

# Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting, March 5, 2020

## NOTES

Host: Light of Christ    Facilitator: Jack Wolfe    Scribe: Teri Harroun  
Attendees: Jack Wolfe, Dennis Giblin, Kae Madden, Mike Weil, Greg Yonker, Michael Nicosia,  
Teri Harroun  
Absent: Don Sutton, Jane Reine  
Guests: Frank Pavlak, Chuck Howard, Jim de Muth

### Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer

holy One, sweet Guide/ reveal Your will; our new “yes”/ together. Amen.

### Regular Business

1. Welcome any guests
2. Agenda approval/additions
  1. Additional Agenda Items: a) Food for meetings, b) Vicar expenses for Synod.
  2. **DECISION:** Host community will not longer bring food. If you need this time for dinner feel free to brown bag something and eat during the meeting.
  3. Discussion on Vicar Expenses for Synod moved to Budget discussion already on the agenda.
3. Personal Connections: If you woke up tomorrow as an animal, what animal would you want to be and why? (lions, and tigers, and bears, oh my!)
4. Approval of February 2020 notes
  1. February Notes need a change, “MoM is having a Baptism April 19<sup>th</sup>”. With that change, February 2020 Notes approved.  
**ACTION ITEM:** Michael please combine February 2020 notes with Vicar report and get to Bill Hanzel for posting on Colorado ECC website.
5. Financial Report
  1. See what Treasurer Greg sent via e-mail earlier this day. We need to pay Colorado Council of Churches (CCC) the \$1/member tithe.
6. Vicar’s Report
  1. FAITH Colorado, see vicar report; good resources for census, including film PSA
  2. Michael at capital for hunger issues today
7. Regional Newsletter Deadline – May 15, 2020

### New Business:

1. Results of the vote. A: 3 Documents? B: Call a new bishop?  
NOTE: St. Paul did not vote. They will vote this Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>.  
DOCUMENTS: COB: Y, MOM: Y, HF: Y, LOC: Y (4 communities “yes”)  
CALL LOCAL BISHOP: COB: Y, MOM: Y, HF: Y, LOC: Y (4 communities “yes”)  
**DECISION:** We will wait until St. Paul has voted before announcing that the documents are approved and we are moving forward to call a local bishop.
2. What to do about comments on documents?

LOC: got into the weeds on discussing how voting will happen; ministry description was too long and an unreasonable amount of work; discussion on limits to authority; comments for change to language related to “consecrated”; discussion to change to word “bishop” to “mentor” or “shepherd” or other language that does not have a history in Catholicism of being damaging to people, especially women

**ACTION ITEM:** Someone from LOC will meet with person with the reaction to the word “bishop” and hopefully help them understand that the answer will be in how we practice. We have clearly redefined the role and authority, but we must all consider our practice.

**DECISION:** We all must remember language when we plan liturgies, announcements, etc, related to calling and consecrated our bishops.

COB: questions were answered

HF: Mike sent questions to us all; outside region applications?; require re-location is the assumption; must live in Colorado to serve Colorado as bishop

**ACTION ITEM:** For call team, clarify in the nomination letter that candidates can be outside of Colorado, but to serve as bishop must live in Colorado, and we have no money to help with moving.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mike will share this with HF.

MOM: also out of state questions; typo’s, etc, formatting, concern with hours as a justice issue.

**ACTION ITEM:** Rosean will update MOM as written under HF comments.

**ACTION ITEM:** Chuck H will fix typo’s, formatting in document.

**ACTION ITEM:** Teri will Compile all Comments and Concerns so RMRC can review next month. (See Appendix A)

### 3. What’s next?

- 1 Direction to Local Bishop Call Team? (Enough members? Time line?)  
Call for Nominations should be ready to go out on March 9<sup>th</sup>, and folks have until April 9<sup>th</sup> to nominate. Copy of letter is going to the OPB, and people can self-nominate. We are not seeking prior approval to be nominated, let’s let the Holy Spirit do her thing. Discernment will take place April 9<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup> for nominees themselves, and then those accepting their nomination will be vetted by the OPB.

**ACTION ITEM:** Greg will get us nomination letters next week and we should distribute immediately.

- 2 Direction to Polity Team?  
Polity Team will do some tuning up of the document. But overall we are discouraging editing at this time.

- 3 What to put on website? What to tell our communities?

**ACTION ITEM:** We will wait to tell our communities once StP has voted. Greg will write to us and let us know how the vote goes by March 9<sup>th</sup>. Then we will quickly craft a unified message for our communities, websites, social media.

