

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES 07 12 2018

Teri Harroun chaired the meeting and led the group in a Loving Kindness Meditation from the UCLA Semel Institute to open the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Those present were: Kerri Anderson - Mary of Magadala; Teri Harroun - Light of Christ; John Head - Church of the Holy Family; Jim DeMuth - Mary of Magadala; Kae Madden - Church of the Beloved; Don Sutton - St. Paul; Michael Weil - Church of the Holy Family; Jack Wolfe - Light of Christ, who recorded these notes; Greg Yonker - St. Paul; Vicar Michael Nicosia participated by conference telephone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Teri called attention to the agenda, and asked for additions. She added a discussion of replacement for Lara Martinez as volunteer bookkeeper, and there were no other additions.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING NOTES

Teri called attention to the notes of the RMRC June, 2018 meeting and noted that they had previously been approved by those present by e-mail.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Teri called attention to the most recent financial report which was previously distributed. Teri and Jim reported that checks from Light of Christ and Mary of Magdala were in the mail to Lara. Greg asked what the St. Paul commitment to the Region should be, and Kae responded that the other communities had committed from 1-1/2 to 3% of their revenue, plus \$1.00 per member in February to cover Colorado Council of Churches dues. Don stated that St. Paul's fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. Michael N. asked for clarification about the Region funding vicar synod expenses saying that he thought it had been done in the past when the vicar was not a synod delegate from one of the communities. It was noted that there is no line item in the current budget for that. Don said that St. Paul had committed \$1,000 each for two HOP delegates and two HOL delegates for Synod delegates. He noted that the Synod expense and the expenses for +Denise's visit were not part of their recent budget planning. Kae suggested that the Region should not seek a tithe for Region expenses from St. Paul until they are settled and can include it in their budget planning. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the group that this was appropriate. Everyone is busy with Pastor Calls, Regional Bishop discussions and church moves, and since the budget appears to be covered, there is no need for a fundraiser at this time, but it is still a good idea for some point in the future.

SEEKING A NEW BOOKKEEPER

Teri reported that Lara Martinez had finally submitted her resignation as volunteer bookkeeper for the Region, effective August 31. Everyone was asked to look for people in their communities with the interest and skills to assume this responsibility, and some suggestions were offered. It was agreed that if individuals are identified, that their names be circulated so that a decision can be made at the August 2 meeting.

VICAR'S REPORT *(see Appendix A below)*

Michael called attention to his report, which was previously distributed, and specifically noted the

following items in it:

- the Violence Prevention Hotline
- A Board member from the region is being sought for the Colorado Council of Churches
- Being active on social media is necessary if we are to reach the younger generations; “too time-consuming” is not an excuse. See www.Caffeinatedchurch.org as a resource. Facebook is probably the key channel for social media contacts.
- If any community has candidates for the diakonate, their names need to be submitted to +Rafe or Bro. Ray Knapp RIGHT NOW as the Diakonate 101 course is starting this month.

RMRC NEWSLETTER

The deadline for getting articles into the RMRC quarterly newsletter is August 3rd.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR BISHOP VISITS

+Denise’s expenses for her June visit were \$610.42. St. Paul is contributing \$310 as their ceremony of acceptance into the ECC was a primary purpose for her visit. Holy Family is contributing \$200, and Mary of Magadala is contributing \$100, so the expense is covered. All checks should be sent to Lara, as she has already cut the check to reimburse +Denise. Teri noted that we seem to be in a reactionary mode concerning expense for bishop visits, and we don’t have a clear plan for the future. Mike W. made a suggestion of a plan, and following discussion, and upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED, that the community that invites a bishop be responsible for the entire expense, including a stipend for a replacement celebrant at the bishop’s home parish, if applicable, and they should cut the check for the expenses; that if the bishop says a Mass at another community in the Region that such community contribute \$100 to the inviting community; and that if the bishop meets with the clergy and/or others from the Region, that those at the meeting each chip in \$15-20 to the inviting community.

[A question for the future from Jack: what if it is the Region and not a community that invites the Bishop, or if the Bishop comes on their own initiative; how does the above apply?]

