

## **Considerations for Collaboration in Mission and Sharing in Worship between Congregations of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Congregations of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion in this Territory**

Over many years, a number of congregations from our two churches in this Rocky Mountain territory have developed important relationships in their local settings. These relationships rest on strong affinities in mission, including substantial proximity on many issues of our time, and thus enrich the witness of these communities to the world. Members of these communities also desire to share together as much as possible in worship.

These Considerations seek both to celebrate and to provide guidance for these relationships.

### **General Principles**

The ELCA's 1991 Policy Statement, "A Declaration of Ecumenical Commitment,"<sup>1</sup> articulates principles helpful for these Considerations:

- "Ecumenism has as its focus and goal clarity of understanding among Christians and a greater realization of unity among Christ's people."
- "Local ecumenism, and its synodical and regional forms, provides a rich area of progress and challenge for the unity of the church. It has much to teach and much to learn from the national and international ecumenical movement."
- Ecumenical collaboration in many forms, including through the National Council of Churches to which both national church bodies belong, can be an important step toward deeper relationship.

### **Particular Guidelines for worship**

- Especially when sharing the same facilities, ECC and ELCA congregations are encouraged to pray together, to study the Scriptures, and to gather together for special occasions of the church year. In particular, they can make a practice of presence at one another's baptismal celebrations and on occasions like the installation of a new pastor.
- Both the ELCA and the ECC practice eucharistic hospitality, welcoming all baptized persons to the eucharistic table. Therefore, ELCA Lutherans are welcomed to participate in ECC Eucharists, making "conscientious decisions" about receiving the sacrament,<sup>2</sup> as ECC members do at Lutheran celebrations.
- Both churches allow for clergy from other traditions to preach in worship, including at celebrations of the Eucharist or Lord's Supper. Therefore, ECC clergy are welcome to preach in ELCA congregations when invited to do so by the local congregation and vice versa.
- Both churches provide for lay persons to assist in certain roles in their own and in other Eucharists, e.g., as lectors, eucharistic ministers, etc. Therefore, lay members present at a liturgy of the other community are welcome to assume roles which the hosting community deems to be lay roles.

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<sup>1</sup>[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/The\\_Vision\\_Of\\_The\\_ELCA.pdf?\\_ga=2.103748736.1672852241.1554941828-220387071.1553740506](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/The_Vision_Of_The_ELCA.pdf?_ga=2.103748736.1672852241.1554941828-220387071.1553740506), p. 8.

<sup>2</sup>*The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament* 50B.

- Since our two churches are not in full communion with each other, it is not permitted for ECC clergy to preside at an ELCA liturgy or vice versa, or for ministers from the two churches to co-preside at a Eucharist. Nor are they to administer other sacraments or ecclesial rites.

Exceptions may be made only by joint agreement of the local ELCA and ECC bishops and only in cases of genuine pastoral need.

This agreement is signed by



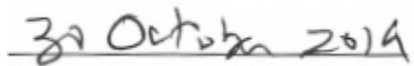
Bishop Jim Gonia

For the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod

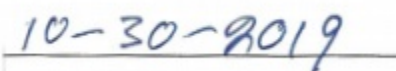


Bishop Francis Krebs

For the ECC Proto-Diocese<sup>3</sup>



Date



Date

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<sup>3</sup> The Proto-Diocese is the original diocese of the ECC and is composed now of that territory in the United States where a newer ECC diocese has not yet been carved out.



*Left to right: Pastor Rick Reiten - Trinity. Mother Rosean Amaral - Mary of Magdala. Deacon Katie Kline - Trinity. Rev. Jane Reina - Mary of Magdala. Rev. Felicia SmithGraybeal - St Paul's.*

# The 301 Faith Partners

October, 2022 marks the fifth year of the faith partnership of St Paul's Episcopal Church, Mary of Magdala Ecumenical Catholic Community and Trinity Lutheran Church. Worshiping as individual faith communities, we share a large, lovely building and work together toward common goals in ministry.

We have learned we can be more and do more together as ecumenical partners, building a truly helpful presence in the neighborhood and sharing in ministry, education and worship. With the "301 Faith Partners Covenant" each church continues to be a unique entity retaining all the beliefs and practices of each of our faith traditions. We approach our partnership like a marriage between unique individuals. Our covenant with one another is not exhaustive - and the foundation of decision-making is love and respect grounded in the mission of Christ. This mission has a church - here at 301 E Stuart St.

## Our Vision – "Our guiding Light"

Weaving a tapestry of love, hope and justice for the world.

## Our Mission – "What we do"

301 Faith Partners is an inclusive community dedicated to be more, and do more together, while respecting individual gifts and traditions. We welcome all people and offer a spiritual refuge with opportunities for individual and collective growth. We commit to work for social justice and to protect all creation.

## Our Prayer – "As we work together"

Eternal Source of Creativity and Wisdom, who by the Holy Spirit guided the Apostles in all knowledge and truth, be present with us, the 301 Faith Partners.

In the passions of debate give us a quiet spirit, in the complexities of the issues give us clear minds, and in the moments of decision give us courageous hearts.

Guide us in all things to seek only your dream for your people;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Our Covenant

As we move into a long-term partnership,  
Trinity Lutheran, St. Paul's Episcopal, and Mary of Magdala Ecumenical Catholic Community,  
will have expectations of one another, renewable agreements, and promises to one another.

As three separate and unique congregations, but one faith community,  
we covenant with one another:

1. We covenant to LOVE – to love God, Self, and our Partners in Ministry as we Love Our Self - seeking together God's will for our partnership.
2. We covenant to COMMUNICATE – to be open, honest, and more effective in communication among our three congregations; to communicate the decisions and work of our faith partnership to all three congregations; to respect each congregation to retain its own unique historical character, governance, and polity, as each continues to manage its own finances, even as we share expenses.
3. We covenant to WORK TOGETHER in all Volunteer Areas – to help share the responsibility and care of our common spaces including sanctuary, kitchen, narthex, fellowship hall, and sacristy. We will continue to work together across ministry teams such as Faith Formation, Social Eco Justice, Music, and Property, while promising to find other ways to faithfully engage in ministry together.
4. We covenant to SHARE monthly Operations and Maintenance Expenses – to reassess each congregation's contribution, based on need and ability, to the shared expenses of operating and maintaining the church and its ministries. We share together the information of finances, to better contribute to the shared expense of ministry.
5. We covenant to INVITE one another into any capital expense – to consider, create, and fund capital projects (expenses outside normal monthly operation and maintenance) for use by all three congregations.