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

June 6, 2024, 6 PM, via ZOOM

Host: Light of Christ ECC Facilitator – Chuck, Scribe Tom

**Present:**

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)  
Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)  
Chuck Howard (LOC)  
Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos (MoM)  
Alice Bradley, Dennis Giblin (COB)  
Jane Reina, Anne Grant (CHF)  
Liz Begalla (St. Paul)

**Zoom Details**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81677152445?pwd=ejhNZ0MySFBzc2J5bElvdUNaZHJNdz09>

Meeting ID: 816 7715 2445

Passcode: 10500

Chuck opened the meeting at 6:09 with our opening prayer.

**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!

**Regular Business**

1. **Welcome Visitors:** none
2. **Agenda approval/additions**  
Removed redundant agenda item for discussing June 15 delegate meeting.
3. **Review and approval of May notes**  
Tom sent out some comments just before this evening's meeting which he summarized. Kae asked it be noted under Old Business, #6, that Liz was going to follow up with Aaron. **Anne will send out an updated version of the notes incorporating feedback which we will approve via e-mail vote.**
4. **Financial report**  
Michael noted that CCC hadn't received our regional donations. We concluded Greg may have sent the donation after the CCC's most recent meeting. **Michael will verify payment was received but sees no issue.** Treasurer report approved as submitted.

## 5. Bishop's report

- Discussion regarding St. Mathews leaving ECC. Kae commented on the regional meeting she hosted pertaining to St Matthew's leaving the ECC. Feedback consensus tonight was the meeting was helpful and a good opportunity to hear from the region. Michael asked whether +Peter announced this intention to the COB. Kae responded that this topic has long been discussed. Liz asked whether we expect them at the Synod in the Fall? Leadership feels it is too soon to invite St Matthews or the Mid-America communities who left the ECC back to the Synod. We're not in full communion. The ECC needs an opportunity to address the pain of these separations at Synod and figure out how to move forward. Rosean found the zoom meeting comforting and enlightening to hear various regional viewpoints.
- Other topics: Kae attended Dr Fr Teri's graduation: was fun and enjoyed seeing Teri's family and support. St Paul requested a Bishop's visit scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup>. Ecumenical prayer service that Kae led was sparsely attended. The Mid-America Process Review report was finished and sent to the Council of Bishops. Report reviewed all communications that led to the split and considered all sides' values and interpretations.

## 6. Vicar's report

Islamophobia webinar date is now June 11, 6:30. **Michael will distribute zoom link when Adrian posts it. Rosa is still in charge of ECC website – contact her with corrections.** There are liability issues with providing O2 as a service at Synod so delegates should discuss with their physicians and make their own arrangements. Michael provided Clergy Stress Survey contacts to Alice who is in process of following up with researchers about needed clarifications. We discussed whether the Council of Bishops statement on St Matthews should be posted to our regional website - more an ECC-wide issue than a regional issue? Dennis suggested traffic on each website might be a consideration in deciding where to post. Kae recommended we focus on what we know as facts of this separation and on blessing our respective paths. Jane thanked Michael for the analytics of the regional website and did not see a benefit of continuing to collect and post those.

## 7. Leadership Council Report

Chuck reported for Teri that the registration process planning is close to finished. Tom shared progress in planning AV support and will visit Hyde Chapel at the YMCA with Nancy Newton and her husband on June 19. Michael sent out a pared down list of readings for the Synod Mass.

## 8. Community Updates

Michael: after a vacation of hiking and sampling Irish brews, "my pants are a bit tight".  
LOC: Longmont Pride prep – youth are renewing all the booth signage according to new marketing.

COB: Great confirmation liturgy with 3 youth. Church of the Beloved will participate in regional Pride on June 8.

MOM: Renewal of vows and blessing of marriage for 2 women in our community – will be a “first” for our community.

CHF: Reactivated deacon, Bonnie Fraser-Pino.

STP: UCC will be joining STP for evening mass before Pride Fest.. An upcoming celebration is the UCC building's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Old Business

### 1. Updates on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Chuck asked whether anything more is required of Regional Council? Jane responded the Issue has mainly to do with the Synod, nothing more required of RMR.

