

November 7, 2013

Dear Members of the Presiding Bishop Nominations Committee:

Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ. Grace and peace to you!

You asked that I submit “a letter explaining why [I] agreed to be considered for nomination, and [my] own opinion of why [I] feel qualified to become [your] Presiding Bishop.” I share below my responses to these questions.

Why I Agreed to Be Considered

I agreed to be considered for nomination after a period of discernment. I began this process by consulting with my spouse, the associate pastor of Sts. Clair and Francis, and our parish council. Because of the importance of these relationships, I sought assurance that the possibility of my serving as presiding bishop would not adversely affect any of them or the people with whom I share these relationships. In each conversation, we constructed an acceptable plan for handling any adjustments that we could foresee. And in each of these vital relationships, I received the support of those persons to move forward.

I next consulted with my spiritual director. We had already spent time reviewing my experience serving as president of the House of Pastors for my personal learning, growth, and planning for the next phase of my life. She advised me to spend time seeking clarity in my mind and heart as to whether an acceptance of this candidacy would spring from a want to do something simply because someone asked it of me or from a desire sourced deeply in my heart. My spiritual director’s simple yet challenging question prompted other questions in my mind. I knew that the choice as to who would be the next presiding bishop was not mine to make; that was the Communion’s decision. I knew that the choice as to who would be nominated was not even mine to make; that was the Committee’s decision, and/or the decision of whichever backers might organize a floor nomination. What, then, was my decision to make? What did I need to decide in such a way that would engage my whole heart?

I decided to take a retreat for several days to simply spend time alone with the Lord and contemplate this question. During a time of meditation on one of those days, some clarity emerged. My role in this process was to decide if I wanted to *offer myself* to the Communion as a candidate. As soon as I formed this question, the answer of “yes” immediately followed. It occurred to me that, with all my shortcomings, I am a good gift to offer. I have many characteristics and talents, lessons learned, and skills that I’ve developed through various life experiences and the teachings of others, which together, make me a good offering for this position. And I want to offer myself as a gift to the Communion to serve in this role. I know that others would be good gifts as well; they would have to decide whether to offer themselves, and the Communion would have to decide whom among the candidates to choose. I ultimately agreed to be considered for this role because I came to a place where I desired wholeheartedly to offer myself.

Why I Feel Qualified

My varied life experiences and the unusual road map of my life have taught me much. I have broad experience serving in leadership roles in diverse contexts as well as in leadership training, and as a result I feel very comfortable in and adept at serving in a leadership capacity. As the accompanying Curriculum Vitae details, after leaving the Roman priesthood, I worked for 16 years in the corporate world in which I learned important lessons about leadership that I had not learned in the Church (e.g., practical problem

solving skills, goal setting and goal managing, and a healthy sense of urgency and productivity). I also have learned about the secular leadership model known as “Servant Leadership,” an approach that I find exciting and clearly related to gospel values.

I have pastored growing communities collectively for more than 25 years. I am especially proud of my work at SS. Peter & Paul in the Roman Church and at Sts. Clare & Francis within the ECC. I have learned through these experiences and continue to learn more every day, about how communities grow and thrive. I have the intelligence and the theological background that this role requires as well as the discipline to continually educate myself. And, based upon the evaluations I receive, my teaching and preaching abilities are strong suits. I have shared and exercised a passion for social justice since my days at SS. Peter & Paul up to my present anti-bias work, particularly for racial justice. Finally, I understand the importance of personal prayer in my own life; and I love the liturgy, especially celebrating the Eucharist with others.

Beyond teaching me and allowing me to share my talents, my life’s journey has also brought me to the place where I am fairly aware of my shortcomings. And for that I am grateful. I have learned that I need to gather around me people who have gifts that I lack and perspectives that do not come to me so naturally; I cannot lead well without their support and collaboration. For example, I tend to function well navigating the “big picture” level. I may create a plan that inspires with a vision in broad outline, but it often lacks details for persons who will have responsibilities to see the plan materialize. I have, consequently, learned to engage with people who show greater attention to detail in their thinking than I do to compose plans to bring that vision to fruition.

Perhaps most of all, I feel qualified to offer myself for this role because of my deep desire to see the vision of the ECC flourish. I want us to grow so that others can experience the hope I have experienced, and that we offer as a Communion. And I want to grow in communion with others who are on similar paths so that together we can expand that hope even more. This hope, after all, may be what our world needs most.

In Summary

My discernment has brought me to the place where I offer myself to the Communion to serve as our next Presiding Bishop, fully aware that this is not my decision but the decision of the Communion. While I feel qualified to take on the responsibilities of this role and serve in this way, I am also humbled by the thought of assuming the role of Presiding Bishop. I believe this duality is the reason the ordination rite calls the candidate to answer the question, “Are you willing [to offer yourself]?” three times. And, within the rite the answer is “I am!” the first two times and then “I am with the help of God!” I offer my gift to the Communion: “I am willing, with the help of God!”

Your brother,
Frank

Father Frank Krebs
Pastor, Sts. Clare & Francis
St. Louis, MO
fekrebs@msn.com
314-740-1160

CURRICULUM VITAE
REV. FRANCIS E. KREBS

Pastor, Community of Sts. Clare & Francis
483 East Lockwood Avenue, #3
St. Louis, MO 63119
314-740-1160 | fekrebs@msn.com

EDUCATION | DEGREES

Cardinal Glennon College, St. Louis, MO
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy 1968
Minor: Psychology

Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, MO
Master of Divinity 1973
Distinctions: Graduated 2nd out of 16

EDUCATION | POST-GRADUATE STUDIES

Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, MO
Graduate Studies in Theology 1976-7

St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO
Graduate Studies in Theology and Education 1976-7

Maryknoll Institute, Cochabamba, Bolivia
Graduate Certificate in Spanish and Cultural Studies 1990

University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO
Graduate Study in Organizational Psychology 1995

University of Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands
Graduate Summer School Course in Old Catholic Theology 2013

SPECIALIZED TRAINING RECEIVED

National Conference for Community and Justice, St. Louis, MO
Diversity, Anti-bias, Structural Oppression, and Just Social Practices Training 1999-Present

Anti-Defamation League, St. Louis, MO
Diversity, Anti-bias, Structural Oppression, and Just Social Practices Training 2000-Present

Magellan Behavioral Health, St. Louis, MO
Organizational Development Training 2003-2004

