WHEREAS, the Holy Synod of the ECC 2026 has lawfully convened and passed the legislation listed below;

This proposal Amends subsection 6.0 of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion Guidelines for Existing Communities which are found in the Statutes so that it shall read:

6.0 Religious Orders

6.1 A religious order is a distinct, consecrated way of life living the Christian vocation in a community of members who are in formation or have made a profession of vows that are particular to the religious order. Community members are led by a spiritual leader elected by the community and who are bonded together by a rule of life, a common spiritual life, prayer and charitable works.

a. Legal incorporation by the religious order and the selection of administrative leaders of the order are necessary for recognition by and admission to the polity of the Communion.

b. The process of recognition and admission of Religious Orders into the Communion is administered through the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

6.2 A religious order shall adhere to the guidelines of the Communion for religious orders as administered by an appropriate representative of the COB and/or the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

6.3 The religious order shall be represented at the synod of the Communion in the HOP by its senior administrative member and one additional member as selected by the order, and by the appropriate number of laity (representing lay members of the religious order) in the HOL, as prescribed by the formula for the representation of parishes. These representatives shall serve with full voting rights in their respective houses of governance.

6.4 The religious order shall review its administration and ministries with the Vicar of Religious Orders no less than once every two years. The order shall be responsible for all costs involved with this review in person, or through an electronic means such as zoom, whichever is more appropriate according to circumstances.

6.5 The religious order shall publish a code of ethical conduct to which all members of the order shall subscribe.

6.6 The religious order, as a legal corporation, is the responsible authority for any members of the order.

6.7 The religious order has the right and responsibility to govern and guide its members through its own administrative practices. The administrators of the order have the obligation to screen potential members through appropriate psychological examinations, criminal background checks, and inquiries concerning sexual misconduct.

6.8 The religious order is responsible for the investigation of any allegation of misconduct by its members. An allegation of misconduct and the findings of the investigation shall be reported, according to established guidelines of the religious order, to the Vicar of Religious Orders and the Office of the Presiding Bishop, and appropriate actions taken by the representatives of the Communion.

WHEREAS, the Presiding Bishop has the obligation to either approve or veto said legislation ;

NOW THEREFORE, after due consideration I affix my signature below APPOVING this legislation.

Signed this day October 12th, 2026

+ Paul J Burson

Bishop Paul Burson