### 2. Holy Synod Oct 11-14, 2024 planning and support

#### a. Thoughts on April delegate meeting, planning for June 15 meeting

Kae asked whether we need to meet and in-person or over zoom? Michael had invited Nancy Newton to attend but delegates don't need to meet for Nancy's sake. Dennis: no legislation so nothing to discuss. **Chuck can query Mary Lou & Fr Teri to determine if there is need and whether zoom is OK. Kae suggested we raise the topic at the regional picnic.** Kae also reminded us to begin preparing entries for the Synod's "Parade of Communities". Tom noted past entries lasted 3 – 5 mins per community and could be built from a series of slides or jpgs or could be an actual mp4 video.

#### b. Follow up on Synod scholarships offered by the Region

We've only received 2 scholarship requests from CHF. **It would be easiest to have scholarship recipients register and get reimbursed.** LOC is paying expenses for delegates. Rosean still following up at MoM.

### 3. Follow up on Pentecost (ish) ECC offering

Kae discussed the special collection with ECC finance team members John and Leo. **Funds should be sent directly to ECC** with a note explaining this was a special fund drive and not to expect this annually.

### 4. RMRC picnic Planning Jane: Christy and Bonnie will do the prayer service.

Thanks to Dennis and Alice for organizing the site and assembling the bulletin. Cara will provide some rosary making kits but is low on inventory. Kae asked what the backup plan is in case of inclement weather. **Dennis lives nearby and will send an email or text if last-minute cancellation is required.**

### 5. Inperson RMRC meeting on July 6 at COB

**We're still meeting at COB at 10:00 am. STP is facilitating.** Alice won't be with us. **Note takers need to remember to include upcoming meetings summary in the monthly notes.**

6. **Accountability Calendar** – Nothing shown for June

7. **Marketing Discussion** Follow-up on Liz's communications with Aaron Bailly  
Liz said the hardest part has been getting ahold of Aaron. Had a fine conversation. His strategy when working with one church (identify who they are and how to communicate that message to the community) may not work for a region. Liz thought there might be merit in coming up with a more common message for our faith community websites. Aaron wondered how people visiting the regional website might be drawn to one member church. He is going to think about a regional strategy. Dennis commented our region is united and there is benefit to a united message on the regional website and a clearer articulation of who we are as an ECC local church. Jane expressed one value of a region is continuity if one faith community folds. We have a core of unity, a common narrative but different members. Liz wants a good "elevator speech". **Liz will continue working with Aaron on this and report back next month.**

**New Business**

Denver Pridefest booth: **Michael needs help staffing it especially on Sat late afternoon.**

**Closing Prayer** – Chuck closed meeting with a prayer at 7:33.

**Lead Rotation of Remaining 2024 RMRC Meetings:**

June 6-LOC; July 6 STP leads in-person at COB; Aug 1-MoM, Sept 5-COB; Oct 5-CHF leads in person at LoC; Nov 7-LOC; Dec 5-STP

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Moos, Mary of Magdala, for Light of Christ

## **Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in May 2024**

+Kae

**Personal:** Our grandson is getting married in mid-July, so we'll be on vacation from July 10 or 11 until July 18.

### **Listening and Relationship building**

#### **Administration**

Follow up pending:

- Clergy Ethics/Safety Training:
- Continuing Education

#### **Advocacy/Presence/Consultation**

Led an Ecumenical Prayer Service at Contemplative Outreach on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Clergy support:**

Praying with many...

Clergy meetings and phone calls

Weekly Friday gatherings:

Attended Dr. Teri's graduation from Iliff



## Community support:

**Pride: Denver Pride Apr 22/23.** Supporting Adams County Pride on June 8<sup>th</sup>. COB will have a booth. Thank you, Michael, for the regional information you provided.

## Liturgies/Sacraments

Scheduled tentatively for “**bishop visit**” to StP on July 20<sup>th</sup>

Scheduled to preside at CHF on July 21<sup>st</sup>

**Confirmation** COB on June 1<sup>st</sup>:

## Formation

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike and Christy and Jim. Met with an individual considering a vocation.

