

Minutes of December 2, 2021 RMRC Meeting, 6:00 pm

Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

Facilitator: Don Sutton

Scribe: Jim Harrer

Those present on Zoom:

Greg Yonker, Don Sutton, Jim Harrer – St. Paul ECC

Alice Bradley and Dennis Giblin – Church of the Beloved

Jack Wolfe - Light of Christ

Rosean Amaral and Tom Moos - Mary of Magdala

Anne Grant and Mike Weil – Holy Family

Kae Madden, Regional Bishop

Michael Nicosia – Vicar of Ecumenical Engagement

Start: Fr. Don opened the meeting at 6:08 pm with the Regional Prayer

Agenda approved

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Welcome back guest Jim Harrer from St Paul

2. Agenda approvals/additions. The agenda is approved. An addition by Alice Bradley is also approved. Alice asks for review of a Job Description that she drafted for a Regional Bishop Call.

3. Review and approval of November draft notes: approved with all thumbs up by participants.

4. Financial Report: displayed and reviewed by Dennis. The discussion covered transactions to date. Don moved to accept the report, all seconded.

5. Bishop Notes: +Kae discussed the Bishop Notes and answers questions and makes comments. She offers to discuss any information when requested, but not in depth for this meeting.

Some discussions followed about what provisions are made for continuing education.

Region and ECC can offer Continuing Education. The ECC is in process to decide what Continuing Ed should be supported.

Don- Faculties are given to those applying for faculties in the Roman system with good behavior as the only criteria. Kae: the OPB Continuing Ed committee will discuss.

Under regional calendar, should retreats or events be placed on calendar to invite other ECC communities?

Kae asks for the opinion of the group: Should she wear the Regional Pectoral Cross during meetings as well as worship, and liturgical celebrations? Council suggested wearing it for liturgical celebrations, but left it up to her and did not think it necessary that she wear the cross to meetings.

Kae will return her office that she was using to the Lutheran Center.

6. Vicar Report: provided by Fr Michael.

He may need to drop the Regional website planning at this time, as he is very busy at the hospital.

He noted that an Updated Document with a statement on recent church vandalism was not sent to the Colorado Council of Churches. This could be up for later discussion by the Council, but we may have lost our window of opportunity.

Jack – recommends we save document until the next event and release it quickly.

Fr. Don – recommends we later have a discussion on how as a group we address issues of violence, vandalism, shootings, etc.

Kae – will speak with Michael revising statements to honor sacred space and seasons for all religions.

Jack – A recent Wall Street Journal report on Supreme Court shows how the court shows hypocrisy regarding Abortion and Guns in NYC.

Mike – We agreed that our new Bishop would speak for us regarding Social Justice issues.

7. Leadership Council was provided by Mike of Holy Family. Items discussed:

1) The next Synod meeting begins Oct. 9, 2022.

2) The House of Pastors will meet.

3) Role of deacons have been changing since 2020; NW ECC is not happy with the changes. Deacons are invited to discuss the changes via an upcoming HOP meeting.

4) Nominations are open for Presiding Bishop. A Committee formed for managing the Nominations.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Reconvened Corporate Organizational Meeting (led by Jack Wolf)

a. Resume discussion of bylaws

b. Jack made some changes and discussed Article 2.0. Members and Article 9.0 and shows redlines to participants, RMR of the ECC. Jack calls for comments and answers questions regarding assessments, offering, equitable assessments, support, or dues, budget, tithe. Currently regional community contributions are not linked to a specified percentage formula. Typically they range from 1% to 2.5, unless communities are hurting. There is no minimum Requirement. This amount could go up or down as communities' memberships go up or down.

c. 7% is baseline for community contributions to the ECC. Each region will adopt a formula for regional office of bishop as determined by the Board of Trustees.

2. By a show of thumbs up, the Bylaws are accepted.

3. Draft of Bishop Call letter - Alice has rough draft. Fr Don suggests more work be done to finish it up for more review and present to the next RM meeting with Kae and Mike's help, and send out to others for comment.

4. Budget (still) in development - Greg will provide draft before next meeting. Include setting up corporate bank account with First Bank. Greg can sign checks up to \$1500.

5. Caffeinated Church subscription – Removed from future agendas.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Alice – People should respond to the Job Description by next week (December 9, 2021).

2. Personal Connections – Dennis formally tenders his resignation and thanks all for the opportunity to serve. Several participants give thanks and gratitude to Dennis and his work for the ECC.

3. Anything Else – we should post our Christmas Schedule somewhere. Michael will put them on the ECC Facebook page and Website and send it out to members on this list.

