

Chapter III

National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers

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Introduction

The National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers (NADEO) was established in 1970 to assist Catholic ecumenical officers and others committed to fostering the ecumenical vision of the Church. This was in response to the mandate of Vatican II that there be an organized effort to promote ecumenism in the dioceses of the Catholic Church. This national organization was designed to provide support of various kinds to local diocesan ecumenical officers. A web site is maintained at www.nadeo.org.

Purposes

The purposes of NADEO are threefold:

- 1) to stimulate an exchange of ideas, experiences and evaluations among diocesan ecumenical officers;
- 2) to promote programs that further the work of Christian unity and cooperation;
- 3) to cooperate with the Bishops Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and with other ecumenical and interreligious agencies. The latter include but are not limited to the ecumenical organizations of other Christian churches, the National Council of Churches, and state ecumenical councils or their equivalent.

Government

NADEO is a voluntary association of ecumenical officers. Final authority is vested in the General Assembly, which meets once each year. Voting members are the ecumenical officers of those dioceses that are current in the payment of their dues.

There is also a Board of Directors, known as the Executive Board, which consists of the elected representatives of each of the thirteen ecclesiastical regions and a representative of the Eastern Catholic churches of the United States of America. An executive committee consisting of the officers of the organization meets in between regular annual meetings of the Board and of the General Assembly.

NADEO is incorporated in the State of Michigan as a not-for-profit organization with tax exempt status. It is listed in the **Official Catholic Directory**.

Relationship to BCEIA

The president meets regularly with the members and the staff of the Bishops Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. NADEO is one of the principal agencies through which BCEIA carries out its ecumenical mandate and mission.

Membership

Membership in NADEO is open to the ecumenical officers of all U.S. dioceses and archdioceses. This may include: 1) duly appointed ecumenical officers; 2) the chairperson of a diocesan ecumenical commission or their representative; 3) one who effectively exercises the role of diocesan ecumenical officer without formal appointment; 4) a member of a religious community with a special apostolate in ecumenism.

Dues

Membership dues are determined by the General Assembly of NADEO. Payment of dues is a requirement for active voice in the decision making process.

Associate Membership

Associate membership in NADEO is open to any Catholic in union with Rome who pays the associate membership dues. Associate members are entitled to receive the NADEO Newsletter and to be on the mailing list for other materials, and is entitled to voice but no vote in the General Assembly.

Newsletter

NADEO publishes a quarterly newsletter, which is sent to all members. Non-members receive the newsletter upon payment of a stipulated subscription fee.

Events

NADEO sponsors or participates in a number of events on a regular basis including the National Workshop on Christian Unity, the National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations, and three leadership institutes (described in the previous section of this handbook).

Publications

From time to time NADEO publishes (by itself or in cooperation with others) reports and small booklets such as **Tale of Three Cities** (1980), **Ecumenical Marriage** (1987), **Whither the Wind** (1988), **Handbook for Interreligious Dialogue** (1988), **Justification by Faith** (1989), and **Religiously Mixed Marriages** (1996), **Companions in the Struggle: Church Unity & Ethical Issues** (1996), **Serving Unity: Exercising the Gift of Authority** (2000), **NADEO Handbook** (2001).

EDEO-NADEO Standing Committee

The EDEO-NADEO Standing Committee is a joint committee of the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical Officers and the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers. It was established in 1978 to collaborate in researching and studying common areas of pastoral concern in Anglican and Catholic life.