## ECC

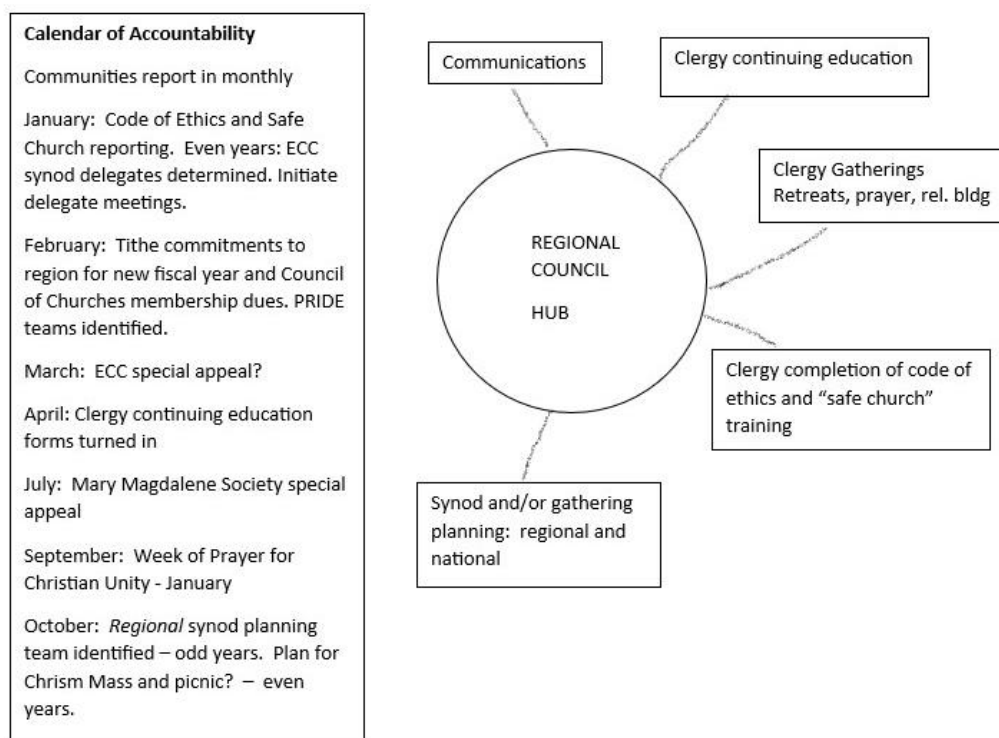
**Regional Delegate meeting:** If we decide to go forward with the June delegate meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30, we need to identify a facilitator, notetaker and the agenda for the meeting. A reminder to send in our delegate names and contact information to the House leadership.

## Council of Bishops

- Meetings on May 6,<sup>th</sup> June 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 10.
- Process review for the MidAmerica division is nearly complete. Not counting document review, we’ve spent about 7 hours together so far. Report will be sent this week.
- Invited a regional zoom meeting to discuss St. Matthew’s on May 28<sup>th</sup>. 31 attended. I was grateful to hear all the perspectives that were shared by participants and to clarify the relationship and future.

**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 06 06 2024

submitted 6/5/2024 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

### KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS in red below

#### UP-COMING:

Islamophobia Webinar scheduled for TUESDAY, JUNE 11TH **(NOTE DATE CHANGE)**

Planning presence on anniversary of Aurora Theater Shooting at 7/20 Foundation's "Day of Resilience"

Wellness and Healing Fair, JULY 20. StP hopes to get interfaith collaboration for offering blessings.

#### REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Concluded Inclusive Catholic's retreat on Liturgy As Art.

Presided at StP 5/11, MoM 5/12, CHF 5/19.

Continued participation in Inclusive Catholic's Coffee Chats and Happy Hours.

