

Board of Directors
Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion
Meeting Minutes, January 5, 2023, 6PM, via ZOOM

Host: Church of the Holy Family; Facilitator: Anne Grant; Scribe: Christine Casillas

Present:

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)
Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)
Jack Wolfe, Chuck Howard (LOC) (dialed in)
Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos (MoM)
Alice Bradley, Christy Chady (COB)
Christine Casillas, Anne Grant (CHF)
Don Sutton (StP)

Meeting was started at 6:09

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 any guests
2. Agenda approvals/additions - approved
3. Review and approval of December minutes - approved
4. Financial Report -

Need to pay Michael for web services, expenses have already been approved, he just need to submit receipts

Comments – Jack: what are the tithes going to be this coming year? Any losses? Do we need to increase it? The report doesn’t show it. Reception for Pablo and regional synod are two upcoming major expenses.

Recurring topic among members: Increase members to keep up with expenses at LOC – how are others addressing that need?

5. Bishop Notes and Vicar Report

Bishop Notes (Appendix A): The Interjurisdictional Letter – brought up a lot of conversations during the Call, but there does need to be some sort of healing. What does that look like? Not just at the national level, but also at the regional level.

(Started recording at 6:20)

Not anticipating much expenses for the reception. Requesting a posed photo of +Pablo: someone is going to have to get him dressed!

Comment – talking about what is going on in California? Peter and Mirella got Covid – so Pablo’s visit has been rescheduled for Last weekend in January. (Petition for St. Matthew to become their own diocese)

Comment - Mid America has a year to elect a new bishop. Sts. Claire and Francis has pastor in mind, but the pastor is not Catholic. More discussion on the difference between pastor and sacramental minister.

Bishop Francis is going to rest and recover a lot.

Fr. Michael – Who is the POC for mid-America? Dwayne Messenger is listed.

Kae: working on standard protocol for issues requiring immediate response.

Vicar Report (Appendix B): Advanced Care meeting only has 4 RSVP’s, even if coming on Zoom. 12:30 pm on January 10

The new website – need POC from each community for a permission to access the new website so each community can update as needed.

<https://www.rockymountaineccumenicalcatholics.org>

6. Leadership Council Report

7. Personal Connections – What are you most looking forward to in the New Year?

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Regional Synod Planning for April 23, 2023

- a. Regional Synod Planning Team report and date
- b. including a chrism Mass?

How important is that to do during the synod or something separate? Chuck – it doesn’t take that much time; have it part of the synod. Don – an opportunity to

- educate people; Kae moved to have Don write that up. Dispose old oil on consecrated ground, but can have a blessing
- c. Brainstorming on who to invite
Kae to research what other regions have done.
 - d. Invite Fr. Len Schreiner to be a speaker? See Tom's note below.
MoM is going to talk about his book during a breakout session during synod. Maybe an "intro to", he might do a book study; maybe a longer retreat.
 - e. Christine resigned from the education committee on the synod; Chuck was concerned he hadn't seen communication about the synod. The planning meeting is set for the 18th of January at 6:30. The question was asked who should be invited to attend the meeting: everyone or just core? It was decided that everyone who is interested should attend. Simple is good with a variety to participate in whole or in part.
 - f. The question was asked: If we build it (the synod), will they come? Who do we think will come? The partial answer was to figure out those questions and then program for that.
Other answers:
Anne – leadership, regular attendees,
Chuck - more than 10
Mother Rosean – have we determined the location? More than 10
Tom – about 20 or so.
Alice - COB will have about 8
Fr. Michael – St. Paul's about 10

2. Pablo's reception – Jan 21st Saturday morning use some of the week of prayer prayers during the reception – Kae is going to write up the prayer and blessings. Michael – RSVP through the website