PASTORAL EXPERIENCE | ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

*St. Ann Parish, Normandy, MO***Associate Pastor (Full-time)****1972-1974**

Concurrently served as part-time chaplain to Normandy Osteopathic Hospital

*St. Pius V Parish, St. Louis, MO***Associate Pastor (Part-time)****1974-1976**

Concurrently served as full-time religion teacher at Rosati-Kain High School, St. Louis, MO

*St. Monica Parish, Creve Coeur, MO***Associate Pastor (Part-time)****1976-1977**

Participated in full-time graduate study at Kenrick Seminary and St. Louis University

*SS. Peter & Paul Parish, St. Louis, MO***Associate Pastor, Administrator, and Pastor****1977-1990**

Worked with 100 member lay, charismatic community (The Community of Restoration) to revitalize this inner city parish, redevelop its property into productive use, establish a retreat center, and develop social service programs for persons in poverty. Active parish membership of over 300.

PRIVATE SECTOR WORK EXPERIENCE

Personal Performance Consultants, St. Louis, MO***Regional Training Specialist****1990-1993**

Developed and delivered training presentations for PPC's clients.

Medco Behavioral Care, St. Louis, MO***Project Manager, Service Quality Systems****1993-1995**

Managed special projects for supporting account management field staff.

Merit Behavioral Care, St. Louis, MO***Director, National Accounts Administration****1995-1997**

Oversaw quality initiatives to improve behavioral health services to national corporate clients. Represented account executives at the national service center for in-person interfacing with a complex system of departments. Coordinated sales meetings, produced sales meeting materials, and coached sales meeting presenters.

Magellan Health Services, St. Louis, MO

Director, Client Training Programs

1997-2006

Directed a department of 13 persons who designed, developed, delivered, evaluated, and reported on up to four thousand hours of training programs per year, produced by 300+ contracted trainers, at organizations across the United States. Managed an annual budget exceeding \$1,000,000. A Tower-Perrin (now Towers Watson) consultant said at the time that our department was the “standard of the industry.”

Private Consultant, Part-time

Trainer, Facilitator, Organizational Developer

2006-Present

Develop and deliver human-resource, psychology-related, and diversity trainings (e.g., supervisory skills, enhanced communication and conflict resolution techniques, and anti-bias education). My clients are generally behavioral health or diversity organizations who sell my services to their clients. This arrangement allows me to be a part-time pastor of Sts. Clare & Francis.

*This company was assumed into the company listed in the next item. Thus I worked for the same, growing organization from 1990 to 2006.

PASTORAL EXPERIENCE | ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC COMMUNION

The First ECC Synod, Las Cruces, NM

Incardinated into the ECC by Presiding Bishop Peter Hickman

2005

Community of Sts. Clare & Francis, St. Louis, MO

Pastor (Part-time)

2006-Present

We are a growing community of faith (125+ members) with a vibrant weekly liturgy, well attended small groups, and a variety of works of service. We have a pastor, associate pastor, and one priest in residence. We also have one seminarian. See www.stsclareandfrancis.org.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CHURCH EXPERIENCE AS ECC PRIEST

National Pastoral Ministers Retreat

Organizer

October 2008

This retreat was designed to develop more cohesion among the members of the House of Pastors. Since it featured lectures by Old Catholic theologian, Rev. Bjorn Marcussen, it was open to all pastoral ministers. The attendees evaluated it highly.

*Midwest Region***Vicar****2008-2010**

Appointed by Bishop Peter in 2008. (I was required to resign in order to accept the role of president of the House of Pastors.) In the capacity of Vicar I began a tradition of monthly clergy conference calls, initiated the Midwest Regional Council, and assisted in the incardination process of a number of ECC clergy.

*Midwest Regional Council***Pastoral Representative****2009-Present**

Serve as one of four pastoral representatives from each of four ECC communities comprising the Midwest Region: Emmaus, Oshkosh, WI; Sts. Clare & Francis, St. Louis, MO; San Damiano, Little Rock, AR; and St. Jerome, Tulsa, OK. Together with four corresponding lay representatives we have explored the possibility of forming a diocese, an initiative that we began when I was Vicar. We first developed criteria for determining when we would be ready to form a diocese, which remain the measure of when we will begin formation.

*National ECC Synod, St. Louis, 2010***Chair of Organizing Committee and Co-Master of Ceremonies****October 2010**

The synod participants were polled and expressed general satisfaction with how the synod ran.

*The ECC House of Pastors***President****2010-2012**

Elected to this role by peers. (As a result of this election, I was required to resign as Vicar of the Midwest Region, as noted above). During my tenure, with the cooperation of the HOP Steering Committee, we established six goals; we achieved four of them, made progress on one without fully achieving it, and did not make any progress on one. See Addendum for the goals with my comments.

*Racial Justice Working Group, National Council of Churches***Co-Chair****2011-2013**

Our ECC communion partner, the Apostolic Catholic Church (ACC) through Bishop Chuck Leigh, invited me to participate in this group; the ACC is a member of the National Council of Churches (NCC), and the ECC is not. Bishop Peter was in full support of this opportunity. In response to a request from NCC General Secretary Michael Kinnamon, our group undertook to compose a re-affirmation and updating of the 1984 NCC Policy Statement on Racial Justice. We produced such a statement and forwarded it to the Governing Board. Due to economic constraints, the NCC was radically restructured this year; while this working group, and similar groups, was disbanded, the NCC chose our focus as a major

feature of the way forward for the National Council of Churches.

[Website](#)

TRAVEL

[I include this section because travel is an important component of the position of Presiding Bishop. I am comfortable and thrive in cultural environments other than my own.]

Domestic

I travelled to most major American cities in the course of my work with Magellan Health Services and its legacy organizations and with my work as a private consultant since 2006.

International

I have traveled widely in Europe (e.g., Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland), Central and South America (e.g, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, the Caribbean region, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay), and Asia to a lesser extent (e.g., Hong Kong, China and Japan, the latter in which I spent three two-week periods). I lived in Bolivia for 6 months in 1990 and became competent in Spanish, though my competency has waned after 23 years since residing there I still possess, however, a working knowledge of Spanish that enabled me to deliver a prepared address at Bishop Armando's ordination.

