, categories, religious orders, or even Catholic. It encompasses all peoples, accepts everyone, inflames deep spirituality, laughs joyfully and inspires compassion endlessly. We Franciscans of Reconciliation are called to respond to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ spoken to our Holy Father Saint Francis to "rebuild my house" (Is 40:26) by living the Gospel. Following the example of Saint Francis, we strive to reconcile ourselves, our brothers and sisters and all of creation to God. Come and explore the many facets of God entrusting us with the ministry of reconciliation to which all Christians are called. (2 Cor 5:18)

#### **OLD CATHOLIC 101**

Our founding Presiding Bishop, Peter Hickman, came from the "Old Catholic" tradition. This 50-minute forum intends to simply differentiate between the Old Catholic theological tradition and the Roman Catholic approach. Our Communion is fed by "both streams," and others as well. The rich perspectives of the Old Catholics are worth learning about. Further reading will be suggested for the interested participant. *Forum facilitator Francis Krebs, a former Roman Catholic priest, was incardinated into the ECC in 2005. He was one of the founding pastors of Sts. Clare & Francis ECC Community in St. Louis, a position he still holds. At the 2010 Synod he was elected President of the House of Pastors. In 2013 he attended the first Summer School on Old Catholic Theology at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. And in 2014 was elected Presiding Bishop of the Communion.*

#### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Human trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery, is the second largest criminal enterprise in the world, impacting an estimated 40 million people and generating billions of dollars a year off the forced labor and sexual exploitation of victims. Human trafficking is a crime that is happening in our communities all over the country whether we realize it or not. As people of faith who believe in the dignity and rights of every human person, we have a responsibility to learn about this reality and do what we can to help protect those who are vulnerable and support those who've survived this horrific crime. This forum will provide a general introduction to the reality of human trafficking with ideas for how churches and individuals can take action. *Forum facilitator Jennifer Reyes Lay is a member of Sts. Clare & Francis ECC in St. Louis, MO. She previously served from 2015-2019 as Administrator of the Office of Presiding Bishop for the ECC. She currently works as the Executive Director of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking.*

### **4:00-5:00pm – OPENING LITURGY**

### **END OF FIRST DAY OF ECC 2020 SYNOD**



## Tuesday 10/13/2020

Times are Pacific Daylight Time – convert to your time zone.

### 9:00-10:30am – Keynote: OUR TREASURES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The roots of the Ecumenical Catholic Community include our grounding in the expansive vision of Vatican II - a Church that is alive with the spirit, fully conscious and active in its faith, and looking outward to the needs of the modern world. Our wings include the freedom to live creatively into this vision - pouring new wine into new wineskins. Our keynote presenter, whose work has focused on operationalizing new structures for being Church, will unpack these themes to empower us as we gaze with hope on the next chapter of our lives together in the ECC.

*Rev. Trish Sullivan Vanni, PhD is a presbyter of the ECC and the Pastoral Director of Charis Ecumenical Catholic Community in Minnesota. She is a consultant and theologian who works with congregations and ministerial organizations in the areas of formation, vision casting and mission development. Her academic expertise is in Catholic ecclesiology and liturgical*

*theology, with a particular focus on operationalizing dialogical leadership approaches among laity and ordained leaders in the churches. She has written books on the Mass, 12 Step Spirituality, and Baptism. Trish lives in Eden Prairie, MN with her sculptor husband Peter with whom she has three remarkable young adult children, two old but adorable calico cats and a needy (if irresistible), mostly-husky rescue dog.*

**10:30-10:40am – BREAK** Enjoy musical ensembles and original compositions of our ECC musicians and music ministries.

### 10:40-11:30am – STATE OF THE COMMUNION

### 11:30-12:30pm – HOUSE OF LAITY & HOUSE OF PASTORS BUSINESS MEETINGS

### 12:30-2:00pm – LUNCH

**2:00-2:50pm – DIOCESAN/REGIONAL GATHERINGS** Meet and spend time visiting with members of your region/diocese to socialize, pray and/or conduct business ... visitors welcome!

