

Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting Notes June 3, 2021

Attendees: Jack Wolfe (LOC - meeting leader), Greg Yonker & Don Sutton (St Paul), Kae Madden & Alice Bradley & Dennis Giblin (COB), Mike Weil (late due to work) & Anne Grant (HF), Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement), Tom Moos (scribe) & Rosean Amaral (MoM).

Absent: Teri Harroun (LOC - pastoral work).

Guests: John Immele, Jane Reina.

Opening Prayer: Regional prayer led by Jack.

Agenda: Jack asked for additions, deletions and modifications to agenda. It was approved as presented.

Approval of RMRC Notes from April (March 25) or May 13 meetings. Michael wanted changes to May 13 notes. Anne needed clarity on the process for doing corrections. No objections on approving the notes from both meetings.

Letter to Leadership Council asking for Kae's Confirmation as RMR First Bishop: Greg shared the letter and took feedback. Rosean corrected the first date in paragraph 2 should reflect the date of the bishop election team meeting and RMRC review of the affirmation ballot and thus should be "May 11, 2021" not "May 13, 2021". Dennis wanted the semicolon removed from the first sentence in paragraph. Alice suggested dropping the sentence in paragraph 3 leaving room to have the ECC LC affirm Kae's election rather than having the ECC delegates confirm at the Synod. Michael suggested we remove "and installation" everywhere (Kae's "installation" is technically already in effect given her election). Finally, the first 2 sentences in paragraph 3 can be combined into one sentence. Greg will send out emails asking for e-signatures to be added to this letter.

Financial Report: Greg reported income (tithes from COB and St Paul), expenses (vicar housing, 2021 dues for CO Council of Churches, and CO Council of Churches fundraising) and end of May bank balances. We received a small business government loan and a grant in 2020: the FEDS are processing an additional grant we can use to pay off the loan. Kae suggested the RMR's historical \$5000 prudent reserve remains reasonable, we don't need to panic the costs of the bishop consecration. Don suggested tithing some of our windfall to help the poor and allow Mother Kae decide to which charity to make this windfall tithe. Some discussion followed about the timing for making this tithing donation and Greg suggested that we postpone that decision until next month's meeting - by then, we may also have a more realistic sense whether we'll actually receive the additional stimulus grant. *(The ECC is committed to financial transparency. All members may access further information by contacting Greg.)*

John Immele Update on Amendments Committee: About 90% of the RMR amendments to the ECC Constitution were adopted though with wording changes. George is sending out a redline document of the Constitution (updated Statutes to be distributed later) and is asking regional feedback to be returned by July 10. Part of the strength of the RMR amendments were that they came from the region rather than from a single person. John wants us to select a date to meet with George & CAC and to select a regional point of contact. Initial recommendation was to try to set up an RMR delegate meeting at 10:30 am on June 19 - Tom will set up the meeting and ask the delegates who the spokespeople for the region will be and when we can meet with George. Kae is no longer an HOL or HOP delegate but should be part of the amendments discussion on June 19. RMRC members should send Tom email

addresses of the delegates from the 5 regional communities. John also explained that he created a Google docs folder containing all the original amendments from all the regions as researchable background for use when reviewing the Constitution.

Plans for Consecration: Should we set up a planning committee/team? Dennis recommends members from each community should help with planning. We want this planning to be cross-regional. However, in the Consecration celebration itself, Church of the Beloved as Kae's home community, should be heavily represented. The following folks volunteered to plan:

- Rosean Amaral & Jane Reina (Mary of Magdala)
- Michael Nicosia & Teri Harroun - liturgical but not logistical planning
- Don Sutton
- Alice Bradley needs to discuss with Kae but may volunteer
- Anne Grant to talk to Mike Weil about a Holy Family volunteer.

Questions for the committee:

- Expected date for the consecration is in mid September and logistics may depend on the date. Bishops retreat to Poland has been postponed until 2022. We also need to understand how developing Covid concerns may impact the logistics.
- Who do we invite? Michael would like adjudicators of the Colo Council of Churches invited. News media? Politicians?
- Where to have the consecration? Don suggested that if a Sep date is decided soon, St Paul could host. Bethany Lutheran, new Regis University chapel, and outdoor venues such as Cheesman Park (outdoors, visible) were also proposed as possible locations. Trinity Lutheran (Mary of Magdala) might be able to host 400 people.
- What kind of party? Kae asked that we combine parties for regional council and call/election committees with the consecration party.

Mitre, stole and chasuble are gifts from other bishops. Crosier and ring are gifted by family. Nationally, Bp Frank's pectoral cross was selected to be given to the successor ECC presiding bishop. The RMRC likes this idea of passing down the cross to the regional bishop's successor along with giving another cross to the bishop in thanksgiving for their service. Bottom line, these items of office won't be much cost to the region.