Addendum

Reviewing Our Goals in the HOP 2010-2012

I share below the goals that the Steering Committee of the HOP set for itself during my tenure as HOP president almost two years ago. The list was ambitious, we achieved much. The House itself, though, would have to assess our overall success.

1. Improve Communication
 - a. We created the monthly ECC wide Communique.
 - b. We established “Ground Rules” for HOP list serve and email interactions.
 - c. We opened the HOP email list serve to all clergy.
 - d. We introduced a system of moderators for the list serve as the synod approached.
 - e. We created forums on the ECC website.
2. Implement Canon 68 on Election of Presiding Bishop?
 - a. We worked with the Leadership Council to establish a Nominations Committee which oversaw the process, the first of its kind.
3. Prepare for the Synod
 - a. We worked with the Leadership Council to shape the synod’s theme and presentations.
 - b. We established an HOP forum specifically for discussing the proposed legislation on the ECC website.
 - c. We created an HOP Drafting Committee to facilitate the process of amending the proposals per the views of the House.
4. Ensure the creation of the Code of Ethical Conduct
 - a. We collaborated with the Presiding Bishop and the HOL to establish a work group to develop a Code with wide input from the entire Communion. Participants of the 2012 Synod received and affirmed a Code and then passed it to the Episcopal Council to administer. We achieved this goal despite considerable resistance from a small group of pastors. The Steering Committee attempted to include this group in the process to no avail.
5. Improve the visibility of the ECC nationally
 - a. We passed a resolution in the House to suggest to the HOL that it allocate \$10,000 of the budget to increasing national visibility. The HOL decided to establish a committee to explore this goal before assigning a figure to it.
6. Work toward publication of liturgical resources as well as establishment of continuing education programs/guidelines for clergy. These final two goals became enmeshed in a controversy over whether the HOP had the authority to initiate such endeavors. At a meeting of the Leadership Council and all the bishops in May, 2012, participants determined that there is no problem with the HOP taking initiative on such matters as long as it did so in a spirit of collaboration with the bishops, who work on related matters, while keeping them informed. We did not return to these goals, as our attention shifted to the Synod by the time the official minutes of this meeting were distributed.

Letter of Recommendation

Frank Krebs

November 8, 2013

Dear Presiding Bishop Nominating Committee:

I suppose before starting my recommendation, for context I should briefly tell you about myself. I received my high school, college and graduate level education in the diocesan seminary in St. Louis. I left the seminary a year before my class' diaconate ordination. Over the last 31 years I have served as executive director of two non-profit agencies working in the areas of poverty, hunger, homelessness, mental illness and HIV. I remained a Roman Catholic until 2006, when my wife, Marty, and I joined Sts. Clare & Francis and the ECC. Since then, I have been an HOL delegate to three ECC Synods, served on the parish finance committee from 2008 to present, and served a four-year term on the Sts. Clare & Francis parish council, the last two years as chair.

There are a number of reasons I think Frank Krebs would make an excellent Presiding Bishop of the ECC.

Empowering

I first got to know Frank in 1980 when I left the seminary and moved to the Roman Catholic parish he served first as associate pastor and then pastor. He had given a retreat to my seminary class and I was intrigued by the community he was leading at Sts. Peter & Paul parish. That community supported and valued individual prayer, communal worship, personal growth, communication and interpersonal relationships, service to the community, lay leadership, and consensus decision-making. It was an experiment in being church that drew people from around the St. Louis metro area. When Frank left the Roman Catholic priesthood in 1991, I remember feeling he left behind a community of people that felt empowered to carry on the work we were doing as a community. When I came to Sts. Clare & Francis, I quickly saw that the people being drawn to the parish were capable, strong and self-assured, and looking to partner with others to build something new.

Preaching

Frank is among the four or five best preachers I have heard, and is probably the most consistently on target. His ability to give context for and break open the scripture, as well as to help members of the community apply the readings to the circumstances of their daily lives, is extraordinary. The liturgy at Sts. Clare & Francis is usually the high point of my week. No matter how off-balance I feel or the level of turmoil in my life, I leave the liturgy feeling calm, connected, grounded once again, and challenged.

Composed

Frank is an extrovert, who gains energy when he is engaged in conversation with other people. He is comfortable in his own skin. This and his sense of humor put others at ease and make them feel happy and relaxed. He is approachable and magnanimous.

Passion

Whether it's conducting workshops or retreats on racism and diversity, giving convocations on Old Catholic theology, providing corporate trainings on a variety of topics, or just generally speaking out on justice issues, Frank brings clarity and passion to his presentations. His experience as a high school teacher, radio interviewer and corporate trainer help him make any subject matter interesting and intelligible.

Adult

During my two years as chair of the parish council, I met weekly with the parish pastoral team. During that time I gained an appreciation for Frank's self-knowledge and his desire to attain a level of detachment from his own opinions and feelings and appreciate other points of view. He is able to disagree without being disagreeable. He has worked through difficult issues in the parish with wisdom and grace. We do not always agree on particular issues, but when that happens he puts forth the effort to try to understand my point of view.

Prayer

I don't spend time with Frank on a daily basis, so I'm not there to observe this, but from his conversation and his demeanor, I believe him to be a man of prayer. He regularly encourages parishioners to spend time in prayer and meditation, and I believe all of the qualities I've shared above reflect his own life of prayer and time spent with God.

Vision

Frank has a gift for seeing the big picture. He is present in the moment and still has a vision for the future. When I was parish council chair, we did annual performance reviews of each of the staff that involved input from the entire parish. Frank received high marks in all categories. If he had a weakness, it was in administration and attention to detail. He is well aware of this, and it has been fodder at times for some self-deprecating humor on his part.

No one is perfect, and we all have areas of our lives that can stand improvement. Frank has had no problem, at least with me, in admitting his weaknesses and faults, and seeking to improve. I think all of the qualities I've mentioned, and his combination of self-confidence and humility, make him an excellent candidate to be considered as the next presiding bishop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" being more prominent than the last name "Campbell".