Pacific Northwest Diocese – Bp. Kedda Keough  
Diocese of CA – Bp. Armando Leyva  
Mid-America Diocese – Bp. Rafe Adams  
Rocky Mt. Region – Vicar, Rev. Michael Nicosia

Southwest Region – Vicar, Rev. Delores Kroft  
East Coast Region – Vicar, Rev. Henry Pruski  
Poland – Vicar, Rev. Tomasz Puchalski

### 3:00-3:50pm – FORUM OPTIONS

#### **BENEDICTINES OF HOLY WISDOM**

As Benedictines of Holy Wisdom, we live the charism of radical hospitality, unity of community, keeping silence, listening with the ear of the heart, humility, Lectio Divina and daily prayers. Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB said that the "Rule of St. Benedict is a spirituality for the 21st century". Come to discover what that means and how a 1500 year old rule is still relevant for us today and hear

how we strive to live the Rule as a dispersed community, yet remaining faithful to the Rule that is for all of us. *Forum facilitator Michael Kieran Seger, OSB+ is Prior of the ECC religious order, Benedictines of Holy Wisdom and serves as Hospice Chaplain/Spiritual Counselor for Hospice of Washington County, Maryland.*

### **CULTIVATE OUR CLIMATE: PRIORITIZING THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

The greatest existential threat facing not only humans but also our entire planet today is the climate crisis. As people of faith, we believe that God is present in and revealed through all members of the web of life on this planet, and we have a moral responsibility to take immediate action for scientists estimate we have 10-12 years to make the changes needed. This forum will give a brief overview of the current reality, how we got here including harmful theologies, and proposed ways for communities to take action going forward. *Forum facilitator Jennifer Reyes Lay is a member of Sts. Clare & Francis ECC in St. Louis, MO. She previously served from 2015-2019 as Administrator of the Office of Presiding Bishop for the ECC. She currently works as the Executive Director of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking.*

### **ANTI RACISM STRATEGIES**

This forum will allow for discussion about what racism is, what our individual communities are and should be doing to counteract it and how to work for racial justice in solidarity with the African-American community. *Forum facilitator Dcn. Joan Crawford is a member of Guardian Angels Catholic Community ECC in Tempe, AZ. Her ministry includes workshops to promote interracial healing and dialogue.*

## **4:00-5:00pm – FORUM OPTIONS**

### **CHAPLAINS GATHERING**

Several ECC members, both clergy and lay, are chaplains. Chaplaincy work in the past few months has been essential in providing comfort to victims of Covid and their families. All chaplains, present and retired, are invited to join this forum to share with each other, support each other and plan for future conversations. *Forum facilitator David Gerardo is associate priest of the Emmaus ECC community in Olympia, WA and a professed member of the ECC religious order, Franciscans of Reconciliation. David serves as chaplain to homeless persons living with various addictive behaviors and mental health conditions both at Nativity House in Tacoma, WA and Good Shepherd Ministry, an outreach ministry of Emmaus ECC. In earlier years, David was a member of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God working as a clinical nurse with terminally ill patients and their families, served as chaplain and associate pastor in several RCC parishes and practiced independently as a Marriage and Family Therapist.*

### **REFUGEES IN THE USA**

US immigration policies have changed dramatically in the last four years, impacting the lives of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. In this forum, you will hear about how these policies, as well as Covid-19, have affected the refugee resettlement program and asylum seekers at the US southern border; learn how faith-based organizations are responding through serving migrants and doing grassroots advocacy across the United States; and Church World Service will share about their work at the border and with refugees, and how you and your church can get involved. *Forum facilitators Aaron Tate is the Director for Program Innovation for Church World Service and oversees programs for asylum seekers; Meredith Owen is the Deputy Director of Policy and Advocacy for Church World Service and leads national advocacy initiatives.*

## GATHERING OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

In hearing older, more tenured mentors and role-models within the ECC repeatedly tell her that "the young people are our future," Annie is excited to dialogue with other younger members about how they see themselves as the future, what they desire from the Communion moving forward, and how they see their gifts serving the mission and vision of the ECC in the years to come. This session is designed as a conversation among youth and young adults, but all are invited to attend, listen, and learn from the wisdom and experience of these individuals. *Forum facilitator Annie Hayes (she/her/hers), a millennial and active member of Light of Christ ECC church in Longmont, CO, is excited to facilitate a conversation with other young adults of the ECC. Annie holds a Master's degree from Boston College in Theology & Ministry, and she is currently pursuing her Master of Divinity at Iliff School of Theology in Denver.*

## END OF SECOND DAY OF ECC 2020 SYNOD



## WEDNESDAY 10/14/2020

Times are Pacific Daylight Time – convert to your time zone.