Over the years this committee published numerous reports including:

Tale of Three Cities (1980)

Pastoral Care for ARC Couples (1982)

Pastoral Perspectives on Baptism in ARC Families (1983)

Food for the Journey, Study on Eucharistic Sharing (1985)

Who In the World? A Study of Ministry (1986)

How in the Church, A Study of Authority (1987)

Whither the Wind, A Telltale of Authority (1988)

ARC Soundings: AUS Response to ARCIC (1990)

Receiving the Vision: The Anglican-Roman Catholic Reality Today (1995)

The EDEO-NADEO Committee continues as a standing committee and continues to be active. In the late '90s into the year 2000 a project was devised to display the use of authority that has advanced ecumenical life between Episcopal and Roman Catholic dioceses. Three dioceses were studied: San Diego, Milwaukee and Rochester. The study was published as **Serving Unity: Exercising the Gift of Authority** (2000). The committee is expanding to include the organizations of the ecumenical representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Research and Development Committee

Another standing committee of NADEO is the Research and Development Committee, organized and approved in the late 1970's. Initially it focused upon surveys to determine the extent, kind and quality of ecumenical leadership and education. The goals were to determine what was going on at the diocesan level, in the seminaries and in Catholic educational systems.

More recently, a study is being conducted in and regarding the Hispanic community. The results have been informally communicated to the General Assembly.

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee has as its purpose the annual selection of a recipient of the James Fitzgerald Award for ecumenical achievement. This is a non-financial award bestowed for outstanding contributions and services in promoting Christian unity either on the part of an individual or an organization in such a way as to have significant impact and to serve as an inspiration to others. Nominations are sought from NADEO Board members or other ecumenical officers whose dioceses are members of NADEO. Committee recommendations are made to the NADEO Board.

Committee on Jewish/Catholic Relations

See separate section of this handbook on Jewish/Catholic Relations.

Committee on Faiths in the World

See separate section of this handbook on Faiths in the World.

Ecumenical Officers by Regions

This roster is available on the NADEO Web site at www.nadeo.org

CONSTITUTION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DIOCESAN ECUMENICAL OFFICERS

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers of the Catholic Church (NADEO).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose for which this Association is established are:

1. To stimulate an exchange of ideas, experiences and evaluations among Catholic ecumenical officers.
2. To promote programs which further the work of Christian unity and interreligious cooperation.
3. To cooperate with the Bishop's Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and other ecumenical and interreligious agencies.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in this Association shall be open to ecumenical officers of the Roman Catholic arch/dioceses of the United States in union with Rome.
2. For the purposes of this Association, an ecumenical officer shall be understood as that person within a Catholic diocese or eparchy who is:
 - a. the duly appointed ecumenical officer; or
 - b. the chairperson of the ecumenical commission; or
 - c. a member of the ecumenical commission assigned to represent it.
3. Each diocese in union with Rome shall determine one ecumenical officer to represent it in the Association.

4. An indication of the intent to affiliate with the Association and the payment of the dues assessed by the Association shall be conditions of voting membership.
5. Membership in this Association shall also be open to those who effectively exercise the functions of a diocesan ecumenical officer without a formal appointment, and to representatives of religious communities which have a special apostolate in ecumenism. These shall be members-at-large and shall be approved by the Executive Board.
6. Associate Membership in NADEO shall be open to any individual by payment of an annual associate membership fee determined yearly by the General Assembly. The associate member shall be entitled to receive the NADEO Newsletter and other general announcements. If the associate member is registered at the NADEO Catholic Day, he/she be entitled to attend the General Assembly with full voice but no vote.

ARTICLE IV. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The final authority in this Association shall reside in the General Assembly of its members.
2. There shall be at least one General Assembly held each year as the Annual Meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE V. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. The Executive Board shall consist of fourteen members – one elected by and from each of the thirteen ecclesiastical regions of the United States, and one for Eastern Rite Catholics – and the Executive Officers of the Association who are not regular representatives.
2. Provincial Representatives
 - a. Regions composed of two or more ecclesiastical provinces may choose a provincial representative from each of the provinces other than that of the Regional Member of the Executive Board.
 - b. A provincial representative may sit with the Executive Board and be entitled to voice but not vote.
3. Alternates

When a Regional Member of the Executive Board cannot attend a meeting of the Board, that Member may designate in writing an alternate from that Region to sit on the Board temporarily. When this alternate has presented credentials to the president, he/she shall be accepted as a temporary voting member of the Executive Board from that region.
4. If a Regional Representative leaves the Executive Board, the President may appoint a person in the same Region to represent the Region until an election can be held.
5. The Executive Board shall meet at least once a year in addition to the Annual Meeting.
6. The Executive Board shall be accountable to the members of the Association convened in General Assembly.