Closing Prayer: Don at 7:52 pm

Meeting Host Communities: January 6, MOM; February 3, COB; March 3, CHF; April 7, LOC; May 5, STP.
Remember, when you host to send out the agenda, have a facilitator and scribe, bring opening and closing prayer, bring Consensus Document, and send notes in a timely fashion.

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: November 2021 *(Bishop Kae)*

General notes: Slowing down a little – resting - moving toward what is sustainable over time...grateful.

- Michael as Vicar in the roles of Ecumenical Engagement: advocacy, interfaith relationships, ecumenical relationships including Colo. Council of Churches board, and communication/media. *Maybe website design and maintenance?*
- My primary focus is 1) Listening internally, building relationships, determining the felt-needs/priorities of the region; 2) getting to know the bishops through monthly calls and the annual retreat; 3) transitioning some responsibilities at Church of the Beloved; 4) learning about the bishop role and responsibilities from Michael and the other bishops.

Listening and Relationship building

- Still working on appt with Bishop Karen Oliveto (United Methodist)
- In contact with various clergy
- Initiated clergy communication to establish contact information and invite to an Advent gathering for prayer and relationship building on Dec 4; 10 of 20 have responded to participate.

Planning Met with Fr. Michael on Nov. 17th

Consultation Support for clergy

Community Support/Visits

- Scheduled to preside at CHF on January 16
- Scheduled to preside at LOC on February 12

Consecration

- **Expenses**
 - Bethany Lutheran
 - ✓ A/V \$100 check to Laura Romig, \$150
 - ✓ A/V assist \$100
 - ✓ Reception: \$100 check to Shawn
 - Free-will Offering to church: my recommendation is \$1000 - pending
 - ✓ Reimburse out of pocket costs from core team members

OPB and Council of Bishops

- Participated in the Council of Bishops call on Nov 8: Topics included
 - Letter of Call for Regional Bishop?: Yes plus liturgical celebration (welcoming, acknowledgment, installation/commissioning), plus clarification of responsibility, covenantal language
 - Make sure our Code of Ethics includes our behavior on social media

- ECC Incardination of all clergy serving parishes?: Church of the Beloved Methodist youth minister? Recognize differences in denominations – are we united in essentials? - supervision/planning important
- Transitional diaconate
- Letters of Faculties
- Participated in PB/Bishop/Vicar call on Nov. 17th. Topics included
 - Local church – principles of subsidiarity
 - Monthly regional meetings – town hall?
 - Vicars role/call differentiated from bishops in regions -
- Participated in PB Youth Town Hall meeting on Nov. 15th: presented youth program at Church of the Beloved.
- Question for clergy: Consideration of connecting continuing education with faculties as most professionals have levels of continuing education for accreditation/certification???

Discernment/Ordinations

- Due to Covid exposure, participated via zoom for Rosean’s first Mass on November 14th.
- Met with one member in discernment

Colorado Council of Churches

Pending/Parking Lot

Regional Calendar

Are our communities offering any classes that could be opened for regional participation?

Budget in development

Insurance

Website design and maintenance

Office/Meeting Space: \$200/month DONATION, “normal” printing included – extra for program booklet

Reduced or Not necessary?

Office supplies/printing

ECC Bishops retreat – biannual

Travel to synod 2022

Synod ECC 2022

Synod RMR

Contract wages/Stipend (1099 or Letter of Call) for bishop and vicar(s)?

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for 12 02 2021 *(Vicar Michael)*

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

REGIONAL WEBSITE PLANNING—not started yet, having second thoughts about taking on the role of designer and webmaster. At present I am juggling too many balls and dropping more than usual.

STATEMENT ON CHURCH VANDALISM

- No unanimity among Judicators so CCC not making a statement.
- I raised my concern that the CCC rarely addresses such things in a timely manner—certainly something to reflect upon when the Board and our Judicators review our public policy statements.

They seem to guide our legislative advocacy, but don't guide our prophetic voices in ways that reach the masses.

- Is the window of relevance past for our Region making a statement of our own?
- Last draft for consideration:

As members of the Colorado Council of Churches, we decry the recent acts of vandalism against the sacred spaces of our Roman Catholic siblings in Christ. We regret not having initiated formal condemnations of previous desecrations of any sacred space of any faith tradition. Our delayed response to the vandalism at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on October 10th was due to a conscious effort to address an issue deeper than anti-religious bias.

While acts of violence are sometimes committed in response to perceived injustices, we do not condone vandalism, hate speech, the desecration of sacred spaces, or any form of violence as an expression of public dissent. We encourage open and honest dialogue around contentious issues, especially in these times of polarization within church and society, that we may together build a Beloved Community that addresses the needs and concerns of all.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Met with Bp. Kae.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy updates and member churches' social media posts.