- 4 File with state of CO? a. Names? Addresses?

Discussion included filing fee, statement to national ECC, and noted that becoming a 501c3 will take a couple of months.

**ACTION ITEM:** Let's consider and weigh the benefits of this next month (April 2020).

**ACTION ITEM:** some version of "inc", "incorporated", etc must be in name. Jack will get legal specifics to Chuck H.

- 5 Is there something we should be doing with the National Office of the ECC, the Leadership Council, anything else related to Synod and our local process? Is there a check in point that we need to meet?

**ACTION ITEM:** Greg will send the following to Michael, who will send to the Leadership Council, OPB:

- a. 3 documents (edit opening paragraph out of constitution)
- b. Nomination letter

- 6 Anything else? How can/should we thank those who have served on these two special teams?

- a. It's not over yet.
- b. **ACTION ITEM:** write about this in the next newsletter
- c. **ACTION ITEM:** Kae will write a letter of gratitude that we all sign at our April 2020 meeting. We will give them each a copy of the letter with one of our ECC pins. Greg will bring pins to April 2020 meeting.
- d. **ACTION ITEM:** Next month we create the Election Team.

4. Budget needs to be approved for April 1 2020 to March 31 2021

- 1 How much is each community tithing?
- 2 \$300 to CCC (\$60/community) for Board Member "Fundraising"
- 3 \$1/person to CCC in February 2021
- 4 Other Budget items to consider: travel for new bishop; consecration of new bishop; expenses for call process/vote; other?

All of that was on the agenda. Discussion included looking at the numbers, considering the costs of a consecration, travel of other bishops for the consecration, and do we need \$500 for advertising. Request to discuss vicar expenses for Synod was rescinded since we will need to get the bishop elect to Synod.

**DECISION:** we will not overlap housing costs for Vicar and Bishop.

**ACTION ITEM:** Based on discussion, Greg will relook at budget and send us a working budget to consider and discuss further in April.

5. Chrism Mass? (Where? When? Who? What? How much?)

- 1 To take place at COB on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7pm. Kae has balsam.

**ACTION ITEM:** Each community bring vessels to the Chrism Mass to take oils home. You need three different vessels, ½ cup to a cup in size.

**ACTION ITEM:** Kae will send us something so musicians can coordinate.

**ACTION ITEM:** Michael will invite Scott and Sheila.

**ACTION ITEM:** RMRC will pay for ½ of Bishop Francis actual expenses.

MOM should let Greg know actual costs.

**ACTION ITEM:** Michael will plan liturgy.

**QUESTION:** Where is Bishop Francis staying?

6. What resources are people using for Mass related to Covid-19?
  1. HF is telling folks if sick, please limit your participation. Discourage intinction.
  2. MOM is following guidelines of Larimer County Health (bow to wine, elbow bumps)

#### **Old Business:**

1. Jane's Ordination is March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30pm at Mary of Magdala. Bishop is coming. Does anyone need anything from him while he is here?

#### **Community Reports**

#### **Closing Prayer—**

April 2: SP; May 7: MOM; June 4: COB; July 2 (?): HF; Aug 6: LOC

**Remember, when you host to send out the agenda, have a facilitator and scribe, bring opening and closing prayer, bring Consensus Document, and bring some snack to share. Send notes in a timely fashion.**

## APPENDIX A: Comments and Concerns

February 28, 2020

Dear Friends,

Mary of Magdala held its educational meeting on the Constitution, the Call Process and the Bishop ministry description on Thursday, February 27, 2020. We are sending the comments we received from those gathered. We will be asking our community to affirm these documents on Sunday, March 1, 2020. Thank you for the incredible work done on these documents. We heard this repeatedly from our members.

In Christ's name,

Deacon Rosean and Deacon Jane, Mary of Magdala E.C.C.