3. Website update – see Appendix C

Up and running; do we want to spend money to maintain the coloradoecc.org domain?
We still have another year at \$15/year.
We can stop publicizing it and simply redirect it to new site.
Rockymountaineccumenicalcatholics.org more inclusive beyond Colorado
Motion to keep it for two years; carried
Michael will research for us to buy it or pay Bill for it.
Still need PayPal account for the region.
Need POC from each community for permission to access the new website so each community can update as needed. <https://www.rockymountaineccumenicalcatholics.org>

4. Code of Ethics, is further sharing discussion needed?

Kae – wanting to have a policy in place for working with youth and vulnerable adults.
Kae to work with CoHF; getting back in 3 months. Rosean to share what they have and on the forum on the website

New Business:

1. **ECC Synod evaluation survey** – invitation to be on the planning team;
Jack - leadership council is taking names for volunteering for 2024 synod;
2. **Community Updates** –
COB – has a new sound and projection system; rolling it out for Epiphany.
LOC – Administrator Tim’s wife passed, and his mother had a stroke so things might be a little slow; new Parish council has just been established, tracking a declining population, but it might be skewed by Covid. Not sure about a zoom session. Teri will have some ideas; Don – but take it regionally both on the regional website but promote other church’s events. Michael – needs to be a topic in a breakout session of the synod.
CoHF –held a Christmas party/potluck dinner in early December, which was well-attended; Advent and Christmas celebrations went very well; continue to invite priests from around the RMR ECC to preside at Sunday Mass; **Rosary Group meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm via Zoom and would like to extend an invitation to members of other RMR communities to join the group.**
MoM – changed their time from 5pm to 12:30; working on a marketing strategy; 301 Faith Partners – other faith partners are helping with the immigrants. Don – outreach and advertising breakout session for the local synod; can pool our collective dollars? Kae can do an outreach on NPR.
Fr. Michael – Fr. Stan is heading out to India.
Christy Chady – resigning from Regional Board of Directors because of school.

Jack and Chuck would like agenda ideas for next meeting.

Next Meeting Host Communities: Feb 2- LOC; Mar 2-STP; April meeting, Mar 30-MoM; Sat. May 6 in-person meeting-COB. Upcoming In person meetings1st Saturday of May and October from 10a-noon (location TBD)

Closing Prayer: Christine

Brother Jesus,

We gathered here tonight in your name to do the work you have commissioned us to do. We said yes tonight to our Advocate, our Light, our Warm Sun to be guided and to be held precious in this space. May we go forth from this meeting tonight to continue to be channels of peace and justice, of harmony and strength, and of love and response.

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in December 2022

by Bishop Kae Madden

Personal: Recovering from my bout with Covid, maybe some long Covid manifestations : (Individually and collectively, not much progress on any of the bishop's to do list over the holidays.

Listening and Relationship building

Participate as available in weekly regional clergy prayer/sharing on Friday mornings
Meeting with and phone conversations with clergy members as requested.

Advocacy/Presence

I am interested in developing a standard protocol for issues requiring "immediate" response
Thanks to Michael for nudging me about a prayer for Benedict's death. Writing a prayer helps me contain my response in a sacred space. If additional statements are needed, we'll brainstorm.

Planning to attend Advance Care Planning with the CCC on Jan 10th at MoM.

Attended Governor Polis' meeting to invite faith communities into service of migrants.

Planning to attend the training by CHAN for refugee asylum and resettlement on Jan 11.

Presence: With recent Roman Catholic trauma-inducing events for our members, shall we plan a healing service to invite the expression of experience/stories, invoke mercy for all concerned, explore individual and corporate forgiveness ritual, bless and be blessed?

Liturgies/Sacraments

Presiding at MoM on Sun, Jan. 29th

Planning for +Pablo's reception and blessing ritual on Jan 21st. David and or Tom: if you are available, perhaps this would be an opportunity for a few "posed" formal photos of +Pablo for usage throughout the ECC? We did get the A/V improved in the sanctuary of COB!

Formation

Continuing discernment with candidates

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.