### 9:00-10:30am – Keynote: LIVING FORWARD, UNDERSTANDING BACKWARD

So much is occurring in our churches, as we learn to adjust to on-line ministry. How can we develop deep and meaningful communities in the time of so much change? How will this crisis affect our churches in the long run? Our keynote presenter will look back on some of the developments that have occurred in the last 20 years, as we explore what might lie ahead. *Rev. Carol Howard Merritt is the Senior Pastor of Bedford Presbyterian (USA) in New York. Carol is an award-winning author of several books, including Healing Spiritual Wounds: Reconnecting with a Loving God After Experiencing a Hurtful Church (Harper One). Her work has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, Newsweek, Salon, Spirituality and Health, America Magazine, Religion News Service, Rewire News, Presbyterians Today, among other publications. Carol has been a regular columnist at the Christian Century, Huffington Post, and Leadership Education at Duke Divinity and a*

*frequent contributor to books, websites, magazines, and journals. Carol is also an Affiliate Professor at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, where she concentrates on practical theology, forming communities, and preaching.*

**10:30-10:40am – BREAK** Enjoy musical ensembles and original compositions of our ECC musicians and music ministries.

**10:40-11:30am – HOUSE OF LAITY & HOUSE OF PASTORS BUSINESS MEETINGS**

**11:30-1:00pm – Keynote: Q & A HEALING THROUGH PARISH TRANSITIONS**

**1:00-2:00pm – LUNCH**

**2:00-2:50pm – PARADE OF PARISHES** Enjoy a virtual parade of ECC parishes stream across your screen as they spotlight the good works of their members and ministries!

### **3:00-3:50pm – FORUM OPTIONS**

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE IN YOUR PARISH**

What is social justice and what about it excites your spirit to draw you into work in this area? How does social justice look like in your ECC parish/community and what challenges, if any, have you encountered in conducting social justice work in your neighborhoods? How do you see social justice efforts continuing to unfold in your ECC parish, community, region and Communion as a whole in the future? Let's share our stories and vision together! *Forum Co-facilitator Alice Bradley, soon to be ordained to the transitional diaconate, is a member of Church of the Beloved ECC community in Colorado. Alice retired earlier this year from a career in which the last 27 years were spent working in public health raising awareness and addressing health disparities experienced in Black, Latinx, and Indigenous Americans and mentoring college students. She is member of a multi-racial family and proud mother of a beautiful 33-year old Black woman scientist. Forum Co-facilitator Rev. Carol-Ann Blow is an ordained deacon and member of San Damiano ECC in Little Rock, AK. Carol-Ann co-administered a homeless \$10 million housing program for ten years in Little Rock through AIDS Outreach of Arkansas and continues to work with the homeless as well as local social justice issues. She has four adopted children and is a grandmother of six. Carol-Ann is a graduate of Loyola University - New Orleans, earning a Masters in Pastoral Ministry.*

#### **MUSIC MINISTERS GATHERING**

Music Ministers, while we have all had to make adjustments as we have moved through the months of Covid 19, more are to be expected as we come back together in our worship space. How will music be used safely while still giving joyful praise to God? Let's share our plans with each other, as well as, resources and ideas and explore the question, how can we tap into the resource of our composers? Come celebrate our gifts together! *Forum facilitator Rev. Denise A. Roberts is the pastor and music minister of Church of the Healing Shepherd in Chester Springs, PA. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Music from Immaculata University and a Masters Degree in Pastoral Theology from La Salle University. After 25 years of liturgical and music ministry, she has served as a hospice chaplain for the past 10 years. Denise is a singer, composer, and pianist.*

#### **THE DIVINE FEMININE**

The Divine Feminine is known by many names. In Christianity, She Who Is can be traced to the very Spirit that inhabited Jesus Christ and through our baptism, each of us-- Sophia, Wisdom, Ruah, or Shekinah. Is She alive in our tradition, theology and spirituality today? How has the living Tradition of Christianity honored Her and forgotten Her? Where is She needed, and where is She coming to be? Join us for a rich conversation. *Forum facilitator Erin Duffy-Burke is a contemporary catholic priestess, a trained minister and the Alogian in the Catholic Christian tradition. Her particular call is in service to the Divine Feminine, and all the ways the Holy She, Sophia Christ, is returning and renewing our world and life. You can find her presiding on dance floors, at weddings and births, on retreats, and in moments of personal transformation. She is an embodied soul coach, a doula, a facilitator or embodied transformation, a yoga therapist, and holds masters degrees in Education, Multicultural Ministry and Christian Spirituality.*

### **4:00-5:00pm – CLOSING CEREMONIES**

### **END OF VIRTUAL ECC 2020 SYNOD**