7. The term of Office of a member of the Executive Board shall be three years, beginning at the end of the Annual Meeting and continuing through the Annual Meeting three years hence.

ARTICLE VI. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1. The financial support of the Association shall be provided by the payment of membership dues.
2. The amount of membership dues shall be determined each year at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VII. THE OFFICERS

1. The Officers

The officers of the Association shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

2. Term of Office

- a. The term of office of the president shall be three years, beginning at the close of the Annual Meeting at which he/she was elected and continuing until the close of the Annual Meeting three years hence.
- b. The term of the other officers shall be for three years beginning at the meeting of the Executive Board at the close of the Annual Meeting and continuing until the close of the Annual Meeting three years hence.

3. Election of Officers

- a. The president of the Association shall be elected by and from the members of the Association in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws.
- b. The other officers shall be elected by and from the members of the Executive Board at the meeting of the Board at the close of the Annual Meeting.

4. The President

- a. If the person who is elected president of the Association is a member of the Executive Board, he/she shall resign from the Board and a new member of the Executive Board shall be elected from that Region to fill out the term of office.
- b. The president of the Association shall preside over the Executive Board meetings with voice but no vote, except to break a tie.

ARTICLE VIII. THE BYLAWS

The Executive Board shall be empowered to adopt Bylaws to implement the provisions of this Constitution and to provide detailed procedures for carrying out its purposes.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the General Assembly provided that the proposed amendment and its rationale, signed by its author(s),

- a. shall be in the possession of the president of the Association at least sixty (60) days before that meeting of the General Assembly, and
- b. shall have been mailed to the members of the Association at least thirty (30) days before that meeting of the General Assembly, and
- c. shall receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority favorable vote from the voting members seated in the General Assembly at that meeting.

BYLAWS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DIOCESAN ECUMENICAL OFFICERS

(as amended through May, 1993)

BYLAW I. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Composition

The General Assembly of the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers shall be composed of the ecumenical officers of the arch/dioceses and eparchies of the Executive Board of the Association, who have indicated their will to join the Association and who have paid the membership dues assessed by the Association.

2. Meetings

- a. Meetings of the General Assembly shall be held at a time and place determined by the Executive Board of the Association.
- b. The annual Meeting of the Association shall usually be held in conjunction with the National Workshop on Christian Unity.

3. Agenda for the Meeting

- a. The agenda for a meeting of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Executive Officers and distributed to the membership of the Association at least fifteen (15) days before the opening of that meeting.
- b. Any voting member of the Association may propose an item to be placed on the Agenda, but such a proposal must be received by the president of the Association no later than thirty (30) days before the meeting of the General Assembly.
- c. The Executive Officers shall have the authority to accept or reject proposals presented for the agenda.

- d. Any item not listed on the agenda may be presented as new business at the meeting of the General Assembly, but before such an item is admitted for discussion it must receive a simple majority vote of the members seated in the General Assembly to consider it.
4. Voting in the General Assembly
Each voting member of the Association who is present in the General Assembly shall have one vote
5. Quorum in the General Assembly
The quorum in the General Assembly shall consist of the members present at a duly convened meeting of the General Assembly.
6. Parliamentary Procedure
In the absence of specific directives in the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association, or, in order to clarify them, the provisions of **Robert's Rules of Order, Revised**, shall prevail at all meetings of the General Assembly.