REGIONAL BISHOP DETERMINATION PROCESS

Teri asked that all present confirm their understanding of the determination of whether or not to move forward with steps toward calling a Regional Bishop. Following discussion, it was the consensus of those present that if 2/3 of those voting, either by written ballot or by electronic means for absentees, vote in favor of moving forward at 4 of the 5 communities on the weekend of September 8th, then the Region would move forward toward calling a Regional Bishop sometime in 2019; and that if only one community should not get a 2/3 favorable vote, that community would still participate in the process and benefit from the selection of a bishop. Obviously if more than one community votes “no”, the Region will not move forward. Completion of the vote on the weekend of September 8th is important so that the Region’s representatives can go to Synod with knowledge of the outcome. Teri commented that her Council felt the full video of +Francis that Mary of Magadala had was too long, and she wanted to know if there was a video available of his 10 minute talk on regional bishops. Michael N. said he would

check and find out. [Michael reported back after the meeting that +Francis was writing a script for such a video.] Jim commented that the audio on their video was not ideal, and that anyone planning to use it should do a test run with their equipment before committing to it.

ECC - ELCA LEADERSHIP GATHERING

Michael N. reported that the meeting would be at the Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA Offices at 72nd and Samuel (near 72nd and Pecos - map on ELCA website, but ELCA complex should be easily visible) from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Michael N. RMRC Meeting Notes of July 12, 2018 3 suggested that communities not co-located with Lutheran communities should also try to attend, as they should gain a lot of information about how to share with whatever community they are co-located with. Don agreed - ecumenism will apply no matter which tradition you are sharing with. Don is planning on hosting a picnic dinner at his home after the meeting for all attending, and he will forward necessary information. No RSVP required. +Francis is flying in Wednesday morning and will be leaving Sunday after meeting with Holy Family.

REGIONAL FACEBOOK PAGE

Michael N. is following all of the individual community Facebook pages and collecting relevant information for the regional page. Church of the Beloved is lagging because their Facebook coordinator is ill, and they have no backup.

REPORTS BY COMMUNITIES

St. Paul

St. Paul is registered as a site for web broadcast of an upcoming Richard Rohr talk, and Don said he would let everyone know once the topic and date were decided upon. Don asked whether any of the communities were involved with the Social Justice Legislation Education Council. Others did not appear very knowledgeable about this. St. Paul will host a down-ballot statewide candidate debate (i.e. other than Governor) sometime in September, with date TBD. Everyone said "don't let it conflict with Synod!" St. Paul's Interim Lutheran Pastor is leaving September 8th. There are 4 Catholics on the Call Committee.

Holy Family

Cynthia Drew has accepted the offer of their Pastor call committee. She will be ordained an ECC deacon in North Carolina in August, plans to move to Colorado in October, and hopes to be ordained an ECC priest at Holy Family in December. In the interim, Mike W. has agreed to be the "senior clergy leader." Holy Family is now focusing their energies on finding a space, probably sharing with a community from another tradition, for when their current lease runs out at the end of the year.

Mary of Magdala

The community is celebrating the feast of Mary of Magdala in two weeks. Their parish picnic went well, and they passed out live Ladybugs to the attendees. The Mary of Magdala Children's Mass also went well. It was planned and executed by the children for just the children and their parents. The children are not ready yet to put it on for the entire community.

Church of the Beloved

They have started a Thursday morning Mass, and while it is a small gathering, it appears to be a good thing. Kae said she talked to Kate G. from COB after Kate attended the Youth Mission Trip to Long Beach and Kate was impressed by the diversity of communities that they visited. She noted that +Francis celebrated a Mass at +Peter's community. There is no recent word on +Peter's condition.

Light of Christ.

The vacation Bible School is currently underway, in conjunction with Bethlehem Lutheran. A community picnic is scheduled for this Saturday. The teenagers that went on the service trip to the Wind River Indian Reservation (because of schedule conflicts with the ECC service trip) will go on retreat in early August to reflect on their experience, and they will be reporting on it all later.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled for August 2nd, to be hosted by Mary of Magdala.

BLESSINGS

Teri led us in a prayer adapted from Mary of Magdala.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 07 12 2018

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Retreat 6/7/18

*At our meeting I raised the possibility of soliciting member support for the proposed

Violence Prevention Hotline, and was asked to write the following appeal to be considered and, if approved, circulated by the CCC member churches/organizations. Said announcement was posted on the @Coloradoecc page.

National Violence Prevention Hotline

Violence impacts millions of people each year. Yet, a great deal of violence is preventable.

The Violence Prevention Hotline is a proposed resource that would provide free, confidential, expert support for people in distress and feeling compelled toward committing acts of violence in the future. It may also provide a lifeline for victims of violence who have not yet called the police and are seeking counsel regarding their situation.

