

**Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Region of the  
Ecumenical Catholic Communion  
Meeting, March 30, 2023 6:00PM**

**Host:** Mary of Magdala; **Facilitator:** Rosean Amaral; **Notes:** Tom Moos (Actions in red)

**Present:**

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)  
Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)  
Jack Wolfe, Chuck Howard (Light of Christ - LOC)  
Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos (Mary of Magdala - MoM)  
Alice Bradley (Church of the Beloved - COB)  
Don Sutton (St Paul - SP)  
Christine Casillas, Anne Grant (Holy Family - HF)

**Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer** (Rosean)

Note: This meeting was moved up from April to March 30 because April 6 coincides with Holy Thursday this year. I apologize again for coming late to the meeting (midway through financial report) and thank Rosean for helping to fill in the gaps in my notes. Tom Moos

**Regular Business:**

1. Welcome any guests: No guests.
2. Agenda approvals/additions: No reorg, no additions.
3. March notes  
Liz took notes from the first March meeting and delivered them to Don before leaving on a trip to Asia. Unfortunately, Don had problems with his computer and lost the email. Kae suggested that Liz mail out her notes when she returns and we'll amend/approve them via email.
4. Financial Report
  - Greg continues to produce the financial report and function as RMR bookkeeper. Working with Kae, Greg has changed the format of the report based on prior feedback. The new format shows a monthly profit and loss statement. Jack proposed two enhancements which Kae will feed back to Greg:
    - a. The new format lumps the parish tithes into one income category. We've lost transparency and accountability about each community's payments. Jack would like that restored.
    - b. It's a little hard to read the months with a negative net operating income or negative net income when the negative sign appears to the left of the \$ sign. Can the negative sign be moved immediately to the left of the numbers, or possibly, negative net months represented with a different colored font?
  - The Rocky Mountain Region has not yet paid its annual dues to the Colorado Council of Churches (CCC). Not all the parishes have sent Greg their share of these dues (\$60 per community, + \$1 per member) - please check on this and get payments submitted. Michael noted that last year's dues were paid in April so if the faith communities send in their shares soon, we can still be "on time" for our annual contribution.

- Kae mentioned that when Greg recovers, he plans to return to serving on the RMRC. Liz is currently appointed person in Greg's place. **Don will get clarification on Liz's and Greg's respective roles on the RMRC.**
5. Bishop Notes: Kae opened the floor to questions about her report: (Appendix A below)
    - Some questions were raised about Deacon Tammy Fuqua's "incardination" to the CA diocese and what this term means in the context of the diaconate. Post meeting, Kae learned that Tammy received standard deacon formation several years ago when Peter was bishop of CA, so she needed to be incardinated into Armando's CA diocese to shift to Holy Angels.
    - Some RMR members are earning their MDiv through Bishop Kemper, and as an Episcopal seminary, there are concerns about gaps in a Catholic perspective. To address these, 4 supplemental courses will be taught by ECC bishops, such as Liberation Theology (PB Pablo) and the Old Catholic Church (Bp Rafe). Bishop Kemper has a solid reputation academically, and claims its students do better on MDiv exams.
    - The Mid-American diocese is seeking to relax some standards around the ordained status of candidates for bishop. The RMRC agreed that ordaining individuals to serve as bishop without clergy experience may not stage them for success especially to guide the clergy of their diocese. Alice also reminded us of the importance of a solid job description in calling a bishop.
  6. Vicar's report. The Colorado Council of Churches is rotating members on/off their BOD. Michael will continue as recording secretary. Michael also requested feedback on his slide for Easter sunrise and suggested a quote from PB Pablo's speech might be appropriate. In general, folks are fine with reusing last year's slide as is. Kae asked Michael to use his own discretion in whether different font sizes might be appropriate for emphasizing a few key points we want to ensure everyone sees. Michael also expressed appreciation for condolences received. (Appendix B below)
  7. Leadership Council Report
 

Jack received an email from Teri Harroun and shared 3 points of focus for the LC:

    - All the working groups that came out of the National 2022 Synod are now populated, have facilitators defined, and a direction. The 4 groups are Guns, Women's Rights, Ukraine, and the rewording of the Diaconate role in the Statutes.
    - Leadership is working on a contract with YMCA of the Rockies as a venue for the National Synod in October 2024.
    - There is a lot of confusion on who does what, specifically for all-communion communications. Although some communications for HOL and HOP were put together, they weren't sent.
  8. Personal Connections – people shared what is blooming in our yards or in our souls.