Steve Campbell

November 5, 2013

Robert and Mary Crecelius
Farmington MO.
Members Sts. Clare and Francis

Dear committee members,

We are writing to recommend Fr. Frank Krebs for the position of Presiding Bishop of the ECC. My wife and I first met Frank over thirty years ago when he was a diocesan priest and offered midnight Mass at our local Newman Center on the campus of St. Louis University. This was of course a time when the challenges and fruition of the second Vatican Council were beginning to find expression within ecclesial communities throughout this country; brave, intelligent and dedicated priests were offering a new understanding of Catholicism and its place within the larger context of Christian as well as other faith traditions, Frank was one of these men. For those of us who were young and forming our own ideas about the world around us, men and women such as Frank were instrumental to offering models of how we would live our lives. For my-self, this meant an eventual conversion to the Catholic faith, as I was drawn to a faith which was articulated through Frank as inclusive and one of spiritual possibilities. And so it had seemed to us all.

Thirty years, three children, and many life experiences later, we found ourselves spiritually adrift, the church which had at one time been our point of contact from which we drew strength and understood relationships, had changed. What we had envisioned and strove for when we were younger, inclusivity, and a broad understanding of our expression of truth, somehow had diminished for us. We had lost contact with Frank until about four years ago when while on a search for other communities which might better reflect our beliefs and needs, we became aware of the community of Sts. Clare and Francis, Frank Krebs was the pastor, and we began attending this parish as we were able. I state "as able." because we live eighty miles from this place and found it to be so enriching that we have, and continue to make the drive as often as possible.

What we have found in this relationship with this parish, and in particular under the guidance and leadership of Frank, is a community committed exteriorly to social justice, but more importantly to the individual and interior growth of the human spirit. Frank had taken a small group of people several years earlier and grown them into a vibrant community of several hundred individuals of diverse backgrounds and desires. In many ways what we have discovered with Frank is what we would imagine as an "early church" community experience. The gifts which Frank brings to the table cannot be confined to the limits of this letter, however for the sake of brevity let me simply mention a few, that seem relevant to the position for which he is being considered.

Frank is a pastor. He is a man of deep integrity who has led his community through the growth pains of transitioning from a "house church" model, to one with a parish council, budget,

employees, and a social justice mission to which the former necessities remain subservient to the living of the mission. He is a man who takes a deep interest in each individual and their own spiritual journey. Mary, my wife has said that it is his authenticity which she most admires, and his ability to call out her own sense of striving for, and living an authentic life. It is to this last comment I might add how Frank has modeled for the community a way of living authentically the Gospel message. Certainly he is a teacher but more importantly he is a living model of how we exist and respond in a world which is full of diversity and challenge, in a humble and loving way. This is the mark of what we would expect from a bishop. Further, Frank has another strength which unfortunately is lacking in many aspects of Christianity; a deep and honest sense of what I would term “pastoral imagination.” Frank has the innate ability to see beyond the situations at hand and look to the broader context from which they have emerged, and in so doing, invite each of us to look a bit deeper, a bit farther, in a more loving and compassionate way. This pastor of ours has accepted the creative spirit of humility to allow the parish to articulate their desires and needs, and then to gently, and skillfully offer ways to get there. This is done through individual conversations as well as the strength of his preaching, which was the original quality which drew us to this parish. These too, are characteristics which are sorely needed in our next bishop.

In conclusion, we can never express our gratitude for the person of Frank Krebs and the multitude of gifts which he offers to the parish community, as well as the larger community in which we live. Frank has taught us something about what it means to be human, and in so doing, pulled out of us aspects of our own humanity for which we are all the better for. If we may be so bold as to proclaim that we seek only to do justice and walk humbly with our God, it is because this man has touched our lives in meaningful ways. The ECC would be greatly impoverished had Frank not chosen to pastor our community and model the presence of Christ in ways for which we are eternally thankful. If there is one hope in our hearts as we write this letter, it would be for Frank Krebs to be ordained Presiding Bishop of the ECC. This man who we greatly admire has demonstrated unwavering capability as well as earning the trust and confidence of those to whom he ministers; we have been fortunate to witness and experience the very qualities which this position cries out for.

May your discernment proceed in wisdom, and may the grace of a loving God be present with each of you. Thank you for your time and the effort which you are undoubtedly exercising in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,
Bob and Mary Crecelius

From: pbnom-bounces@lists.ecc-voices.org on behalf of [att \(milwginny\)](#)
To: pbnom@lists.ecc-voices.org
Subject: [PBNC] Presiding Bishop Nominee - Frank Krebs
Date: Monday, November 11, 2013 6:58:17 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.txt](#)

To the Presiding Bishop Nominating Committee:

We are proud to offer our letter of recommendation on behalf of Frank Krebs' nomination as Presiding Bishop of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion. Frank has been our pastor since just after the 2010 Synod, and with his encouragement we have been active parishioners at Sts. Clare & Francis. We are pleased to write the letter not only on his behalf, but also for the sake of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, which would benefit greatly from his gifts. Frank has been a gift to us as persons, and to me as a theologian.

Just over one year ago, Frank asked us if we would start up a mission church from the parish, here in Belleville, IL. He has worked with us, and Rev. Kay Schmitt who serves as our presiding priest, over that time to resolve difficulties, keep communication open with Sts. Clare & Francis members and in a number of other ways. While the community remains small, the bonding between members is strong, and we are hopeful that growth will increase in coming months. Frank works actively with the community, traveling here to preside at Mass and facilitate a community meeting several times. His vision for us, and ability to draw ideas and plans for action from members, encourage all of us in this mission work.

From the beginning, John and I were deeply impressed by Frank's natural ability to break down complex issues into understandable ideas parties can grasp. His homilies nourish as well as inspire, and truly break open the Scriptures for incorporation into our personal and community lives. His prayer life is evident in his homilies, his manner of presiding at Mass, his truly collegial approach to issues and educational programs in the community. These are all skills that will draw communities into the ECC, as well as drawing new members to Sts. Clare & Francis and the ECC at large.

Frank's ability to navigate a complicated, even (personally) painful crisis at Sts. Clare & Francis also illustrates his gifts for the position of Presiding Bishop. He is deeply compassionate, and innately tends to loving care in a crisis. Yet, as we experienced personally, he is also strong enough to hear others, to guide discussion without limiting it. In facilitating even sensitive and difficult matters, he is gentle but firm, ensuring discussion remains "on track," and that all are not only given opportunity to speak – but are *heard* as well. He is able to see the big picture without losing personal focus, and to help others reach that place.

