

Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

Board of Directors Meeting Notes

July 6, 2023

Host: Light of Christ Facilitator: Chuck Howard Scribe: Jack Wolfe

Meeting started at 6:07 pm

Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer

Holy One,
Enlivening Spirit,
In the wilderness of new,
Root the Body of Christ
Fully into our "Yes",
Blooming in Your Holy Season.
Together, Amen!

Attendees: Kae Madden (Regional Bishop); Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement);
LOC: Chuck Howard, Jack Wolfe; CoHF: Christine Casillas, Anne Grant; COB: Alice Bradley, Dennis Giblin;
StP: Don Sutton, Liz Begalla; MOM: Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos. Visitor: Deacon Joan Crawford

Regular Business:

1. Welcome to Joan
2. Agenda approvals/additions
 - July agenda approved by consensus with addition of a report by Joan

Deacon Joan Crawford

Joan reported that Bishop Frank asked her to put together an anti-racism statement, and that led to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She reported that there were two opportunities coming up that the Commission was promoting to bring further understanding to their work, which was currently focusing on the issue of the book banning laws being considered, and in some instances passed, by various states:

"Freedom to Learn Summer School July 13 -15; and

"Defending the Freedom to Learn" CRT summer School July 30 - August 3rd.

Discussion followed, and Joan said she would forward details on how to register for these/

3. Review and approval of June minutes
 - Ann said she sent the June minutes just prior to meeting.
 - June minutes approved by consensus.

4. Financial Report

- Chuck called attention to the June Financial Report that Greg Yonker had recently sent out. It was noted that expenses exceeded income by a considerable amount, but it was recognized that some communities made their payments quarterly.

- The June Financial Report was accepted by consensus.

5. Bishop Notes (see Appendix A)

- Kae called attention to her Notes and asked for comments
- Discussion followed concerning how to make the various communities accountable for required reporting, payments, etc. through the RMRC, to support Kae, and discussion followed concerning the calendar of issues and accompanying diagram in Kae's report, both requiring that each community's delegates would be accountable for reporting their community's action on the items at monthly meetings.
- Following discussion, it was consensus that the RMRC delegates would share Kae's diagram with their Parish Councils to get commitment to the plan. Then a timely agenda item would be added to RMRC agendas and each community's PC agenda noting the deadlines for actions needed by their next meeting
- Kae asked that an agenda item be added to the August RMRC agenda for members to bring any accountability deadlines that should be added to her list.

6. Vicar Report (see Appendix B)

- Michael called attention to his report.
- **ACTION ITEM:** The members of each community need to register individually on the Regional Website in order to be able to access all information on the website.

7. Leadership Council Report

- Chuck reported on a conversation he had with Teri Harroun about the 2024 Synod. to be held at YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. Teri appreciated the willingness of council members to assist, but said we should "cool our jets", as no activity or need for assistance was anticipated prior to October due to Leadership meeting schedules and results of grant requests due near then.

8. Personal Connections – Chuck asked that we share what new activities we found for when the sun does not shine.

Old Business:

1. Regional Synod

- Tom reported that the "Post-Its" on the wall had been transcribed, and that he would forward them to the group.

2. Financial Issues:

a. Dennis reported on the information he had been able to gather.

- Following discussion, it was consensus that \$12,000 be placed in a non-penalty Certificate of Deposit with CIT, and Don said he would contact Greg to get this done.

b. Kae's employment status in the Region.

- Following discussion, and upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was **RESOLVED**, that despite language that might appear to be contrary in Bishop Kae Madden’s Call, the Region’s Constitution or Bylaws, it is agreed that Bishop Kae Madden is an independent contractor for compensation and tax purposes.

- Discussion then followed concerning whether or how to amend any of the above documents to clarify the Regional Bishop’s status for all matters relating to employment. It was consensus that an ad hoc committee to consist of Dennis Goblin, Chuck Howard, Kae Madden and Jack Wolfe be formed to report back on this subject to a future board meeting.

3. Collaboration with Colorado Public Radio

- Chuck reported on his communications with CPR, and called attention to the information that they responded with, which he had sent out in an e-mail to the group.