Local 2023 Synod Planning: Next meeting On Jan 18th. A complication with the timing of our synod is that the bishops will be in Colorado May 15-19, so asking one to come for a one-day synod may be impractical. I will explore if "zoom presence" meets the intention of the protocol.

ECC

Council of Bishops

- **Monthly meeting on Dec 12th**
 - Mid-America working on their process for election of a bishop.

- It is part of the bishops' Colorado Covenant that another bishop be invited and present at a local synod for transparency/accountability. We'll need to address this requirement.
- +Pablo is scheduled to visit St. Matthew's at the end of January

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 01 05 2023

submitted 1/4/2023 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING in faith communities: in-person listening circle at MoM 1/10 at 12:30p, info with RSVP link circulated to communities.

WEBSITE: refer to Appendix C

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

12/6 participated in Independent Catholic Hive Mind on response to anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric and Denver Archdiocesan guidelines to schools on 1 month anniversary of the Club Q shooting; contributed RMR responses published on StP website.

12/14ff participated in RMR discussions about signing.

12/19 circulated statement on StP sites with intro: "Responding to anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric, we can do more together than we can on our own. Some of our members joined our other Independent Catholic siblings to release this interjurisdictional statement. It isn't perfect, but something must be said to address this dire need."

Continued work with advisory board for Advance Care Planning education initiative.

12/12 submitted evaluation of ECC Benedictine incardination candidate.

12/13 participated in Independent Catholic "Pub Pod" on publishing— may be way to parlay HOP liturgy resources into a published collection of prayers and prefaces.

12/19 participated in Independent Catholic "V Pod" on virtual gatherings; survey results at

https://mcusercontent.com/de8db456dae999ea07ff3d9d1/files/c1a26188-def6-440d-981b-f5fea720913c/V_Pod_survey_results.pdf ;

also "See Pod" on in-person interjurisdictional gatherings; suggested piggybacking on jurisdictional synods/conferences with interjurisdictional breakout sessions, rather than stand-alone gatherings (will raise idea with ECC Synod2024 planning team).

12/26 Participated in ECC Chaplains Zoom.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Presided at MoM 12/18 and Dignity 12/18.
Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting 12/14/2022

VOICES FOR JUSTICE: most volunteers ever! Next step: have volunteers engage more with churches and legislators, and testify on bills.

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING: January events - ECC, Hebrew Education Alliance, New Hope Baptist

FUNDRAISING: invited to apply for grant by CO Health Foundation and Rose Community Foundation to develop "land grants" where churches provide space for affordable housing and address food security.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP: still hoping to get reps from ELCA, ECUSA, American Baptists, et al. Vice Chair and Secretary positions still open.

2023 PROGRAM PLANNING: 3rd and 4th quarters include Faith Leader trips to The Legacy Museum in Montgomery AL; interracial church dialogues; Adrian attending Parliament of World Religions in Chicago IL Aug 14-18

Appendix C—Regional Website Update 01 05 2023

<https://www.rockymountainecc.org> is live; publicized new domain after input and revisions from Board; Bill linked old domain www.coloradoecc.org to new site; old domain www.rmr-ecc.com relinquished; completed Search Engine Optimization (SEO) for Google searches.

TIME: approx. 42 hrs (at least what I kept track of since last month)

COSTS: went with calendar provided by Wix upgrade, so no added cost; researching cost of maintaining www.coloradoecc.org domain (was costing Bill \$15.mon)

TO DO: **Greg** to set up regional PayPal account for online giving.

Michael to upload photo gallery.

Each community to identify point person for permissions to add to regional calendar.

Whole region (but especially Council members, ad hoc committees members and ECC synod delegates) to register on site as members so that we can engage on FORM page; can create GROUPS for select discussions.

Council, do we want/need Instagram, Twitter, TikTok accounts for the Region? Who would manage them? Could just use our community or private accounts to post common messages. Who would generate them? **"Social Media accounts" discussion started on website FORUM. (Comments also welcome in "Forum rules" discussion.)**