We understand the Presiding Bishop's role (indeed, that of all bishops in the ECC) to be one of Teacher. Frank has demonstrated his gifts as a teacher in his homilies and in conversation, and especially in his recent sharing on the history and theology of the Old Catholic Churches and the ECC. His sharing was clear, and he responded to listeners' comments or questions thoroughly. Everyone present was able to follow easily, especially with the power-point handouts and slides he provided – including two new members of our mission community and their daughter who were present.

In his personal life, Frank is blessed with the loving support of a partner who helps maintain the balance between priestly work and a healthy personal life. His interests are wide – enjoyment of nature to art in many forms, to entertaining to model trains and beyond, no less than a healthy curiosity about almost any topic. He is a deeply relational man, community oriented yet personally centered.

We believe that his personal, priestly and community gifts will most certainly aid the ECC in coming years to grow stronger, even as it grows in numbers. He will bring undoubted gifts in teaching and facilitating, and will nourish faith in our members even as he challenges all to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ and our striving to live more deeply the life of service he envisions for his followers.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions regarding this recommendation. It is given freely, in prayerful desire for the thriving of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion and its members.

Ginny and John Dahlberg
109 Cardinal Drive, Belleville, IL 62221
milwginny@att.net john.dahlberg@att.net
(618) 334-8395

Ginny Kiernan Dahlberg, Ph.D. "Speak the truth as if you had a thousand voices! It is silence that kills the World." --St. Catherine of Siena

Dear ECC Committee,

When Frank first asked me to write a letter to you, I had no hesitation. I knew there would be so many good things to say. After joining Sts. Clare and Francis and “belonging” to a church once again, the true gifts of Frank came forth for me.

I had been a Roman Catholic for a very long time and I loved belonging to church and community. I lived much of my life doing volunteer work at my parish and when my life was turned upside down when I fell in love with another woman, the Roman church left me. I felt alone and humiliated. It was difficult to enter another church, but I missed all of the good things about church. The day I entered Sts. Clare and Francis Frank came right up to me and welcomed me. He and other parishioners invited me to dinner so I could hear all about the ECC. It was a surreal experience because the sting of the Roman church was still so fresh. Frank made sure to welcome me each and every time I came to church. He invited me to share my talents and in doing so I learned to trust again and enjoy “church”. I tell you this story because I have seen it repeated many times over the last 5 years with other new visitors to Sts. Clare and Francis. Frank is a strong presence and his invitation and welcoming spirit are felt by all.

I have also had the experience to serve with Frank on our parish council. As a small community growing into a larger church we have suffered many “growing pains”. I have seen Frank navigate feelings and frustrations poured on him by others in the community. He has always listened and respected all opinions. Even when the discussion turned to his own actions he was ready and open to hear the thoughts and concerns. He was also open to the need for change. He acknowledges his own shortfalls and welcomes suggestions of how he might serve better. I have to say that Frank’s ability to do that makes him a wise leader, a respected man, and a true priest.

As a planner for the Synod held in St. Louis and a delegate to the Synod in Orange County I witnessed the natural leadership in Frank. People gravitate towards him and enjoy his company and his wisdom. He embraces many of the qualities that we all aspire to; his easy-going nature is a welcome change from all of the formalities and hierarchy of many other churches. I know if Frank were the next Bishop he would always prayerfully and mindfully lead all of us in the ECC.

Peace and all good things,

Therese Michalski Gabriel

From: pbnom-bounces@lists.ecc-voices.org on behalf of [Helen Gennari](#)
To: pbnom@lists.ecc-voices.org
Subject: [PBNC] Recommendation of Fr. Frank Krebs
Date: Sunday, November 10, 2013 3:10:39 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.txt](#)

To the Presiding Bishop Nomination Committee:

Dear Members of the PBNC,

I was baptized a Catholic in 1941 but it was not until 2006, when I joined the Clare and Francis Community, that I could fully appreciate the essence of this rich tradition.

As a member of this Community, led by Fr. Frank Krebs, I experience the teachings of Jesus lived out within a true faith community.

Frank's homilies nourish our spirits and challenge us to live lives of inclusion of all of Gods creation. He truly embodies the spirit of our beloved Francis and Clare. He inspires us by his example of compassionate service. His wisdom is shared in a spirit of humility.

In so many ways, he witnesses to the life Jesus calls us to. He is a true Shepherd. And -- he has a great sense of humor!

I believe that what Frank shares with us is something that could benefit the larger community. His capacity for leading with a balance of head and heart is a gift he has to offer as the next Presiding Bishop.

Respectfully,

Helen C. Gennari

Clare & Francis Community

"Evolution and all hope for a better world rest in the fearlessness and openhearted vision of people who embrace life." (Higher Awareness.com)

301 Galloway Oaks Drive
Ballwin, MO, 63021
November 3, 2013

Dear Nominations Committee members

This letter is to detail support of Frank Krebs as presiding bishop for the Ecumenical Catholic Communion. If this happens, I know our congregation will feel a loss with Frank taking on bishop responsibilities. However, the change will help all of us, if it contributes to the strength of the full Communion.

I came to know Frank after coming to Sts. Clare and Francis about 7 years ago. I was not part of the founding group of the parish; I found it in an online search for "alternative Catholic". Before even knowing much about the Ecumenical Catholic Communion I could tell that Frank was different from any priest or pastor I had previously known. I was raised Roman Catholic, my husband is a life-long Unitarian and I participated in both services for several years.

Frank communicates a view of faith that is grounded in social justice and in practical day-to-day living. Although he has considerable knowledge about theology, he does not pretend to have the answers. He genuinely invites people to join him in searching for God in the everyday world. Through that search, we become more aware of actions we can take to strengthen faith in our lives. In homilies, Frank has an effective way to help the congregation to see current issues from the perspective of the gospel. This is powerful, particularly for those who have been disillusioned with other religious services.

I served three years on the Parish Council until fall of 2012 and saw Frank in that context. While he was trained in the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church, he regularly endeavored to promote a strong lay role in parish decision-making. There were times when he reverted to the clergy-dominant role, but was open to correction when that occurred. I believe he acknowledges that he is on a learning curve in that area. I am not well informed about the bureaucratic aspects of parishes and regional structures, but it seems Frank is actively interested in building a structure that is strong, yet flexible.

Again, if Frank moves into the bishop responsibilities, we will miss his daily influence at Sts. Clare and Francis.