- He suggested that this matter be set aside until the “accountability” work be completed and the region had decided on its “core values.”

- Jack suggested reaching out to radio stations in Boulder and Fort Collins.

4. Pridefest 2024

- Michael suggested that a committee be set up sometime after February, in time to meet the June deadlines with a representative from each participating community, but not necessarily an RMRC delegate.

5. 2024 Synod planning - see above

6. Update on Greg Y’s status as a director - Matter resolved at June meeting.

7. Community Feedback on Beautiful Redemption Initiative

- Alice, Rosean and Chuck reported on their communities discussions and decisions. Holy Family and St. Paul have not had an opportunity to discuss yet.

New Business:

Community Updates

LOC: Sally and Charlie Allen held a 50th Wedding Anniversary and recommitment ceremony on June 24th. LOC is involved with Bethlehem Lutheran in an “Immigration Immersion” educational, not working, Trip to El Paso, tentatively scheduled for October 6-13. Anyone interested can participate.

MoM: The three communities are working with the City of Fort Collins to see whether a program can be put to gather to help immigrants/homeless.

St. Paul: StP had a Denver City Council person come to speak on LGBTQ issues.

COHF: Christine reported on COHF activities.

COB: Dennis reported that Deacon Buddy had “unretired.”

Closing Prayer: Chuck, and the meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Host Communities: Aug 3 STP; Sep 7 MoM; Oct 7(Sat) in-Person Mtg, COB location TBD

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in June 2023

by Bishop Kae Madden

Personal: Greg and I took a week of vacation June 15-22. Between finishing up my mom's estate and the anniversary of her death, I've been pretty low energy.

Listening and Relationship building

Participate as available in weekly regional clergy prayer/sharing on Friday mornings

Administration

Pending: debit cards for Michael and I, resolving my employment status (contract or employee) (see Jack's email) and moving the region's reserves to an interest-bearing account (see Dennis' email).

Proposed meeting on Sept 8 of pastors and reps from each community with +Pablo to plan MMS fund-raising.

Advocacy/Presence/Consultation

Clergy support:

Deacon Buddy Fricke has decided to remain in ministry with Church of the Beloved and we celebrated with him at Mass at Church of the Beloved on June 24th and afterward shared cake and punch.

Praying with many...

Liturgies/Sacraments

August 20: Church of the Holy Family picnic and annual bishop visit

Need to schedule the "annual bishop visit" with each community – in conversation with LoC

Formation

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike and Christy

Began initial conversations with another presbyterate candidate.

Continuing work on forming a local Education Team to accompany our candidates' learning and to determine MDiv Equivalency and what classes need to be substituted and/or added for Bishop Kemper School of Ministry. Scott and Teri are part of the team. Progress :) I need an administrative volunteer (or two) to track and report candidate paperwork.

ECC

Council of Bishops

- Monthly meeting on June 12th..
- Continuing to work on ordination and incardination standards and the requirement to submit same to the Council of Bishops prior to approval.
- Continued conversations with St. Matthew's and +Peter, Mid-America election,