## Old Business:

1. Regional Synod Planning for 2023
  - Roseann sent out Kae's latest Regional Synod planning notes planning has shifted from Zoom meetings to e-mail.
  - The work by the different planning sub-teams is wrapping up.
  - Kae reminded us that Bp Frank will be attending to observe and will be staying with PB Pablo.
  - Tom thanked Yvonne Wootten of MoM for help in setting up the on-line registration process. Tom shared a sample daily report he receives that lists donors, the donated amounts and a tracking number in case of issues but so far, all donations have been received successfully. Although online donations initially go to Mary of Magdala, they are earmarked for a Synod fund



and can easily be differentiated from other MoM online giving and forwarded to Greg as a check. Folks registering on paper by US Post are advised to make out a check directly to "Rocky Mountain Region, ECC" and those checks will be forwarded. Tom also shared a spreadsheet he designed to track attendees from each parish. Almost 30 people have registered already. Alice expressed appreciation for the work put into the registration process and the confirmation letters to registrants.

- Tom asked representatives to get the word out that the Synod will have things for people to do who attend on Zoom. Also some have donated more than requested so an inability to make a donation should not keep anyone away.
  - Kae is putting together a letter to clergy explaining various aspects of the Synod, the Chrism Mass, the re-commitment of ministers, etc. Post-meeting, she also sent out an email asking planners to be conscientious about gluten-free dietary requirements and suggested using RMR funds to ensure GF offerings for breakfast and lunch are available.
  - Tom is continuing to work with a couple of communities re: their contributions to the Social Justice "blessing bags". So far:
    - MoM will provide gloves, bottled water, and possibly lip balm
    - LOC will provide crochet hearts and protein bars
    - COB will provide granola bars and something else as needed.
    - Tom suggests HF and SP share providing socks as those can be expensive.
2. Collaboration with Colorado Public Radio (CPR). Chuck has been doing with CPR for LOC and has had some brief conversations with Sally about getting the word out for the ECC. Kae suggested he contact CPR and ask for a sponsor packet.
  3. ECC Synod Evaluation - invitation to join 2024 planning team. Anyone who wants to help plan the 2024 National Synod should contact Teri Harroun.
  4. Protocol for Rapid Response Team. Covered in the last meeting. The draft we originated is suitable for now.
  5. Pridefest 2023. Michael reports we're all set to go on participation. Christine reported that HF is making rosaries and anyone who wishes to help can contact Cara Thompson ([info@holymfamilyco.org](mailto:info@holymfamilyco.org), or cell 303-704-0949).

#### **New Business:**

1. Recommitment of Lay Leaders at the Chrism Mass. Kae would like to expand the recommitment beyond priests and deacons and asked whether each community should decide which laity should be included in this part of the Chrism Mass. Michael noted that this is different than recommitment to Baptismal promises at Easter and recommended only those engaged in ministries stand for the recommitment. Others felt that most attending the Synod would probably be involved in ministry or a leadership role and it may be appropriate for everyone to stand. As a compromise, Kae suggested she might suggest some common ministries and invite anyone who is involved in one of these or other ministries to be included. Please provide a "heads up" to ministers in your community about the recommitment to ministries which will be part of the Synod Chrism Mass.
2. Regional participation in Beautiful Redemption Colorado / CarePortal. Michael summarized the work of Beautiful Redemption about responding to real kids in crisis in real time as communicated in his email. He asked that we visit their site and prepare ourselves to discuss whether or not we would like

to join as corporate members. He also offered to invite Steve Ringelspaugh to attend our next (in-person) meeting to explain more – **what time should he arrive?** Christine noted there may be ways to participate besides financially.