Please contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely

Sheila A. Leander, R.N., Ph.D.
leanders@slu.edu
sheilalean@gmail.com

From: pbnom-bounces@lists.ecc-voices.org on behalf of [Marc Montgomery](#)
To: pbnom@lists.ecc-voices.org
Cc: "Frank Krebs"
Subject: [PBNC] Presiding Bishop of the ECC
Date: Saturday, November 09, 2013 7:28:28 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.txt](#)

Dear ECC Presiding Bishop Nominations Committee,

It is my honor to submit this letter of support of Frank Krebs as the next Presiding Bishop of the ECC. I have had the pleasure of Frank's friendship for the past 48 years. For those of you who have met Frank, you know that he is bright, witty and sincere. Frank looks for the good in other people, and I have never heard him say a mean thing about another person. Frank is one of the most compassionate people I know. Frank is so empathetic that I believe that he truly feels the pain and suffering of those who have been ridiculed, treated unjustly and discriminated against in any way. His voice is strong when speaking out against such behavior.

As pastor of Sts. Clare & Francis, Frank has been instrumental in its growth and development. Through Frank's leadership, we are moving in the direction of sharing our time, talent, ministries and our story with those around us. Frank speaks passionately about the community of Sts. Clare & Francis. He believes in our church and he believes in the ECC.

My wife and I recently returned from a 2 week stay in Door County, Wisconsin. It's a beautiful little peninsula jutting out into Lake Michigan and Green Bay. The shoreline is rocky and treacherous for the big ships that navigate the Great Lakes. Lighthouses are abundant in Door County showing the way past its rocky shores. At night time, it's a beautiful sight to see light rotating in the distance from a number of lighthouses. While I was in Door County, I thought about Frank and what I would say in terms of a letter of recommendation. A simple thought came to me and I hope that it is not too poetic. I see Frank as a beacon of light showing the way to safe harbor. I believe in Frank, and I believe that he would be an exceptional Presiding Bishop of the ECC.

Sincerely, Marc Montgomery

Marc G. Montgomery
Vice-President
JC Morgan & Associates

Phone: **314-678-0565**

Phone: **800-221-3912**

Fax: **314-678-0566**

mmontgomery@jcmorganassociates.com

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From: pbnom-bounces@lists.ecc-voices.org on behalf of [lantus lantus](#)
To: pbnom@lists.ecc-voices.org
Cc: [Frank Krebs](#)
Subject: [PBNC] LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE NOMINATION OF FRANK KREBS FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC COMMUNION
Date: Saturday, November 09, 2013 7:28:27 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.txt](#)

What could I possibly say to adequately describe my support for the nomination of Frank Krebs for the office of Presiding Bishop? Shall I talk about my unbounded respect for him? Shall I try to describe his limitless passion for, and knowledge of, the Ecumenical Catholic Communion? Shall I attempt to tell of his amazing passion for social justice and equality? Should I tell you that he's one of the brightest people I've ever met? Or perhaps, should I talk about his crazy sense of humour? Should I describe his devotion to fairness and his ability to listen to the opinions of others and never dismiss what anyone has to say? Shall I speak of him as being a grounded man of faith?

Let me, instead, give you some information about my experience with Frank Krebs...

I had the honour of being the president of the Parish Council at Sts. Clare and Francis from 2008-2010. I had the privilege of working with, and observing Frank operate up close and personal. I quickly became aware of, and tried to emulate, his ability to be a team player and to be open to all opinions, no matter how different they were from the opinions he held. Never once did I observe him to be condescending or dismissive. Never once did I have the feeling that he was on a "power trip" because he is our pastor. He was always very quick to understand the issues before us and offered clear and precise insights to resolve any given problem. Although he never disguised his passion for the things he believed in, he never tried to push his views on anyone. Frank is not one for having a "hidden agenda." I never had to wonder what Frank was really thinking. He was always forthcoming.

Frank is an extremely charismatic person. People just plain old like him! He has a way of making you want to work with him. He's one of those people that looks you in the eye when he talks to you and really pays attention to you. This will serve him well in any situation.

Let me touch briefly on an issue that our community is currently working through. We have a very difficult issue that needs to be addressed. On several occasions, I have had the opportunity to talk with Frank about this situation. It seldom happens, but, on this particular issue, Frank and I have very different positions. Although he is very passionate about his opinion, he has always listened to my views with an open and non-judgmental mind. He makes sure that I know that my opinion matters. He has never tried to sway me to his way of seeing things. He listens to me. I listen to him. I suspect that we each used

insights from the other to expand our way of thinking. It just makes sense to look at things from all angles. The beauty and simplicity of dealing with hard issues in this manner is undeniable. Frank is an expert at it.

One last insight on Frank. He recently said, in a conversation with me and my husband:

“I don’t need to be Bishop. When I was younger, I might have wanted to be Bishop to show that I had “made it.” I don’t need to be Bishop to define myself. I already know who I am. If I can help out as Bishop, then I’m happy to do it.”

What more could anyone want from a candidate for Presiding Bishop? The Ecumenical Catholic Communion has been given this rare opportunity to have an incredibly gifted man of integrity and grace to serve as its leader. I pray that we accept the gift.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Montgomery

From: pbnom-bounces@lists.ecc-voices.org on behalf of [Jennifer Reyes Lay](#)
To: pbnom@lists.ecc-voices.org
Subject: [PBNC] Recommendation for Fr. Frank Krebs
Date: Monday, November 11, 2013 6:58:19 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.txt](#)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Fr. Frank Krebs for the office of Presiding Bishop of the ECC. My name is Jennifer Reyes Lay. I have been a member of Sts. Clare & Francis ECC in St. Louis, MO for a little over 3 years. I serve on the Parish Council as Secretary and am also a Lay Delegate for our community.

I remember the very first mass I attended at Sts. Clare & Francis. Fr. Krebs was presiding and preaching that day, and the homily he preached was one of the best homilies I had heard by anyone up to that point (and I am a cradle Catholic; so I've heard a lot of homilies in my life). I knew that this was my new spiritual home. Fr. Krebs has a deep faith that comes through his words and actions in our Church and surrounding community. His Theology relates so closely to mine, often speaking of the divine as our Source that we need to spend time connecting to in silent prayer and meditation. I think everyone in our community would agree that his homilies are always superb, full of insight while both challenging and inspiring.