With the Leadership Council: pending

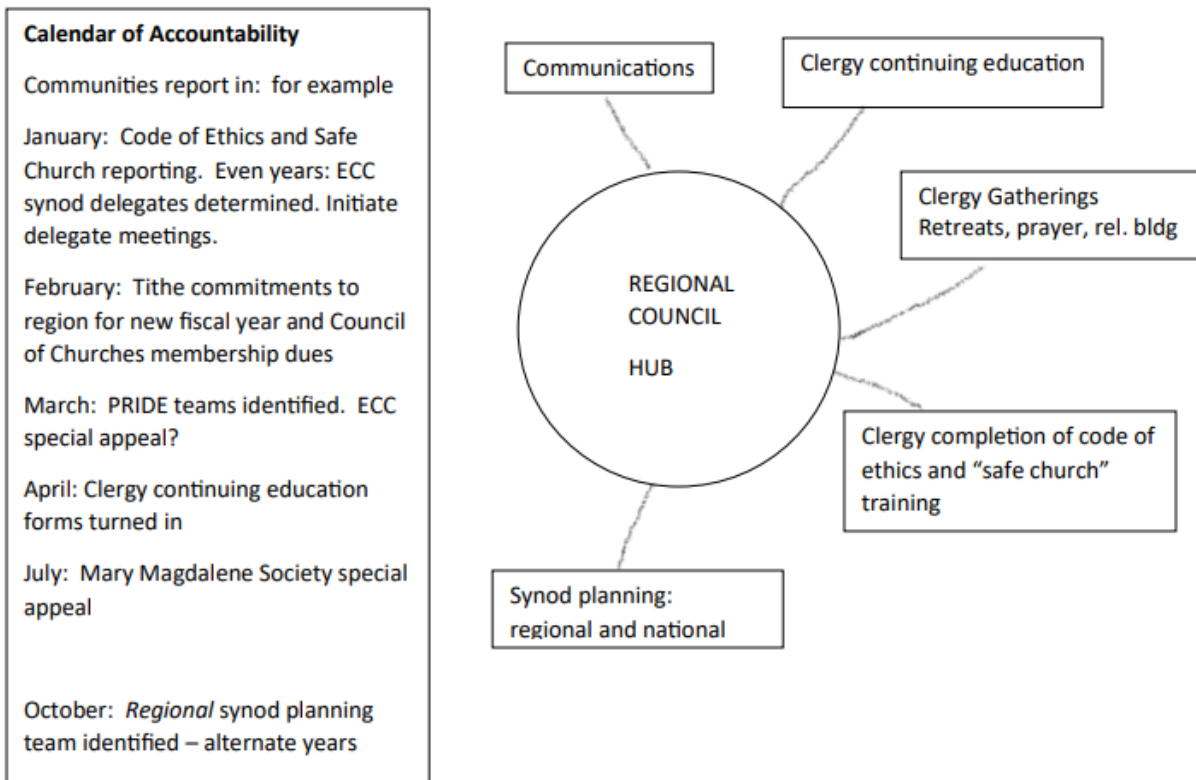
Pending: Continued work on members to form the Standing Hearing Committee (Appeals board) regarding constitutionality – I am unaware of anyone volunteering from the HOP or HOL and perhaps someone has.

Pending: Continued work regarding education standards for ordination

Pending: Review of the approval process for ordination of clergy

Consulting with Pablo: Phone calls and meetings to discuss the current climate and functioning of the ECC, perspectives.

Brainstorming model of administration of the region....



Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 07 06 2023

submitted 7/5/2023 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

Next Regional event, we will need fliers updated and printed (maybe 50 remain; error for CHF Mass day/time).

ONLY 9 members registered on our regional website, including me! Only members can access foundational documents and Board Minutes; and the Forum discussion board had yet to be utilized.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

6/10 attended Adams County Pride, as did Mother Alice, passing out regional fliers and networking.

6/21 missed Denver's Interfaith Pride Service due to COVID, but contributed original hymn.

6/24-25 coordinated region booth at Denver PrideFest; special thanks to Greg Yonker, Don Sutton, Gray LaFond and his dog, Frank Quintana, and Cara and Marsha Thompson for helping out, as well as the prayers of our communities.

6/5, 12, 26 participated in Independent Catholic BRAIN TRUST on liturgics:

~wondering if a basic Independent Catholic liturgy to be used when together is possible;

~develop a compilation/compendium of rites and liturgies with a variety of components to choose from;

~interested in catechetical models to help congregations make informed choices;

~copyright law complicates things; not issue for original works if permissions given;

~Jayme shared his community's "ordo" of expanded feast days and prayers for the liturgical year:

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/2e673d51-4c0b-4b20-8006-e443d3b6927e/downloads/Extraordinary%20Celebrations%20for%20Extraordinary%20C.pdf?ver=1677259721120>

~long discussion on future of church as we know it (given lower attendance, younger generation's disinterest in old/current model), trusting the Spirit will do what the Spirit will do.

6/26 missed monthly ECC Chaplains meeting.

Week of 6/26 exchanged multiple emails with Dewayne Messinger; included Jack and Chuck from Bishop Call Committee to address Mid-America Diocese's questions about bishop nominations.

Presided at CHF 6/4, MoM 6/18.

Posted Regional Synod info on website.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – on Summer hiatus