

# The Constitution of the Province of Europe East Republic of Serbia



## **Province of Europe East is a member Province of Anglican Free Communion**

### **Article One - NAME**

The name of this organization is the Province of Europe East, hereinafter referred to as "the Province".

### **Article Two – PRINCIPLES OF UNITY, VISION, MISSION AND IDENTITY**

The Principles of Unity, Vision, Mission and Identity are the defining statements of the purpose of the Province.

#### **PRINCIPLES OF UNITY**

##### **WE ARE PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS**

The realities of contemporary life are radically different than those of First Century Palestine. The Province of Europe East accepts the challenge of discovering and experiencing the eternal and universal truths found within the ancient Christian faith in the context of modern life.

##### **WE ARE AN EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY**

The Province ('episcopal' is the English derivation of the New Testament

Greek ἐπίσκοπος episcopos 'overseer, guardian') is a community of Christians who acknowledge and embrace the Historic Episcopate, the traditional succession of bishops from the time of the earliest Christian communities.

The bishops of the Province of Europe East continue this ancient and honored tradition and have each been consecrated in the Historic Episcopate through the laying on of hands by bishops who have been ordained in the succession of the Apostles.

The bishops of the Province of Europe East embrace the traditional threefold order of deacon, priest/presbyter and bishop.

### **WE ARE A CHURCH OF EQUALS**

Conferences have been held in the Christian Church since its beginning. Mutual consultation and collaboration are integral to becoming an effective community.

The Province of Europe East is a community of mutual sharing, support, encouragement and collaboration, united in the work of making the Vision of a progressive expression of the ancient Christian faith a contemporary reality.

### **PRINCIPLES OF VISION**

The Province of Europe East has the vision of becoming a community that proclaims and demonstrates a contemporary expression of the ancient Christian faith based on these principles:

- The ancient Christian faith can be a relative expression of the universal truth that all life is sacred and united
- Christianity is one of many paths on the journey of experiencing the divine and all people are free to explore and discover the heritage of diverse spiritual traditions
- A progressive Christian community is inclusive of all and exclusive of none and denounces discrimination based on gender, race, sexuality, nationality, language, culture, religion, disability or other distinguishing feature
- Participating in the "Great Commission" (St. Mark 16:15) requires

demonstration of the liberating message of the Gospel, not just its proclamation. We must practice what we preach

- Progress on the journey of spiritual development requires we welcome and encourage the questioning of traditional and contemporary interpretations of the Christian faith
- The Gospel message of Jesus Christ compels all believers to struggle for justice and peace among all people and to become dedicated advocates for the poor and oppressed
- The Christian faith includes reverence and care for the Earth and all created things
- The Christian faith is a journey of spiritual development and requires a commitment to continuous learning, progress, grace and love

### **PRINCIPLES OF MISSION**

The mission of the Province of Europe East is to:

1. Witness to Christ's saving, forgiving and reconciling love for all people
2. Build welcoming and transforming communities of faith
3. Stand in solidarity with the poor and needy
4. Challenge violence, injustice and oppression, and work for peace and reconciliation
5. Protect, care for and renew life on our planet

### **PRINCIPLES OF IDENTITY**

Although independent of the Church of England, the Province of Europe East acknowledges and identifies with the historic Anglican Christian heritage and tradition and celebrates the historical significance of the episcopal See of Canterbury.

### **Article Three -GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Province shall be governed by a Council of Bishops acting in accordance with the Constitution and Canons.

Each member bishop is independent in the governance and organizational affairs of their respective ministry.

Nothing in the Constitution or Canons shall be understood to allow the Council of Bishops or the Archbishop (Presiding Bishop) to interfere in the ordinary ecclesiastical affairs of any member of the Council of Bishops which do not violate the spirit of the Constitution or Canons.

Any bishop validly consecrated in the Historic Episcopate, and possessing ordinary ecclesiastical authority of an episcopal ministry, and in general agreement with the Principles of Unity, Vision, Mission and Identity of the Church is eligible to apply for membership in the Council of Bishops.

Faith communities, ministers and individuals under the ordinary ecclesiastical authority of a member of the Council of Bishops is considered a member of the Province of Europe East. Each member bishop is independent in the governance and organizational affairs of their respective ministry.

Recognizing the universal nature of the episcopate, member bishops do not consecrate others to the office of bishop without a majority vote of the Council of Bishops.

Qualified applicants may be elected to membership by a 51% majority vote of the Council of Bishops.

Membership may be suspended or terminated by a 2/3 majority vote of the Council of Bishops.

#### **Article Four - AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION**

A 2/3 majority vote of two regular annual sessions of the Council of Bishops is required to amend the Constitution.

---THIS CONSTITUTION ADOPTED MAY 9, 2019---

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "++ Petar Petrović". The signature is written in a cursive style with a double cross at the beginning.

The Most Reverend Petar Petrović  
Archbishop of Province of Europe East