### 3. Community Updates:

- Kae reminded us that Sheila Dierks' Celebration of Life will be on May 5 at 10:00 am at LOC.
- LOC: Chuck summarized the work done to begin addressing their aging population and needing to find ways to engage and attract new and younger members. The Council has asked the community to spend beyond income to drive recruitment of new members, provided 32 written statements with ideas to draw new members and formed a committee of young people to drive this initiative. Chuck also noted one of the Synod cross-pollination topics will be marketing our communities and would like to tie some of these committee members in this discussion.
- MoM: Rosean announced that the 301 Faith Partners will have the "7 Last Words of Christ" on Good Friday at 7:00 pm. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89676164246?pwd=OWxUeFhSZHZaUklUdmRtcnUwY2VqUT09>
- St Paul – Don announced that their new Parish Council president is looking at things with new eyes and has recommended meetings before weekly services to facilitate attendance.
- COB: Alice: Zoom audio problems continue to plague the ability to offer virtual attendance at services. Praying to get things worked out for Holy Week. Jack suggested hiring professionals for these kinds of services.
- HF: Anne: Had a nice community breakfast. Will have a local schedule for Holy Week. Times have been rough with all that has happened to Mike but members are helping out with scheduling readings and zoom hosting. Almost ready to go live with their community website.

**Closing Prayer:** Rosean (8:02 pm)

**Next Meeting Host Communities:** May 6, COB; Jun 1 CHF; Jul 6, LOC; Aug 3 SP; Sep 7, MoM

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## Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in March 2023

by Bishop Kae Madden

**Personal:** Time spent in preparation for Lent and Holy Week for COB. The month has gone by in a blur. Good news for our grandson Aiden – all clear and check-up in six months. Thanks be to God. Plan to take the week following Easter as comp and vacation time.

### Listening and Relationship building

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

Meeting with clergy members: David D., Scott, Kathleen, Jim

Planning to bless the 301 Covenant at Mary of Magdala with the Episcopal and Lutheran bishops on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Administration**

Spoke with Greg Y about the monthly budget format and budget for 2023-24. He assured me that he could provide ongoing “bookkeeping” services as he regains his health.

Staffed Len’s Interspirituality Retreat Friday night and Saturday. FYI: Not a good choice on my part in terms of use of time but was due to lack of tech assistants at CoB. I/we won’t commit CoB again until we have better staffing and quality of sound on zoom.

## **Advocacy/Presence/Consultation**

### **Liturgies/Sacraments**

**If you are in the neighborhood...**CoB engages in centering prayer and contemplative walk on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30 a.m.

CoB invites you to share in person or on zoom our Easter Vigil at 9 p.m.

Planning for the sacrament of confirmation at MoM on May 7.

### **Formation**

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike and Christy

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. Some progress : )

### **Local 2023 Synod Planning:**

Planning meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Working with Anne B and Rosean on the liturgy March 17<sup>th</sup>. Next meeting April 17<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Francis is arriving on Friday, April 21 and leaving on Monday - +Pablo is going to host him – may need volunteers for transportation to and from the airport.

## **ECC**

### **Council of Bishops**

- Monthly meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, extra meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>, extra meeting March 31.
- Mid-America working on their process for election of a bishop. +Pablo visited March 18-29
- Continuing to work on ordination and incardination standards and the requirement to submit same to the Council of Bishops prior to approval
- Follow up on the amendment regarding the role of deacons. +Pablo will convene a discussion. The lived experience of deacons in the RMR is different than the role of deacons in Lutheran and Episcopal churches in relationship to the bishop not pastor.
- Continued conversations with St. Matthew’s and +Peter

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 to form a commission 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.

## Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 03 30 2023

submitted 3/28/2023 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

### KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

- NEED RECOMMENDATION on Easter Sunrise slide.
- Michael likely assuming role of Recording Secretary for CCC Board.
- Michael and family appreciative of condolences shared re Rosemary's death.

### REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

3/2 participated in Gun Violence Prevention Lobby Day;

Attended ACP-Café Advisory Board Meeting 3/9. Considering dissemination of findings on CCC website and other venues; also may send to listening circle communities (Dr. Nowels available for follow-up visits) and participants in team's clergy survey.

3/16 Represented CCC at the Colorado Saints Chorale and Orchestra of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints presentation of Rob Gardner's Lamb of God Oratorio.

At VIP reception, met Steve Ringelspaugh, Director of Outreach with Beautiful Redemption, a partner of <https://www.careportal.org/meet-needs/church/> providing connections between church communities and at-risk children and families in need. Sent contact info to ECC Synod2024 planning team and his offer to do a breakout session at Synod about CarePortal.

Presided at StP 3/11, MoM 3/19 and Dignity 3/26.

3/27 participated in Together Colorado's Faith & Justice Lobby Day.

3/28 Participated in Independent Catholics meeting to discuss current and future collaborations. Think Tank discussion scheduled for 12:30 MT on 4/18

Coordinated 3/29 Soup&Speaker Event at StP "Can We Have a Serious Conversation About Gun Violence?" with the father of Columbine victim Daniel Mauser, Tom Mauser of Colorado Ceasefire and Colorado Faith Communities United to end gun violence (CFCU)

**RSVP** at <https://www.stpauldenverecc.com/event-details/can-we-have-a-serious-conversation-about-gun-violence> (will send out a Zoom link for remote participants who RSVP)

As a side ministry, I created and posted a series of #CelebratingDrag memes to counter the wave of anti-LGBTQ legislation around the country.

Posted Regional Synod info on website.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts.

### COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – 3/22 Board Meeting

#### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- Invited to apply to CO Health Foundation's Congregational Land Grant Survey; several churches interested in partnering with us. >\$100K for 2-3 years with which we'd hire an organizer.
- Interfaith Alliance of Colorado interested in forming another, separately funded coalition.

#### EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE UPDATES progressing.

- Only question: haven't heard from organization who did live-stream yet; may be additional expense if another provider needed. Expect to retain donation capable.
- Need 2 volunteers per board member to help with collection. Scouts possible for helping with handouts, but numbers available in question.
- Reserved seating and parking price raised; interest already.

#### VOICES FOR JUSTICE ADVOCACY UPDATE

- Half-time reports, several published, encouraging volunteers to step up in advocacy.
- Shift workers bill shot down due to lack of consensus on advanced scheduling. School issues volunteer submitted report bill seeking student and parent protections re suspensions.
- Adrian has received queries about CCC position on Park Hill Gulf Course development ballot: development or conservation easement. Very local issue (president for taking a position), but it is an affordable housing issue, with possible conflicts regarding care of the environment. Controversial in African American community; concern about developer commitment to significant affordable housing (10% too low). May be too hot an issue with conflicting interests; not enough time to take a position. We were asked to take part in the process, but had decided local churches should be involved. Consensus not to take a stand.

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING EVENTS still trying to get more communities involved to round out data points, funded by Dr. Nowels. Second grant in works for dissemination of findings.

#### OFFICER VACANCIES

- Vice Chair, Roland willing; Adrian checking by-laws
- Recording Secretary, Michael willing
- Election at April meeting

#### BOARD RECRUITMENT UPDATE

- Olivia's last meeting as Stated Clerk and CCC Board Member
- Plains & Peaks Presbytery has a possible candidate
- Rodney Perry American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains
- RMR UCC person interested
- ELCA candidate dropped out due to health crisis

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MOVIE SCREENING—*WOMEN TALKING* still under consideration; board members haven't viewed it yet.

UPCOMING 2023 MEETINGS April 19 and May 24, 2023