

A Letter of Counsel:
On the Relationship of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion
With the Catholic Reform Organizations
From Bishop Peter Hickman
Presiding Bishop of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

Our Policy on Catholic Reform Organizations

The policy of the OPB regarding Catholic reform organizations and the ECC is as follows:

1. The ECC Mission Statement calls us to stand in “open dialogue” with those who preach liberation and justice. Remaining in open dialogue with the Catholic reform movement is consistent with this call because we share core values, with many in the movement such as gender equity, inclusivity toward gay and lesbian people, the participation of bishops, laity and clergy in the polity of the Church, ecumenical dialogue, etc. Moreover, the reform movement relationship has been critical to the growth of the ECC.
2. We will continue to selectively sign letters and other documents with these organizations when the documents express support for specific issues that are consistent with the vision, mission, and distinctives of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion as defined in our Constitution. These documents will be examined case by case to ensure that they are expressions of support for issues embraced by, or are in the interest of, the ECC.
3. We have many friends in the reform movement that maintain a Roman Catholic identity. Our continued dialogue with them must continue to make clear we make no such claim. Our Mission Statement does not call the ECC to expend resources to reform the Roman Catholic Church. This is not our goal or agenda. Similarly, we do not define ourselves in contrast to anyone else. We will not sign nor endorse letters and documents from Roman Catholic reform organizations designed to achieve this goal.
4. This policy does not prohibit the Ecumenical Catholic Communion from responding to direct criticisms of this Communion by another ecclesial body.