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

Section 5.0 about Parishes in the Ecumenical Guidelines for Existing Faith Communities in the Statutes currently reads:
5.1 A parish is a recognized local and geographical faith community with full rights of polity as established by the ECC Constitution and Statutes. Legal incorporation and the formation of a parish council are required in order to be admitted with parish status into the Communion.
5.2 Each parish shall select and send the appropriate number of voting Laity to the synod of this Communion. The pastor of each parish must also attend the synod.
5.3 Parishes shall receive a bi-annual episcopal visit unless otherwise determined by mutual agreement between the bishop and the pastor.

a. Parishes with bishops as pastors shall receive a bi-annual episcopal visit by another bishop of the communion, unless otherwise determined by mutual agreement between the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the pastor.

b. Parishes with bishops must also be visited once a year by another bishop of the Communion or designated representative from the Episcopal Office.

c. The parish shall cover all costs associated with the episcopal visit.

5.4 Clergy and staff are required to maintain standards in accordance with the Ethical Code of Conduct, as outlined by the Constitution and Statutes.

This proposal adds a new subsection, 5.5, at after subsection 5.4 of the above text.

5.5 Local or Presiding Bishop's Responsibilities in Pastoral Search Process: Prior to offering employment to clergy, a faith community shall engage the local Ordinary, or the Presiding Bishop in the absence of a local Ordinary, who will assist the community in discerning the employment decision while meeting ECC constitutional and statutory requirements for clergy. Pastors and other clergy staff members of faith communities must be ordained or incardinated clergy of the ECC unless an excep+on applies allowed by statute. A candidate who is neither ordained nor incardinated in the ECC shall be affirmed by the Ordinary before being presented to the community.

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

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

Signed this day October 12th, 2026

+ Paul J Burson

Bishop Paul Burson