Often perpetrators of violence find themselves trapped in a cycle of abusive behaviors or hyper-aggressive responses. By adding specifically trained counsellors to the system already in place through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, this proposal would provide resources for would-be perpetrators, offering early, available intervention. The program's developers are presently seeking signators in order to affirm the need for such interventions, in order to justify funding from The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

In line with our public policy statements on healthcare and public safety, the Colorado Council of Churches encourages the members of its covenanting denominations, congregations and affiliating partners to sign the petition in support of this vital resource's development at <https://www.violencepreventionhotline.org/#support>

***Board soliciting new members**, ideally representing each member church/organization, focusing especially on needed skill sets. An ECC member with fundraising/stewardship experience is considering.

- The person must be a member of either a Judicatory, Covenanting Congregation, or a Covenanting Partner;
- The person is expected attend in person or by phone the scheduled Board meetings and Retreats;
- The person is expected to "give or get" \$500 per year, which does not include the ordinary pledge from the Judicatory or Covenanting Congregation;
- The person should be excited by working for Ecumenism and Justice within the Council of Churches.

***Voices of Justice Task Force** -- Great legislative session coverage; [highlights](#). **New members encouraged**, again representing each **CCC affiliate**.

***Ballot Initiatives** --

Ballot Initiative #126 to Cap Payday Loan Rates at 36%, and "Great Schools, Thriving Communities"

*Helped draft CCC [Statement on Reuniting Families at the U.S. Border](#)

*Attended CCC sponsored event at Temple Emmanuel, panel presentation on the **Dead Sea Scrolls** June 21.

*Attended **CCC Communications Network meeting** June 25. Raised concerns voiced by RMR members re Twitter and Instagram being too time consuming. Episcopal Communications Director who runs their www.Caffeinatedchurch.org social media training maintains that we used to think that of church websites. **It needs to be a priority** if we expect to connect with the younger generation.

ADVOCACY

*Supported Jefferson County Youth with prayer during their **Anti-Gun Violence Die-In** at US Senator Gardner's office June 12.

*Led closing prayer-blessing at Denver's **4th Annual Interfaith Pride Service** on June 15 and helped St. Paul staff Episcopal/Lutheran info booth at Denver PrideFest June 17.

*Attended **Families Belong Together Rally** on June 30; also led closing prayer at pre-rally worship at the Labyrinth in front of St. John's Cathedral sponsored by Episcopal Diocese and CCC.

FORMATION/RECEPTION

*Met with ordination candidate Jane Wagner, member of Mary of Magdala in Fort Collins, June 4. (Wonderful to preside there again!) She is pursuing coursework and will be participating in **Diakonate 101 to be repeated in July**.

Forward deacons and other candidates to +Rafe or Bro. Ray Knapp!

*Raises the issue of academic requirements for priest-candidates who have advanced degrees but not an MDiv. For these individuals, the full 2-yr EfM program might be a repetitive burden. +Rafe has directed us to use Iliff for some coursework, and Yale's online program for biblical courses (they're

free! but don't have any exams or papers to gage performance; will talk to +Rafe about how to wrap up at end of studies, maybe with an integrative seminar and/or thesis with a mentor).

*That still leaves the ECC/Catholic/Old Catholic dimensions of sacramental theology, church history, homiletics, et al. The Old Catholic part is being developed for wide circulation; based on the summer Utrecht program it would be a Zoom seminar.

REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS

*Regularly posted to **regional Facebook page** at <https://www.facebook.com/Coloradoecc/> .

*Fielded RMRC questions re **non-budgeted expenses re bishop visits** to be addressed at next meeting. (+Denise hadn't received \$610.42 reimbursement as of 07/3 from Lara per request. Check sent?)

*Helped coordinate **+Francis's July visit**; staying Wed thru Sun with Stenson's; renting a car. Travel expenses covered by the OPB.

*Clarified Jim DeMuth's contact info with the HOP and the OPB (he wasn't getting any of the HOP list emails).

BISHOPS/VICARS CALL June 20, 2018

Missed meeting due to conflict; many unable to call in, notes may not have been taken. I relayed the following RMR updates via email to the group:

*New regional Facebook page @Coloradoecc

*Celebrated the life, death and homecoming of Jim Burnik, Regional Council member, deacon candidate, and hospitality pillar of Church of the Beloved.

*Reception of St. Paul Catholic Community into the ECC and the Incardination of Catholic pastor Fr. Don Sutton. Honored participants included Aux. Bp. Denise, ELCA Bp. Jim Gonia, and the entire St. Paul Lutheran Community. Their reps have since attended their first Regional Council meeting.

*Colorado Council of Churches renegotiated contract with Exec.Dir. with salary based on percentage of revenues raised, relieving deficit and helping to ensure organization's continuance. Currently working on joint statement re family separations at the border.