1. There was a suggestion that Sections IV and V be reversed. For those unaware or not so familiar with the RMRC it would be good to read the section on the council first before the section on the Regional Bishop.
2. In the Process to call a Regional Bishop, the first paragraph under "Phase 2 Nomination" raised some confusion. Would there be candidates only from the Rocky Mountain Region or is there a broad based call that includes the entire Ecumenical Catholic Communion? (which is different than the OPB seeking nominees that are from outside the region that deserve consideration) Will all three of these things happen?
3. There was a big concern about the Bishop's salary/hours. This was named as a justice issue, since the functions are very numerous and the compensation seems very low, yet how much can the Region afford to expend? Some members questioned the legality of paying the Bishop less than minimum wage.
4. In the Bishop Ministry Description document under Qualifications c. and d. , there was an issue with the words "typically" and "ordinarily." It was suggested that these words were not needed since a candidate for regional Bishop should have a solid period of experience as an ECC priest and 5 years, which our membership present considered to be reasonable.
5. There was a request that HOL and HOP be spelled out and better defined for members who are new/unfamiliar with these terms. Also a request that bullet points be numbered rather than bulleted for better ease in referring to an item. (ie Section 4, item 3, rather than Section 4, the 3rd bullet point down)
6. In the Constitution, page 12, Section 1, "guarding against heresy" drew some comments and some members wanted to know what does the Bishop do in this regard? Rather, the members found it acceptable to use more positive language some of which was noted within the document.

It was also suggested that the Mission Statement and Being Church together should have separate titles, since otherwise one does not know where the mission statement ends and could perceive it to run on past the first paragraph.

7. Section 8 A (page 10) under Regional Council, First line was suggested to read "When voting is chosen, a two-thirds majority of the attending quorum is required."

8. On page 4 Section 5, It was suggested that the Ethical Code of Conduct be a separate regional document.

9. Thinking back to the election process of our Presiding Bishop, candidates submitted resumes and a statement of why they felt called to the ministry. Members present felt that this was important and had an impact on the decision making process of each member.

10. On page 13, Organization and Corporate Records, Section 1, second paragraph, "No substantial part of the activities..." Comment is that this section is vague and one member suggested starting with "The Region will not participate..."

11. Members present were unaware of the Region's conflict of interest policy. Where might that be found? ( our MoM constitution has a conflict of interest policy)

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From Mike Weil:

At Holy Family there were three questions that came out of the discussion:

The first two questions kind of go together. Are we only opening the call for Bishop for people in the Rocky Mountain Region or are we opening it up to the whole ECC. If we are opening it up to the whole ECC and someone outside of our region is called will they be required to move to the Rocky Mountain Region? The general consensus was that we would want the candidates to be from this region. If they came from outside the region, we would want them to have to relocate.

The third questions was how do we plan to advertise the call for the Bishop position?

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LOC had a few comments and questions and one letter with concerns:

Getting in the weeds on voting - is it 2/3 of those in community or those voting - if of those voting, does that mean we don't care about the positions of those not present?

The ministry position description is too long. How is bishop evaluated at the end of the year?

Limits of authority, and what authority does the bishop have?

Why are is the bishop called "the consecrated"?

And the letter LOC received before voting, as follows:

Dear all: THANK YOU SO MUCH for all of the thought, expertise and dedication you have given to this community.

I am never certain until last minute that I am going to be able to come to church. (having varied side effects of medication and yes maybe the following if one of them).

Just couldn't let this go without a word!

BISHOP of the Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion  
**I would like to propose one change to the excellent, well thought out and written document.**

I have worked on behalf of the church in some capacity since my late 20s that would be right around 60 years.

During that time I have worked with at least a dozen Bishops and Archbishops. Some great and some not so great.

However the hierarchical institutional church, itself, through it's policies is responsible for a tremendous amount of abuse of its' female members. It has affected each and every female in numerous adverse ways and is so steeped in our catholic culture as to seem "normal" to some, acceptable or ignored by others.

It is astonishing to me that we, the ECC, are unable to step just an inch more out of the box and simply quit hanging on to the detrimental hierarchical languaging. Languaging is so important on so many levels. yet we keep perpetuating words that have negative and stifling effects. **BISHOP is one of these words.**

As I read through the document (every word) and pondered the knowledge that this is a limited, elected position, open to women, I wondered Is there a better word to be used as a title than the word BISHOP. A word that does not have a subliminal ladder to becoming "the one" on the highest rung. I studied the word **mentor** (which is used in the document as one of the descriptive terms for duties of the Bishop). Mentor is a leveling word, a word with no ladder to the hierarchy (The ECC has transformed the "ladder" into a "3-legged stool". While the analogy is clever, it does not address the systemic problem of languaging.

**In the opening statement, the simple change would be, REGIONAL BISHOP, hereinafter known, as REGINAL MENTOR.**

An added benefit would be that we could do away with the costume of the Bishop and wear what everyone else wears to special occasions.