5/2 sent StP revisions to ECC webmaster—still Rosa Buffone **(check your community's listing)**

5/8 wrote the Associated Press re: Tim Sullivan's article, "'A step back in time': America's Catholic Church sees an immense shift toward the old ways" The Denver / May 5th, offering to be a resource for our way of being Catholic. No response to date.

5/8 confirmed Pride booth insurance rider through LOC.

5/9 participated with Len and Kathleen in Jim Berry's school project, interviewing chaplains about Self-Care.

5/11 brunch with Pax Christi and celebrated Stan's birthday.

5/15 supplied Jim DeM with funeral rite template.

5/17ff fielded questions about **O2 needs at Synod**; liability issues with supplying it; venue doesn't. Bottled O2 available but mostly ineffective. Encouraging convos with personal PCPs and communications with David Cloyd MD on hospitality team. (One delegate researching possibility of getting a prescription for a concentrator and renting one here.)

5/18-20 sent reading suggestions to Synod preacher for input and raised other questions with planning Team; she kicked the decision back to the Team.

5/22 participated in research project on religious belonging for LGBTQ+ folks (found out about it thru Teri)

5/23 wrote draft of Chaplains' healing service for Synod as convo starter.

5/23 circulated info about Colorado Immigrant Rights Program on 5/28 (unable to attend due to travels)

5/30 forwarded research study on clergy stress and coping during the COVID-19 pandemic from CCC to regional clergy. Alice raised questions to researcher...

6/2 forwarded volunteer singer from region to Synod Music Chair.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy and event updates, incl. CCC posts.

Updated website with events incl. Pride around the region.

#### COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – Board Meeting MAY 22, 2024

##### UPDATES

June 9 last MCC North; North CO Pride indoors.

PCUSA in Salt Lake City equality and Middle East resolutions, peace/unity/open to the new.

UMC communion with ECUSA and ELCA; UMC West Coast Bishop moving to this jurisdiction.

ADVOCACY UPDATE—Sinai Bebo is updating Voices of Justice review; final report June 2nd. Racial Equity bill passed; Women's Veterans Day new next year! Wage Theft veto disappointing.

ISLAMOPHOBIA PROGRAM UPDATE—Tuesday, June 11th rep from Islamic Center of CO Springs.

MIGRANT ASSISTANCE—Virtual Meeting with Mayor Johnston coming up

OUTREACH TO OTHER STATEWIDE FAITH ORGANIZATIONS, on-going

- Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
- Together Colorado

BLACK CHURCH PICNIC EVENT in September 7 with History Colorado

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES

- Preached at Central Presbyterian On May 12th
- Keynote: O Taste And See That The Lord Is Good Program at Shorter AME Church
- Preached at Shorter AME Church on May 19th
- Preaching at Community of Grace Church in Arvada on June 23
- Preaching at The Hills Church in Denver on July 21
- Soul Food presentation at Sixth Avenue UCC in Denver on July 28

DISCUSSION ON STUDENT PROTESTS—some campuses focusing on common justice issues, e.g., starving children in Gaza, seem to promote dialog between the diverse camps

SUMMER BREAK until August 28 to address national election and prep for #RedRocksEaster

## WEBSITE ANALYTICS

### Traffic Overview

Track your site's traffic trends and get to know your visitors. [Learn more](#)

📅 Last 30 days (May 6 - Today) compared to previous period (Apr 6 - May 5, 2024)

Site sessions  
90 ↓ 40%

Unique visitors  
72 ↓ 31%

Sessions over time



Site sessions: A session is a visit to your site. It ends after 30 minutes of inactivity.

Bounce rate: The percentage of visitors who left your site after viewing only one page.

### New vs. Returning Visitors

📧 Subscribe

Download ▾

📊 Pie Chart 📄 Table 📄 Table **NEW**

📅 Last 30 days (May 6 - Today)

🔍 Filter

⚙️ Customize

Visitor type	Page views	Site sessions ⓘ	Unique visitors ↕	Bounce rate ⓘ	Avg. session dura... ⓘ
Summary	172	89	71	63%	3m, 60s
New	132	75	62	64%	3m, 14s
Returning	40	14	9	57%	7m, 3s