

ECC DISCERNMENT TEAM



WHAT IS THE ECC?

ECC = ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC COMMUNION

WHAT ARE ECC CHURCHES?

The Ecumenical Catholic Communion consists of independent Catholic faith communities who are not under the jurisdiction of the Pope, nor is the ECC subject to the canon law or the guidelines of the Roman Catholic Church. Though the ECC shares a common Catholic theology and liturgical tradition with the Roman Catholic Church, the ECC differs significantly in many of the rules and practices that govern Roman Catholicism.

For Example:

- The ECC Ordains Women
- The ECC recognizes the Value & Dignity of *every person* regardless of sexual orientation, marital status, religious upbringing or any other “exclusionary label”
- *All Are Welcome to the Eucharistic Table!*

HOW IS THE ECC A CATHOLIC CHURCH?

ECC upholds our catholic tradition with respect to the following principles:

- ❖ The teachings and person of Jesus Christ
- ❖ The New Testament
- ❖ The Sacramental & Liturgical tradition practiced

The ECC Communion unites authentic Catholic faith communities that stretch across the United States (including among others: AZ, CA, CO, FL, MA, NM, WA and PR).

The ECC traces their modern roots to the emergence of the Old Catholic movement which began in 1870 as a response to the first Vatican Council's pronouncement of Papal Infallibility and the primacy of papal jurisdiction.

IN WHAT WAYS IS THE ECC ECUMENICAL?

- The ECC recognizes that the body of Christ (the Universal Church) includes all Christians regardless of denominational affiliation.
- The ECC is actively engaged in promoting Christian unity.
- The ECC recognizes the presence of the Spirit at work throughout the world in the faith experience of people of other religions.
- The ECC recognizes the divine presence in every human heart, believing that all people are the beloved of God.

WHO IS THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY WITHIN THE ECC?

The People of the ECC are the governing authority! The ECC constitution establishes a polity structure including a House of Laity (HOL), a House of Pastors (HOP) and an Episcopal Council (EC) - all possessing roles of decision-making and leadership in governing the Communion. Each faith community has delegates representing them in the HOL & HOP.

The information used to compile this hand-out is taken from the ECC website.

For additional information, please refer to: <http://ecumenical-catholic-communion.org/html/faq.html>