



# INFORMATION FOR CHURCHES SEEKING RECEPTION INTO THE OLD CATHOLIC CONFEDERATION

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

When a Church, Diocese, Parish, or Religious Order (henceforth, “petitioning jurisdiction”) desires to be Received into the Old Catholic Confederation, the following process is required:

1. The head of the petitioning jurisdiction must first write a formal letter addressed to His Grace, The Most Rev. Dr. Craig J. N. de Paulo, Primate of the Old Catholic Confederation, petitioning Reception into the Old Catholic Confederation. A petitioning jurisdiction may be Received in two ways: a) as a “Member Church” or b) as a canonical jurisdiction within the OCC (e.g., as a Diocese or Vicariate, or Religious Order).

2. Required Documentation:

- a) Detailed Statistics concerning the petitioning jurisdiction (e.g., number of lay faithful, clergy, parishes, monks or nuns, locations, real estate, leases, assets, debts, all other relevant information, including photos, etc).
- b) Documentation regarding the Apostolic Succession of the petitioning jurisdiction.
- c) The curriculum vitae of the bishops or superiors of the jurisdiction since all bishops and priests are required to have had formal higher education, seminary or priestly formation and the equivalent to a Master’s degree or Licentiate degree in theology.
- d) Documentation concerning the formation and educational requirements of the clergy, policies on background checks, policy on the abuse of minors, etc.
- e) A detailed history of the petitioning jurisdiction, including all bishops who have provided Episcopal oversight.
- f) A Statement by the head of the petitioning jurisdiction discussing the Old Catholic Identity of the Church and the reasons for seeking reception into the

Old Catholic Confederation. A petitioning jurisdiction, coming from another Christian tradition, must demonstrate its willingness to develop an authentic Old Catholic identity consistent with the theology and practices of the OCC and the Union of Utrecht.

g) A Statement by the head of the petitioning jurisdiction, accepting of the Code of Canon Law, Policies, Ecclesial Culture of the Old Catholic Confederation and the Diversity Statement adopted by the OCC Synod of Bishops.

h) A Statement by the head of the petitioning jurisdiction accepting the financial responsibilities of the bishops and Member Churches, including the Annual Oblation, annual parish collection to support the OCC and its mission. The Old Catholic Confederation does not provide financial support to petitioning Churches or jurisdictions, which must also demonstrate that they are financially self-sufficient.

i) A Statement from the bishops of the petitioning jurisdiction that they are willing to make a Promise of Obedience to the Primate and to the Synod of Bishops of the Old Catholic Confederation.

3. In general, upon completion of the above, a review process is initiated by the Vicar for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs, who enters into dialogue with the petitioning Church or jurisdiction. Generally, the petitioning jurisdiction should invite the OCC Primate to visit the petitioning jurisdiction, at the expense of the petitioning jurisdiction. If the Primate cannot make the visit personally, he will send a representative to visit with the petitioning jurisdiction. If the petitioning jurisdiction has a clear Old Catholic ecclesial identity (or authentically willing to develop one), the Vicar for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs shall present the petition and documents to the Primate, with his recommendations and commendations. Then, the Primate himself enters into dialogue with the head of the petitioning jurisdiction. Finally, with the recommendation of the Primate, the petitioning jurisdiction is presented to the Synod of Bishops for formal acceptance and Reception into the Old Catholic Confederation.

Finally, the petitioning jurisdiction is directed to send all completed documentation via email attachment to The Rev. Canon Jason Voss, Vicar for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs of the Old Catholic Confederation, at [ecumenicalvicarocc@gmail.com](mailto:ecumenicalvicarocc@gmail.com).