Regional Constitution: Regional constitution has already received 2/3 vote from 4 communities and no need for another affirmation from the members unless major changes are made to the Constitution. Secretary of State requires Articles of Incorporation, corporate name and office address and dissolution language but this doesn't need to include the regional Constitution. We left the Constitution open to comments from the first regional bishop. Michael also suggested that further amendments might come as Bylaws or Statutes. Dennis asked about how to get our people involved in Constitution/Bylaws/Statutes development and practice regional synodality rather than having the RMRC make decisions? Michael suggested that we are small enough regionally to allow everyone's voice to be heard. Alice suggested that we might reconvene a group to finalize the Constitution after Kae's Consecration. Tom expressed desire for further review of the Constitution - this will be tabled until an RMRC meeting sometime after July. 501.c(3) filing will follow.

Transition to Operating with Regional Bishop. Kae has asked what the communities want from their bishop? What does the RMRC want? How do we collect data on needs from the bishop? Jack suggested that the Council, as bishop's employer, be the collector of expectations of the bishop. Greg offered that we use Constant Contact or similar to distribute bishop communications. Rosean suggested zoom

meetings to collect community comments and get them back to Kae. Jack offered following the RC church model to have Kae send letter to RMRC delegates who in turn would do the communications "from the pulpit". Kae suggested in the short term that she will send a "glad to be here" letter and info about what she's doing. Don suggested adding some biographical information and encouraged the pastors to begin praying for our local bishop in the Eucharistic prayers of our services. The Council agreed to gather in-person to discuss the Council's expectations of Kae as bishop. Kae, Greg and Dennis agreed to develop a proposal for a future RMRC meeting on how to do Bishop Communications.

Vicar/Bishop-Elect Report: Michael highlighted some items from the Vicar's report: "The Race Talk University Dialogue" on Mondays in June/July on race matters and an upcoming advocacy demonstration at the Capitol, "Colorado Fast for a Pathway to Citizenship". Michael will carry on an interim title of Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement until we complete the Transition planning above.

Online Uterrecht Theology Class: Late registrations are still being accepted. Rosean suggested that we usually pay for this type of continuing education and suggested that Michael could attend, provide some of this education back to us, and the RMRC should reimburse the tuition. Cost is \$900 2-week course, 4 hours per day. We can't do strategic marketing and outreach without knowledge of these roots.

Community Updates:

* LOC is hoping to have many outdoor liturgies during the summer once technical challenges are resolved.

* St Paul: visioning process around the future of the community and especially the building. It was proposed trading in the building for a homeless high rise with church offices at the top. Please keep this visioning process in our prayers.

Kae closed us with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Moos

Appendix A—Bishop-elect notes for May 2021

~ submitted by Bishop-elect Kae Madden on 06/02/21

Transition

- Met with Michael to continue sorting out transitioning responsibilities: Our recommendation to the council is that Michael continues for an indeterminate time in the roles of Ecumenical Engagement: advocacy, interfaith relationships, ecumenical relationships including Colo. Council of Churches board, and communication/media.
- 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; and 5) working with the council to plan the affirmation and consecration.
- Question: I don't think the summer Utrecht classes are good timing for me. Michael is interested. The tuition is substantial. Thoughts?

Listening and Relationship building

- Presided at CHF on May 9th
- Presided at MoM on May 30th
- Met with two clergy members, visited with a third casually

Affirmation/Consecration

- Tried out one date but I had family conflicts so +Denise is floating some additional dates in September

OPB and Council of Bishops

- Participated in the Council of Bishops call on May 17th
- Participated in the OPB/Vicar call on May 19th

Ordinations

- Working with +Kedda for Alice's ordination on June 6th along with Terese from Idaho. "Presented" Alice to the Council of Bishops via her application/evaluation documents.

Confirmation:

- Planning for the confirmation of youth from Church of the Beloved on Aug15th. If there are others ready for confirmation, let me know. * Permission was granted by +Francis for me to confirm our youth.

Regional Calendar: perhaps it makes sense for the council to maintain a regional calendar so that all may see our regional commitments, bishop commitments, etc. Website? Thoughts?

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 06 03 2021

~ submitted by Fr. Michael Nicosia on 5/27/21

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Populated Regional Facebook page with member churches' posts and election updates.

Circulated election media release to various media contacts and agencies.

Participated in weekly regional pastoral ministers' Zoom gatherings.

Presided at hybrid Masses with StP 4/17; via Zoom with MoM 5/16, Dignity 5/2 (also scheduled 5/30).

Produced YouTube Pentecost Reflection on behalf of CCC and ECC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ucfZolCwZY> .

Participated in first HOP Liturgy Resource Working Group 5/21 meeting

~ **REMINDER:** please respond to HOP survey to prioritize goals.

~ Shared various prefaces and prayers.

Forwarded contact info for Independent Catholic priest to Don and Kae; Fr. Jim McDonald has reached out.

Participated in ECC Chaplains Association 5/24 meeting (last Monday of each month).

Participated in "We Are Here" Denver Prayer Vigil 5/24 re Public Safety and Police Reform on eve of anniversary of George Floyd's murder; prayer circulated on social media.

