

Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting

March 1, 2018

Present: Kae Madden, Teri Harroun, Jim DeMuth, John Head, Jack Wolfe, Jim Burnik, Len Schreiner, Kerrie Anderson

Opening Prayer—Kerrie

1. Agenda approval/additions:

A. April Meeting? Rescheduled for April 12th (due to many taking the previous week off).

2. Approval of Feb minutes: Kae made a motion to approve, Teri seconded. Motion carried.

3. Financial Report:

a. Don't see a line item for income posted to pay CCC membership... **Action Item:** Kae to follow up.

b. Vicar Reimbursement: Need to wait and see about Synod Expense, will pay. We only have \$870.00 to play with. Jim D. recommended a 3% increase if we can. Another unknown for this next year's budget is the Pax Christi/St. Paul's contribution.

Kae made a motion that we do a 3% increase for Vicar, Synod expenses as needed and able, and add these to the proposed budget. Will make adjustments during the year as more info becomes available. Jack seconded the motion. Motion carried.

c. CCC Dues/pledges to Lara: Action Item as above, (Kae to follow up)

4. Vicar's report: Attached.

5. Community Reports:

LOC: Lent activities, Ash Wednesday project with Bethlehem Lutheran—created 500 valentine cards for neighbors, some people delivered to homes. Not house calls, just put them on the doors. Soup suppers/vespers on Wednesday night. Friday morning prayer, Monday night gathering. After Easter LOC will drop Sunday mass. Teri facilitating an online retreat (about 60 people).

LOC has a St. Patrick feast/auction/music event after mass on the 17th.

CHF: Have one applicant to date, two parishioners visited with a couple of churches to talk about the possibility of sharing space. (both are Lutheran churches). Some concern about storage space/admin space/office space.

If anyone knows someone who may be a credible candidate for pastor, please forward to Len or the call committee.

Soup Suppers on Wednesday with discussion on a variety of topics. Saturday morning Book Group vital and lively—a lot of life-long learners.

COB: Kae led the charge for Ashes in the Park and Ashes at the bus stop. Upcoming events: Discussion groups to start up, home masses being set up, Faces of Jesus presentation by F. Len. Lenten Project for Imagine...minister to children so need items for them, are collecting them throughout Lent.

March 11th, will have an hour of centering prayer, at 6AM.

MoM: Lenten Soup Suppers with a presentation, The two Kenya's, a Social Justice project is the Malia Childrens Home, second week will be Paper Bag Crew from CSU, third week will be Homeless Gear program. Also collecting items through Lent for FFH, Food Bank, and Homeless Gear. Starting Thursday afternoon mass, 2nd and 4th. Leadership Council will have a Visioning Retreat for future goal planning. Also coming up with guidelines for Safe Children program (with Trinity, and St. Paul's) Starting Supper Clubs.

PC: Pax Christi's website is now down and Michael will be working on pointing our domain name to our Facebook page. Fr. Don S to officiate at the funeral of a member's father in Michael's absence.

6. New Business:

a. Synod Constitution Teleconference Revision: Jim B. will check with why it was limited when he had asked for 7-9. Then went to another phone conference format—which worked better.

b. **Action Item:** Going forward is that each community will respond to NECC Constitution Committee. Another conference set up for the next set of articles, probably April 9th, 7:30pm. Idea: Can pastors receive email about information and then be responsible to forward to the delegates from their community? **Action Item:**

Having a single spokesperson from each community was a good way to go. Just addressed each article and section at a time with each community responding. The guidelines were helpful and a facilitator for the next meeting will be decided before conference ends. Discussion on which format would be better, Zoom or phone conference. **Action Item:** Each pastor to send Kae a list of contact info for all delegates by March 10th.

Jack raised the question about what is the process if someone wants to propose changes/ideas for Synod so that it happens before Synod and not at the last minute at Synod. There should be notice 90 days before synod for ideas for real change on proposals, instead of just re-arranging things in constitution. **Action Item;** Jack will send an email enquiring.

7. Old Business:

a. Bishop Brochure Update. Target date: originally during Easter Season, will probably not make that. It seems like a

lot going on right now, with Synod pre-meetings, Lent/Easter—a lot of head stuff going on, not enough heart stuff. Timing wise, this isn't the best, but also needs to be on a front burner and not delayed too long. Instead of a big community meeting, perhaps do it like supper clubs or dessert and discussion. People may feel more free to question, talk. Most people are not going to be engaged at the level of the current brochure information. The *small gatherings* could be interpreted as a divide and conquer technique. Is there another approach that would be more discernment oriented? What about giving note cards to members and having them fill out their questions/concerns prior to meeting with them so answers could be formulated? Take a reading from the community at the end of the meeting/gathering. What percentage of each community needs to be in favor in order to move forward?

