

Council of Bishops 1-10-2022

Meeting Record

Present: Armando, Denise, Kedda, Frank, Peter, Rafe, Kae

Notetaker: Kae

Agenda:

1. **Quick check in and important notifications from each Diocese.**

Condolences to Kedda on the unexpected death of her brother, John. Prayers for her upcoming surgery on Jan 24th.

2. **California Update**

George is in contact with all the parties to further the agreement. They are in process to resolve any differences and move forward.

3. **The tension between a centralized communion on the one hand and local churches and congregations on the other: defining the issues**

We had a discussion around the following issues:

- The difference between congregational, presbyterian, and episcopal forms of polity and how the ECC was intended to provide a balance among them.
- The specific roles of each
- Where authority in the Church comes from
- And a host of other questions: How do regional dioceses relate to the Communion? How do we value all parties of the polity? We are in transition from one diocese to many. New learning curve. Point of unity is Council of Bishops. Each diocese has its own synodal council. Within the ECC, how do we help each order know its unique contribution to the whole? How do the orders relate to one another; how do regions/dioceses relate to each other? Does our ECC Constitution depict our relationships now – new diagrams needed? This is a natural evolution requiring conversation....What is the role of the leadership council? What is the role of the Council of Bishops? to educate, share, lead...

We recognized a need to:

- Clarify to whom bishops are accountable.
- Increase communication from the CoB: What kind of communication? From diocese?

We expressed a concern about the blocking of bishops from participation in HOP education/gatherings.

We asked, what is the “seat” that the three legs of our polity are holding up?

4. Upcoming Activities

Meeting upcoming: Meeting on Jan 29th among the HOP and HOL about the involvement of the leadership council in the Emmaus elections. We are invited to attend. Topic: the way the heads of the Houses handled it... resolving overstep? "All delegates meeting." Awaiting more information.

This led to a discussion about the possible processes that could be involved? Where does a question about Constitutionality go? Could there be an appeals process? Possible structure, based on another article of the constitution: The CoB appoints an Appeals Board made up of lay, clergy, and bishops, which brings a recommendation back to CoB –

5. Further conversation on 'essential' academic classes and skills for presbyteral ordination i.e. Mdiv equivalency

Desire to work with the HOP committee regarding MDiv equivalency and to collaborate as a team. Frank will call a meeting within the next week with Rafe and Kae.

6. Transparency and notes from our meetings

Still considering the how of this.