Participated in Independent/Old Catholic happy hour 5/25; Fr. Jayme is preparing surveys re ordination and incardination requirements and vetting in various jurisdictions, reviewed by attendees before circulation.

Participated in CCC Board Meeting 5/26 (see report below).

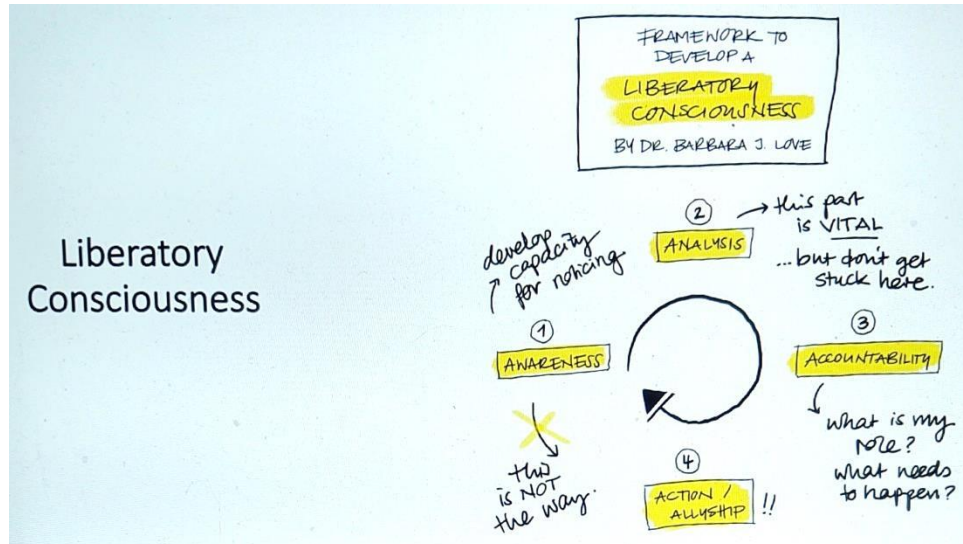
Attended CHUM /WHI "Reclaiming Conversations on Race" 5/26

~ Adrian Miller presented re his latest book, “Black Smoke,” and the erasure of African American contributions to BBQ cuisine. Because BBQ was the work of slaves, Blackness and BBQ were wedded by 19th Century; modern media featured White dudes who barbecue to influence “foodies” that promote the food industry; fine dining chefs have further stripped the Black traditional favors, including the sauces, to feature the pure taste of the meat. Adrian is excited about the culture’s current resurgence.

~ Rev. Dr. Timothy and Rev. Dr. Nita Mosby Tyler (Shorter Community AME Church) presented video introducing **5-6 week program “The Race Talk University Dialogue”** in a non-judgmental “space filled with grace” including accountability and a commitment to do something.

www.shortercommunityame.org/racetalkuniversity Summer 2021 Cohort Mondays June-July

<https://youtu.be/VQSW5SFBsOg> Rev. Dr. Nita’s TedxMileHigh Talk



Provided opening music for FAITHFUL THURSDAYS Closing Event 5/27.

Disseminated notes from Gov. Polis and Faith Leaders Community Meeting 5/27

OPB CALL 5/19 welcomed Bishop-elect Kae; Bishop Francis grateful for out-going Vicar’s help in transition

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting 5/25

OPENING with reflections on how we define “a moral economy”

~ individualism vs. community

~ morality can’t rely on charity to lift up the poor; must work toward systemic change

FUNDRAISING UPDATE re 75th Easter Sunrise Service:

~ Presbyterian Mission Engagement Adviser for the Western US (professional fundraiser) donating services; hoping to raise \$ and run a matching gift campaign.

~ looking into Next 9News “Word of Thanks” campaign

~ some leads for corporate donors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES

~CHUM panel on Racism

~advisor for regional conference

~virtual spotlight with Sen. Hickenlooper

VACCINATION STUDY

~ over next year engaging 6 African American Churches

~ possible tangential outreach to white conservative congregations (not part of grant)

MENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

~ Adrian trained as a mental health first-aid trainer; Fall presentation series planned train-the-trainers (could be offered to pastoral leaders; probably day and a half session)

FAITHFUL THURSDAYS ~ Closing Event on May 27th, CCC host; Michael providing opening music

VOICES FOR JUSTICE ~end of July final report on legislative session

NEW MEMBERS applying ~ Pine Street Baptist Church, Unity Spiritual Center, Salvation Army

POSSIBLE ILIFF INTERN FOR 2021-22 FISCAL YEAR

~ assisting Voices of Justice to propose legislation

~ candidate being reviewed by Iliff; additional funds need to be raised

JUDICATOR'S DINNER

~ per Doodle Poll Adrian, I and 7 Judicators can make Aug. 13, hosted by Chef Michael

Upcoming advocacy event: [Colorado Fast for a Pathway to Citizenship](#), Monday, June 7, 2021
1:00-2:30 pm, Colorado Capitol, West Steps, RSVP: <http://bit.ly/COfaithfast>