Besides being an excellent preacher, Fr. Krebs is the kind of leader that we need in our communion. He is a servant leader. He is extremely conscious of the thoughts and needs of all members of our community, and is very conscious of his role within our community. He does not see his role as making all the decisions, telling us what to do, criticizing, etc. He is here to serve the community, to help guide us on our collective spiritual path and relationship with God, remind us of our roots when needed while also encouraging us to stretch beyond our comfort and grow. I have been very impressed with his interaction with our Parish Council. He very much respects the role of the Parish Council in making decisions, and offers helpful feedback and insight but never tries to take over the conversation or impose his opinion as the priest of the Church. He is an excellent facilitator, collaborator, and mediator when difficult situations arrive.

I think it is incredibly helpful in his profession as priest, that he also has professional training in diversity and communication. I think that it is going to be vital for our next presiding Bishop to have the skills and sensitivities to a racially and culturally diverse communion. With the growth we are experiencing, I think the skills and experience of Fr. Krebs will serve the communion well in building respectful relationships that are conscious of oppression dynamics and work actively against those dynamics within our growing communion. I have been very impressed with Fr. Krebs passion for racial justice and working to dismantle racism, and this is a particular area that I would like to see our communion take more direct action on. Fr. Krebs also has some Spanish communication skills. I am fluent in Spanish and would frequently meet up with Fr. Krebs for lunch or coffee to practice his Spanish with him. I also think this is incredibly important in light of our growing Hispanic communities.

Fr. Krebs has a very welcoming personality that draws people to him, and a sincerity which allows people to easily trust him. He is able to recognize the gifts of others and challenge us to share them with the larger community. He has encouraged me

personally in taking on more leadership, and I appreciate his confidence in me and other leaders of our community. He is an excellent communicator, and would be a wonderful representative of our communion to the larger public.

I hope that you consider Fr. Frank Krebs for the office of Presiding Bishop of the ECC. I have no doubts that he would lead our communion well, in the humble but prophetic spirit of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or if I can be of help in any other way, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In peace,
Jennifer Reyes Lay

From: pbnom-bounces@lists.ecc-voices.org on behalf of [Kay Schmitt](#)
To: pbnom@lists.ecc-voices.org
Subject: [PBNC] recommendation for Rev. Frank Krebs
Date: Sunday, November 10, 2013 5:50:12 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.txt](#)

To summarize Franks gifts applicable to the office of bishop, my remarks are limited to three of his strongest characteristics: scholar, leader, priest. I have known Frank as a friend, a member of a reading group, and as my pastor for many years. Experiencing Frank in these roles affords me ample opportunity to know him with balanced perspective.

As a scholar, Frank brings a reservoir of completed studies in various fields but especially theology, ecclesiology, church history, psychology, sociology. His vigorous commitment to reading in all fields keeps him updated in current scholarship and current events. He is careful to follow both sides of any issue. Quite simply, Frank lives with an inquiring mind, one that keeps him open to all ideas, yet judicious in forming his opinion.

As a leader, Frank evokes the careful thinking of others. He listens without tiring, hearing every single person. While a robust advocate for the just choice for the common good, he respects those who think differently. Frank is a consensus seeker, unless an issue deserves an unyielding stand, such as racial or gender issues, etc. When a stand must be taken, he is clear and firm. At these moments Frank is respected because he has been so fair in reaching his position. However, I must mention Frank's complete support for our Parish Council, which makes the decisions for our parish. Naturally, he is present for all discussions, offers his opinion.

As a priest, Frank is a spiritual guide by example. He is a man of prayer full of gratitude, joy, and adoration. His homilies open the scripture to this time, to practical life, to deeper awareness of our Source, our God. His presentations on prayer, social justice, the roots of the ECC, process of being Church, and others inspired all who attended. He is charismatic because he lives the life he prays and preaches. He makes time to meet with individuals, small groups, parish meetings. He gives himself to God's people, and aren't we all.

Frank's presence and voice on our Episcopal Council is important for our Communion. He is an ideal candidate for Presiding Bishop because of the qualities listed above. It is my privilege to recommend Rev. Frank Krebs for the office of Presiding Bishop.

Blessings,
Rev. Kay Schmitt
314-620-9511
kayschmitt105@gmail.com

From: pbnom-bounces@lists.ecc-voices.org on behalf of [Michelle Smith](#)
To: pbnom@lists.ecc-voices.org
Subject: [PBNC] Frank Krebs PB support letter
Date: Monday, November 11, 2013 6:58:20 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.txt](#)

To the Members of the Presiding Bishop Nominating Committee:

I am writing this letter to you in support of my pastor Frank Krebs. My wife and I have been members of Sts. Clare and Francis for 4 1/2 years and I have been a member of the Parish Council for nearly 3 years, currently serving as Parish Council President and as a lay delegate to the Synod for the last two Synods. I have also served on the Presiding Bishop Nominating Committee with Frank. Therefore, I believe I have the unique perspective of seeing Frank as preacher, pastor and leader of the local community as well as within the larger, national communion.

What first attracted me to Sts. Clare and Francis was Frank's ability, as a priest and preacher, to convey genuine vulnerability and humility that I had seen lacking in the Roman Catholic Church. As he preached a sermon Christmas 2008, I watched him weeping in front of the congregation and I was moved to tears by his authenticity and the fact that I could not remember the last time a Roman Catholic priest had moved me to tears. I believe the model that Jesus left us is one who feels emotions and loves enough to cry. Frank is that person - compassionate and loving.

What I have come to respect about Frank is his desire to listen to views different from his own. I believe he genuinely wants to reconcile differences with people even if they are not ready because he is a peace maker at heart. I have found him willing to admit when he is wrong if challenged, which is another trait that I found lacking in other leaders in the Church and in Corporate America where I spend my working hours. His leadership style is one of facilitation rather than authoritarian or dictatorial.

I believe Frank has the characteristics to be a fine Presiding Bishop. He is well-educated and theologically grounded in his beliefs, yet he continues to seek knowledge about the faith. He recently went to

Utrecht and shared what he learned with the members of Sts. Clare and Francis. Frank has a vision for the local community, as well as the global ECC. He has a vision for growth of the ECC domestically that is Pauline, yet contemporary.

