

OCC MEMBERSHIP FOR BISHOPS

REQUIREMENTS

1. A Curriculum Vitae, including academic credentials and ministry experience.
2. Bishops are required to hold a graduate degree in Theology, or related sacred science, including the Master's degree or Licentiate degree. Copies of Academic Diplomas.
3. Copies of Sacramental Certificates (Baptismal, Confirmation, Ordination and Consecration).
4. A Notarized copy of the OCC Membership Affirmation concerning Old-Catholic faith, polity and policy.
5. All Bishops with a jurisdiction are required to petition for recognition of their respective Church or Diocese.
6. All Bishops with incardinated clergy are required to have their clergy become OCC Members.

INSTRUCTIONS

All documents may be sent to chancery@occus.org. Upon acceptance, Bishops are required to make their annual tax-deductible contributions via paypal on the OCC website for themselves and their jurisdiction.

Upon completion of petition and contribution, membership cards are sent and a Diploma of Recognition of the Church or Diocese.

NOTICE

Membership in the Old Catholic Confederation (OCC) neither grants nor confers any juridical, canonical or legal authority concerning the OCC or any other ecclesial organization; rather, OCC Membership demonstrates the member's religious affiliation as an Old-Catholic and a commitment of financial support. The OCC does not make any judgment about apostolic succession or the qualifications of the clergy for ministry.

OLD CATHOLIC CONFEDERATION

BISHOP'S COVENANT

I, _____, do petition the Old Catholic Confederation, in order to become a Member, because I recognize that the necessity for visible unity among Old-Catholics in the United States and around the world. Thus, I make the following affirmations in order to promote an authentic Old-Catholic identity as defined by the Old Catholic Confederation.

Concerning faith and morality

I, _____, do herewith affirm that I profess the divine authority of the holy Gospels, the ancient Christian faith and apostolic tradition as defined by the first Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Church and:

- 1) The Niceno-Constantinopolitan creed in its original ancient formula without the inclusion of the *filioque*;
- 2) That I am an Old-Catholic Christian, and that I do not believe in the modern doctrines of papal supremacy nor papal infallibility.
- 3) That I observe the ancient calendar of the Church and not the modern Roman Catholic feasts.
- 4) That I practice the holy Mysteries, the Sacraments, as performed in the ancient Church, administering the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Eucharist) together upon infants and adult catechumens.
- 5) That I teach the apostolic teaching concerning the primacy of conscience concerning one's personal moral life in light of the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the holy Gospels.

Concerning polity

I, _____, do further affirm:

- 6) That there is one Old Catholic Church in the United States, under the Synod of Bishops of the United States, affiliated with the Old Catholic Confederation.
- 7) That I acknowledge the Primate of the Old Catholic Confederation as having precedence of honor over me and my jurisdiction, for the sake of visible unity.
- 8) That my jurisdiction shall remain completely autonomous and self-sufficient.
- 9) That my jurisdiction shall be governed by canon law consistent with Old-Catholic ecclesiology.

- 10) That my jurisdiction shall only ordain qualified individuals to holy Orders and especially to the holy Episcopate, based upon the prudential judgment of the local bishop.
- 11) That I acknowledge that I shall have the privilege of voice on the United States Synod of Bishops until such time that I shall be Elected to the Synod of Bishops representing my jurisdiction and then I shall have the right of vote on the Synod.

Concerning policy

I, _____, do moreover acknowledge:

- 12) That as an active member, my jurisdiction, my clergy and I shall have the privilege of using the term "Old-Catholic," which is a trademark of the Old Catholic Confederation.
- 13) That the privilege of using the trademark "Old-Catholic" requires the promotion of a clear Old-Catholic identity, as defined by the Old Catholic Confederation.
- 14) That membership in the Old Catholic Confederation means that I am committed to supporting the OCC by my annual contribution and that my membership identifies me as an Old-Catholic Christian professing the orthodox Christian faith.
- 15) That my jurisdiction shall have liability insurance for me and my clergy.
- 16) That my jurisdiction shall have a policy concerning the protection of children.
- 17) That my jurisdiction shall promote the spiritual formation and education of its clergy.
- 18) That my jurisdiction has a clear Old-Catholic identity, avoiding any confusion with the Roman Catholic Church.
- 19) That my jurisdiction, my clergy and I shall be responsible for observing these commitments to the Old Catholic Confederation in order to remain an active member.
- 20) That my jurisdiction, my clergy and I shall be responsible for my annual contribution to the Old Catholic Confederation in order to remain an active member.
- 21) That my membership in the Old Catholic Confederation can be revoked for any violation of this Covenant.

NOTARY PUBLIC

This document must be signed in the presence of a Notary Public. The Notary is required to sign and seal this document.

Petitioning Bishop

Date

Notary