Action Item: Make this the main focus on the next agenda.

b. Aux Bishop compensation: Take to the Synod—which it will need to go to eventually.

c. Gift idea for Aux Bishop: One idea presented: a cross/necklace like the one MoM had created for a retiring priest, based on an ECC cross.

Any gift will probably need to be paid for by contributions from each church community.

d. April meeting? not on the first Thursday due to need of a break by pastors after Easter. **Action Item:** Next meeting will be April 12th at 6:30pm.

e. Denver Pridefest: St. Paul has had a booth at Denver PrideFest shared with other Lutheran churches and invites the ECC churches to join them. They're willing to cover costs of booth but usually need staffing. Michael's practice of camping out there all weekend will help, and he has been asked to coordinate the booth registration and staffing. That would free up North Glenn to coordinate parade logistics with funding help from the region.

Rotation schedule:

Meeting Host rotation: PC—April, CoB—May, CHF—June, LOC—July, MoM—August.

APPENDIX A ~ Vicar Notes to RMRC for 03 01 2018

Ordination/incardination/reception updates:

- Jim B file filling up.
- Fr. Don S files complete and forwarded to OPB.
Next step: evaluation team—waiting to hear if members chosen by OPB or Vicar.
- St. Paul L&C Community to submit approved Constitution; informed +Francis and +Denise re community preference for incardination and community reception either Pentecost May 20 or Corpus Christi June 3; ELCA bishop planning on attending so hope is that one of our bishops will be able to join us.

RMRC business

- “A regional bishop?” Made revisions to brochure per input regional clergy gathering 2/10; waiting on Dcn. Mike’s suggested polity section.
- Unable to participate in Zoom conference delegate discussion on Constitution Art. I-IV; submitted written comments to Mther Kae.
- Attended FBI’s 2/6 seminar for faith leaders on active shooter responses; mostly geared toward large churches with security teams. Some take-aways:
 - familiarize staff/families with warning signs of depression / isolation / feelings of ostracization / changes in behavior / abnormal behaviors like cruelty to animals / access to weapons / et al.
 - extending hospitality to the visitor—eye-to-eye contact and personal interaction often diffuses a wouldbe assailant’s plan/resolve.
 - identify any congregants who conceal carry and clarify policies/expectations.
 - resource video: *RUN. HIDE. FIGHT.(r) Surviving an Active Shooter Event*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0>

Diakonate 101

- Seminar winding down; anticipate future course offerings led by some of the current deacon participants. Mandatory for deacon candidates, discussions greatly benefit from ordained deacon and pastor participation.
- Proposal to offer synod breakout session on course topic missed deadline; considering possible table discussion.

CCC

Checking membership support of education funding bills in state legislature on-going. Approval voiced by leadership of PC, MoM, CHF and COB; **waiting for LOC leadership to gather/discern.**

Bishops/Vicars Call

- Promoting NCC initiative combatting racism; ongoing, kick started with April 4th March to End Racism in Washington DC on 50th anniversary of MLK assassination—bus trips encouraged (one leaving from St. Louis), but, acknowledging harder for those in western regions, also encouraging participation in local solidarity marches (vicar will network with CCC and Interfaith Alliance of CO an inform RMRC of possibilities).
- **Get those Community Survey Forms in if you haven't.**
- Thanksgiving Appeal report back—\$5,120 collected of the 2017 budgetted commitment \$13,000; **communities are asked to review their ability to chip in more to cover deficit**; LC will request HOL reevaluate estimated donations, especially as the ask is even higher for 2018.

Advocacy/Interfaith Dialogues

- Attended Progressive Congregation Network's seminar 1/23 on building community wealth;
a doable action step: encourage investment in / patronage of local businesses.
- Attended Interfaith Alliance's *Healing Our Divides* at Denver Seminary 1/25—Interfaith panel discussion on Gender and Sexuality. interesting reveal: some Muslim communities in the USA are becoming more progressive on the issues, raising up women in leadership and slowly becoming more LGBTIQ-accepting; many Evangelicals are becoming more socially progressive, especially the younger generations.
- Joined 2/13 protest rally at State Capital against cutting funding for the Colorado Civil Rights Division
- Relayed info from Colorado Faith Communities United against gun violence and Colorado Ceasefire to RMR Rapid response network, and made extensive social media posts related to sensible gun legislation.