Perhaps his greatest attribute that I have observed in these past few years as pastor and leader is his spirituality and willingness to teach people in his homilies and by his actions how we might grow closer to God in meditation and other spiritual practices. This, in addition, to his conviction to fight racism and institutional injustice based on race, make him a special individual. His connection to the Divine and to see the imago dei in everyone I think will influence the next period of growth for the ECC.

It is not my intention to paint Frank Krebs as a living saint or anything, for he is far from perfect and makes mistakes as anyone will. What I do believe warrants merit is that I do not believe Frank Krebs acts out of malice. I do not believe he ever intends to harm anyone as he wrestles with difficult issues or matters of concern to the congregation or the ECC at large. I believe he tries to find the best result in light of what he knows and understands, at all times trying to be open for grace to reveal itself to him and to others.

The ECC would be blessed and fortunate should the Spirit lift up Frank Krebs as the next Presiding Bishop

Respectfully,

Michelle Smith, Esq.
(314) 494-1457 (phone)
(866) 375-5063  (fax)

November 10, 2013

Dear Presiding Bishop Nominations Committee:

We write to you today in support of Rev. Frank Krebs, our friend and Pastor of the Saints Clare & Francis Ecumenical Catholic Communion church in Webster Groves, Missouri. We have known Frank since November 2008, when we joined this community.

At the time we discovered Sts. Clare and Francis, we were deeply disillusioned with the Roman Catholic church, and searching for something more meaningful and true to the teachings of Christ. Our marriage was strained because of our differing viewpoints and approaches to religion. Finding Sts. Clare and Francis was a revelation. Here was the familiarity of the Catholic church, with a focus on inclusivity, and the main values of Catholicism. Gone was the tiring political doctrine and the manufactured “rules” of the modern Roman Catholic Church. And not only that, but Sts. Clare and Francis had a fantastic, dynamic and inspirational leader named Frank Krebs. We were both drawn to this community, although we were coming from different places spiritually. Tom experienced discovery, and Molly found affirmation. It was healing. It helped our marriage get back to a place of shared vision and partnership, when it had become a battleground.

We fell in love with the community at Sts. Clare and Francis, which Frank led. No one in this community questioned why we, although critical of the Roman Catholic church, continued to send our three children to Catholic school at the parish up the street. No one chastised us for missing 5:00 p.m. mass at Sts. Clare and Francis, they just welcomed us with open arms when we were able to attend. No one told us how to vote. But they did offer a different look at the gospels, one that was refreshing, and relatable. We both felt like Frank’s honesty in living as an openly gay man, and his partnership with Art, gave him more credibility than we had known with many other Roman Catholic priests. We also enjoyed seeing women at the pulpit, who were able to approach the gospels from a female and maternal perspective. And we were pleased that our son, Luke, who is now 12, could be a lector. (He’s been reading about once a month at mass for over two years now.)

Through the years, we have gotten to know Frank through church, community events, meditation sessions, social visits to his or our home and on long bike rides. He is very intelligent and knowledgeable about our Catholic faith. But more importantly, he is passionate about the Sts. Clare and Francis community and each of the individuals who comprise it. He has a deep understanding of the teachings of Christ, and he is able to communicate the gospel in ways which we have never heard before. He focuses on the aspects of religion that matter to families, traditional or otherwise. Even with the least palatable reading from the bible, Frank can put it into context, explain it, and transform it into something of value, like a magician! We sincerely appreciate his ability to demystify the bible.

Frank is also a generous human being! Asked at the very last minute to officiate an out of town wedding for Molly's sister, Joanna, and her husband Jeff, he made it happen. He impressed every single guest in attendance with his homily, and the presence that he always has about him. Afterward, many spoke of the heartfelt homily, as well as how impressed they were with Frank's ability to connect with those he met. Tom overheard one of the guests remark that she wished she could find a priest like Frank in her community. This is a testament to the kind of character, charisma and love that Frank has when engaging others.

In closing, we want the Committee to know that Frank has had a profound impact on each member of our family. We are grateful that he has come into our lives and has been an inspiration for us. We whole heartedly endorse Frank to be the next Presiding Bishop of the ECC. We cannot imagine a better representative for the ECC, or a more devoted follower/interpreter, than Frank. We would love to see the ECC community grow in the United States, and know that Frank is the ideal ambassador for such a mission.

Sincerely,

/s/

Tom and Molly Veltz
314-963-0905

David J. Winkler
1419 Culverhill Drive
Webster Groves, Missouri 63119
314-968-2392

Presiding Bishop Nominations Committee

Re: Frank Krebs, Pastor of Sts. Clare and Francis, ECC

November 7, 2013

Dear Committee:

This letter of recommendation is in strong and unequivocal support for Frank Krebs to be considered for the position of next Presiding Bishop of the ECC. I have known Frank for over 53 years; through high school, college (seminary), and as pastor of my parish since 2006. Frank presided over my wedding 41 years ago, my daughter's wedding 5 years ago, and baptized 3 of my grandchildren. Obviously we go back a long time, and I have great respect and admiration for him.

Frank should be considered a strong candidate for Presiding Bishop because of his integrity, passion, scholarship, empathy and concern for the individuals of his parish as well as the parish as a whole. His homilies are thoughtfully researched, prepared, and delivered with clarity and insight. Frank has the ability of using his voice to comfort, engage and provoke his audience not only to think, but to act. More importantly, Frank listens. He listens to those who agree and to those who have different opinions. He seeks consensus but will make the right choice even when difficult and not universally popular. Leadership has sought out Frank all through his educational years and his peers have consistently selected him to lead them. This ability to lead from within the organization causes individuals to want to excel as Frank does for the good of the whole organization.

Frank knows Christian/Catholic tradition as well as the traditions of the ancient church. His scholarship in theology, philosophy and scriptural studies is evident in liturgies, small and large group settings and in private personal conferences. He also has a strong background and passion for equality in race, gender, and socio-economic issues. This obvious focus draws individuals to our parish because Frank, by his example and leadership guides the rest of us to share this passion and turn it into action.

So why should Frank be the new Presiding Bishop of the ECC? He is knowledgeable in church traditions and history, he is passionate about exploring spirituality in himself and others, he wants the church to be a body that takes action in the real world, and he leads by example. People want to follow Frank because they believe that his faith is genuine and he can lead them to a greater understanding and closeness to God.

I submit this recommendation with no reservations whatsoever. Please feel free to contact me at the above information or winklerdj@sbcglobal.net

Sincerely,

David J. Winkler