Presented HOP Liturgical Resources presentation on the prayers of the Church 11/13. Recording available on

Michael's YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/w0zHBE64LS8>

Presided at MoM on 11/21 (my "Preface of Christ the King" shared broadly), and at Dignity 11/28.

Participated monthly ECC Chaplains meeting 11/22.

Participated monthly OPB Ecumenical Seminar 11/29.

Participated in 11/15 Independent Catholic "Hive" convo about unity—what we hold in common and what are the lines in the sand we are unwilling to compromise on

Participated in "Saints in Sin City" Old/Independent Catholic gathering 11/4-6 included:

- each keynote was preceded by individual women sharing their experiences of ministry;
- an overview of the multitude of independent jurisdictions in the USA;
- reflections on what independent Catholicism has to offer the Nones;
- creative financing for independent missions (mostly directed at communities that own their buildings);
- discussions about what conditions would need to be met for unity to be possible (with our Mother Churches and/or among independent jurisdictions)
- ECC Rev. Trish Vanni presented her SYNOD2020 keynote on Vatican II's impact on our movement.

Participated in Faithful Thursdays planning on 12/2.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting 11/23/21

I testified a 2nd time on behalf of CCC re: Aurora Housing Project II on 11/4/21 to Aurora City Council:

Good evening, Mayor Coffman and esteemed Council Members. My name is Fr. Michael Nicosia, a member of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Council of Churches.

Our organization's public policy statement on Affordable Housing and Housing Justice, supported by our 12 denominations and over 800 churches across Colorado, states: "In a just world, all people would have decent affordable and safe housing. The members of the Church Council recognize the serious shortage of affordable housing throughout the state ... not only for very low-income and homeless people, but for people who work in [the public and private service sectors.]"

I testified at your first hearing in support of the Mountain View United Church housing project. Tonight I wish to address the need for the R-2 Zoning which will move this project forward and provide affordable housing to more of Aurora's citizens.

As a homeowner near the intersection of Iliff and Buckley, I know full well the burdens created by population growth and increased housing development. Surrounded by fencing, our modest suburban lot has a sense of country living, complete with garden and a few backyard chickens. We are truly fortunate...but for the sounds of traffic that invade our peace.

Over the years our neighborhood has become increasingly congested with commuters from new developments to the East and South. Our frustrations are compounded by an increase in noisy mufflers and nightly drag racing that another citizen commented on tonight.

We love our home, but the thought of getting away from it all comes up from time to time. —So I really can resonate with other homeowners who may insist, “not in my neighborhood.”

I repeat others: “if not here, where?” If we're really going to live up to our commitments to affordable housing, many more neighborhoods should be rezoned. I still hold on to the hope that we can embrace sacrifices made for the common good.

It is not, however, a burden these neighbors should bear without your assistance. So I call your attention to the need for city regulations that can mitigate the impact of higher-density populations —like reduced speed limits, enforcement of state statutes and city ordinances regulating unnecessary noise, the expansion of public transportation accessibility, the preservation of parks and open spaces, and other measures that can make Aurora more livable.

I and my colleagues of the Colorado Council of Churches respectfully request your affirmative vote on the re-zoning application of the Mountain View United Church, while challenging you to ensure the welfare of all our citizens. Thank you.

I have been asked to design the CCC logo for the 75th Anniversary Easter Sunrise Service at Red Rocks.

Here's CCC's draft **GENERAL PROGRAM PLAN for 2022**:

Ecumenical

- 1st Quarter: Blessing of the Capitol, Faithful Thursdays, Voices for Justice, CURIOUS Partnership
- 2nd Quarter: Easter Sunrise Service at Red Rocks; Faithful Thursdays, Voices for Justice, CURIOUS Partnership
- 3rd or 4th Quarters: Faith Leader trip to The Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama, Mental Health First Aid trainings
- 4th Quarter: Civility gatherings, Judicatory Retreat, Rural listening session

Social Justice

- 1st Quarter: Voices for Justice, Faithful Thursdays, Congregational Land Survey, *Caste* Study Group recommendations
- 2nd Quarters: Voices for Justice, Faithful Thursdays, Congregational Land Survey, *Caste* Study Group recommendations
- 3rd Quarter: *Caste* Study Group recommendations
- 3rd and 4th Quarters: 2022 statewide electoral issues

On-going

- Ecumenical church visits
- Gov. Polis Clergy Council meetings
- Quarterly judicatory meetings
- Vaccination study
- CCC Board Retreat