



Office of Presiding Bishop
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June 10, 2024

Beloved,

The following letter was sent to Bishop Arturo from the ECC Bishops in response to the pastoral letter he wrote and posted on Facebook May 25, 2024. I felt it was important to share this with you to give some clarity in regard to the situation with St. Matthew/Servants of the Good Shepherd as we continue to prepare for our Holy Synod 2024.

Paz

+ Pablo

Bishop Paul J. Burson, M.Div., L.P.C.
Presiding Bishop, ECC
BishopPaul@ecumenicalcatholics.net

June 4, 2024

Dear Bishop-Elect Arturo and Servants of the Good Shepherd,

After reading your Memorial Day Weekend Pastoral Letter of May 25th, we recognize that we need to respond to misunderstandings. We accept and are well aware of the steps you have already taken to develop this new ecclesial entity with its new vision and mission. However, we need to clarify our relationship going forward. While we desire to journey side by side in friendship, we recognize the real separation that has occurred due to the decisions of St. Matthew/Servants of the Good Shepherd to not be accountable to the ECC Constitution, Statutes and Guidelines of the Episcopal Council. The divergence and separation of our two ecclesial entities is real and needs to be recognized.

Full communion is an aspirational goal. We are not in full communion now. We give you encouragement as you create something new, and we will continue to dialogue with one another.

We wish you well and, at the same time, this separation, as you can imagine, is difficult for all of us. Due to the fracture and distress, the presence of those associated with Servants of the Good Shepherd at the ECC Holy Synod would be disturbing and so we ask that you do not attend the upcoming ECC Holy Synod.

As we journey into the future, let us continue to follow where the Holy Spirit leads, remembering that separation is the way new birth transpires and often includes birth pangs. Let us give each other some time after your consecration and our synod. Then, perhaps we could begin steps to establish a dialogue with each other about our future relationship. Let us pray for one another as we work to bring the kingdom of God to earth. Let us wish each other well.

Sincerely,

The Council of Bishops

Bishop Paul "Pablo" Burson
Bishop Armando Leyva
Bishop Frank Krebs
Bishop Kae Madden
Bishop Kedda Keough