BYLAW II. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. Meetings of the Executive Board
The time and place of the meetings of the Executive Board shall be determined by the president in consultation with the Board members.
2. Quorum in Meetings of the Executive Board
A majority of the members of the Executive Board shall compose quorum empowered to conduct the business of a duly convened meeting of the Executive Board.
3. Voting on the Executive Board.
Each member of the Executive Board shall have one vote.
4. Agenda for Meetings of the Executive Board
 - a. The agenda for each meeting of the Executive Board shall be prepared by the president in consultation with the other officers, and shall be distributed to each member of the Executive Board at least fifteen days before that meeting.
 - b. The Executive Board, when it convenes, shall have the power to amend the agenda as may be deemed desirable.
5. Expenses of the Board Members
 - a. The expenses of the members of the Executive Board shall be paid by the Association for meetings of the Board other than those held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.
 - b. The expenses of all specially ordered committees shall be paid by the Association, except for those held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.
 - c. The expenses of individual Board members to attend the National Workshop on Christian Unity are not the responsibility of the Association.

BYLAW III. THE OFFICERS

1. Nomination of the President

- a. Nomination for the office of president may be made by any voting member of the Association, and it must be made in writing and presented to any member of the Executive Board not later than 8:00 p.m., the evening before the Annual Meeting.
- b. To be valid, the nomination shall include the written consent of the person nominated for president.
- c. The Executive Board shall present a list of nominees for the office of president to the membership as the first order of business at the Annual Meeting.

2. Election of the President

- a. The president shall be elected by the members of the Association at the Annual meeting of the General Assembly.
- b. The nominee who receives the highest number of votes shall be the president of the Association.

3. Nomination and Election of Other Officers

The Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer shall be nominated by the president and elected by the Board held at the close of the Annual Meeting.

4. Duties of the President

- a. The president of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the General Assembly and of the Executive Board of Directors.
- b. The president of the Association shall call the meetings of the General Assembly and of the Executive Board.
- c. The president shall supervise the preparation of the agenda for each meeting of the General Assembly and of the Executive Board and shall see to it that these are distributed to the members in accord with the directives of these Bylaws.
- d. The president shall represent the Association on occasions when such representation shall be deemed proper.
- e. The president shall have all the rights and duties accorded his/her office in **Robert's Rules of Order, Revised**, except where these conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of this Association.

5. Duties of the Other Officers

a. Vice-President

The vice-president shall perform the duties of the president in his/her absence.

b. The Secretary shall

1. supervise the recording of the proceedings of the General Assembly;
2. supervise the recording of the minutes of meetings of the Executive Board;

3. supervise the preparation and distribution of the proceedings and the minutes as the General Assembly or the Executive Board shall direct;
 4. shall assist the president in the preparation and distribution of the agenda for meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Board.
 5. shall assist the president in the preparation and distribution of other correspondence as the Board shall direct.
- c. The Treasurer shall
1. serve as the custodian, without bond, of the funds of the Association;
 2. prepare an annual report for presentation at the Annual Meeting;
 3. prepare an annual budget for presentation at the Annual Meeting;
 4. issue checks for payment of expenditures authorized by the Executive Board or the General Assembly in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association;
 5. keep a record of the current membership who have paid the dues assessed and are entitled to act as voting members.
- d. Executive Committee

The officers shall serve as an Executive Committee and will conduct the business of the Association between meetings of the Executive Board as necessary.

BYLAW IV. FINANCES OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.
2. The Executive Board shall prepare and present a yearly budget to the General Assembly at the Annual Meeting.
3. The General Assembly shall have the right to approve, amend or reject the proposed budget.
4. a. The Executive Board shall present to the General Assembly a proposal to raise the money necessary to support the proposed annual budget by an equal assessment among the membership and when the General Assembly has approved the assessment, it shall become the official membership dues of the Association for the next year.
 b. The Executive Board shall also recommend to the General Assembly the official associate membership dues for the next year.
5. Membership dues are payable at the beginning of the calendar year.

BYLAW V. AMENDMENT

1. These Bylaws may be amended by the General Assembly at any regularly convened meeting by a simple majority of those present and voting.
2. These Bylaws may also be amended by the Executive Board, provided that the proposal to amend, with its rationale and signed by its author(s),
 - a. shall be in the possession of the president at least sixty (60) days before the next meeting of the Board, and
 - b. shall have been mailed to the members of the Executive Board at least thirty (30) days before the next meeting of the Board, and
 - c. shall have received a majority vote of the Board members present and voting.