"Jesus of Nazareth is so entirely one of them they can hardly find anything special about him at all. He fits right in with the mess busyness of everyday life." *From today's Lenten Retreat*

## Appendix B—Vicar Report for RMRC 03 05 2020

### FORMATION/RECEPTION

Referred ordination candidate to Psych Evaluator Rev. Dr. David DeBord.

Followed up with Candidate Evaluation Team findings.

Participated in Old Catholic Zoom Seminar.

Coordinating liturgical details and Presiding Bishop visit for Dcn. Jane's Presbyteral ordination 03/22 and Chrism Mass at COB 03/23.

Received an inquiry from a young man interested in ordination and starting up a new ECC specialized ministry. Explained call comes from the community and suggested he check out our area churches. He made initial contact with COB.

### REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Published and circulated regional newsletter and Bishop Call documents and process appendices.

Also forwarded them and community info changes to webmaster.

Attended CHF's Ash Wednesday Service.

Presided at MoM 02/16 and joint liturgy 02/23; Dignity/Denver 02/09 and 03/01; CHF 03/01.

Attended CHF's education meeting re Bishop Call documents and process as a resource with Chuck Howard.

Will be doing the same for StP.

Referred a local independent bishop's interest in the ECC (expressed in a Facebook comment about our newsletter) to Bishop Francis.

Populated regional **Facebook** page @coloradoecc and augmented **Instagram** and **Twitter** presence.

### COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (CCC) Board meeting 02/19

#### Easter Sunrise Service

- Appeal to be made to Judicators seeking co-sponsorship to establish a \$500K endowment. Presbyterian national foundation is willing to help with fundraising, grants and management of endowment.
- Philip Yancey, author with broad following (incl. Evangelicals), will be preaching. I've been asked to center assembly with flute mediation again this year.

#### Census 2020 in collaboration with Together Colorado

- **Faith Count Colorado**  
Attended Faithful Census kickoff 03/03 and disseminated literature to RMRC at March mtg. Visit [www.faithcountco.org](http://www.faithcountco.org) for information and resources for becoming a Faith Hub for CENSUS2020 and educate your members and the wider community during **Faithful Census Weekend March 27-29**.
- CCC Judicators asked to film **Public Service Announcements**; the text of my segment, filmed at St. Paul, follows:  
*Moses instructed the people, "One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you." And again, "the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor any of your livestock, nor the alien who is within your gates." (Exodus 12:49; 20:10)*



*As people of faith, we recognize that the blessings of the land and the responsibilities for its welfare are shared by all who dwell therein.*

*Our Nation's Census counts every person, so that every person can share in its rights and contribute to the common good. It enables fair representation in Congress and helps it allocate funding for the services that benefit us all. Maybe most importantly for me, an accurate census ensures that we have the federal resources our State needs to adequately serve the least of those in our midst.*

*It only takes 10 minutes to fill out 10 questions, online, by phone or by mail so no stranger need knock on your door. And by law, your information can't be shared with other government agencies, so it's safe, simple and secure.*

*To God everyone counts. Fill out the Census, so that everyone counts in Colorado, too!*

## Advocacy

- No traction as yet for hosting Documentary film, **FREE MEN**.
- Death Penalty Repeal won!
- Attended **One Colorado LGBTQ Lobby Day** 02/24, supporting HB20-1061 allowing pharmacies to dispense HIV infection prevention meds without prescriptions (critically reduces sensitive time restraints and increases access especially for rural communities); and HB20-1307 banning gay and trans panic defense.
- Regularly attended **Faithful Thursdays** at State Capitol. **CCC convening 04/02** on environment issues re moral economy, inequity and eradication of racism.
- **The Climate Ribbon** – picked up info at a Faithful Thursday; suggesting it as a prophetic visual at the CCC's 04/02 FThurs event; may involve regional ECC commitment to submit ribbons.

They have a great website! **Please share with your communities.**

The Climate Ribbon is a global storytelling project that uses art and public ritual to move us from climate grief to climate action. The power of the project is rooted in a very simple yet profound question:

**What do you love and hope to never lose to Climate Chaos?**

1. Write your response on a ribbon. Add your name, age and hometown.
2. Tie it to the Tree (or other structure).
3. Choose a ribbon that moves you deeply. Tie it to your wrist. Become the guardian of this person's story.

theclimateribbon.org #climateribbon @climateribbon

**THE CLIMATE RIBBON**

**BISHOPS/VICARS CALL** No notes were taking for January's meeting. February's call cancelled due to bishop travelling.