

# Rocky Mountain Regional Council Board of Directors Meeting

## Minutes—December 7, 2023, 6PM, via ZOOM

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

Present:

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

### KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS in red

#### 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 - There were none.
2. Agenda - approved

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Planning for October 11-14, 2024 Holy Synod at YMCA of the Rockies. Leadership Council was absorbed with Mid-America Region issues at its last meeting, and did not get around to discussing Synod planning.
2. January 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. After discussion it was consensus COB would host a prayer service on ZOOM at 6:30 on Friday January 19th. Prayers will be assigned to each Community participating, **and the communities within which we are nested should all be invited to participate.**
3. ECC101 presentation feedback. The intended primary focus was to recruit and educate Synod delegates. The consensus was that the presentation was successful.

Discussion then shifted to the recording of the presentation, with thanks to Tom for his editing. Consensus was that the recording was an improvement over the live presentation. While the dead spaces were removed, many felt that it was still too long. It was felt that a “Table of Contents” with time

offsets showing when each topic began would be a further improvement. The recording should be placed on the RMRC website as a regional resource.

There was a suggestion that the presentation should be divided into perhaps three separate sessions or chapters, to be used by a live presenter to tell the ECC story to potential new members. The recording is mostly slides, and having a live presenter with the slides as backup would be a more powerful message.

Don offered to come up with an outline of what this might look like. **Don asked that the original presenters e-mail the notes used in their presentations to the Council, if not already in the background notes, to provide more backup to future presenters.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Community Updates

**LOC** - Their marketing consultant just presented his Phase 1 report, so the Parish Council has a lot of work in the next months leading up to their All Parish Meeting.

**St. Paul** - Chris Gilmore, their nested UCC Pastor will present at Saturday Mass on the perspective from the UCC as to how the communities can come together as a Christian Community while retaining St. Paul's Catholic character.

**MOM** - Focus for Advent is on God's gift of hope.

**HF** - Tuesday Parish e-blasts include a teaser on the Gospel that is part of the upcoming weekend Mass. Jane is working on increasing the size of the leadership team, and is having one-on-one conversations with all active community members.

**COB** - They participated in a walk to US Representative Caraveo's offices to encourage her to sign on to the proposed immigration bill.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS (continued)**

3. November Minutes These were approved.

4. Financial Report. This was not presented, as Greg was ill. **To be presented and approved at the January meeting.**

5. Calendar of Accountability January will include an update on clergy candidates.

6. Bishops Report Reviewed and discussed. See Appendix A below.

7. Vicar's Report Reviewed and discussed.

8. Leadership Council Report. Teri communicated to the Council that she is becoming concerned about lack of Synod planning, and thinks that the Council got her message. Therese Gabriel, the HOL Chair, wants a representative from the Rocky Mountain Region on the HOL Steering Committee. **We should find her one.**

CLOSING PRAYER Chuck led the prayer.

### BLESSING

Kae read her letter to the CCC regarding events in the Middle East and elsewhere, praying that "Us" is where we are at, and that we all need to keep listening, and to hold and keep relationships.

The meeting adjourned shortly before 8:00 p.m.

## **Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in November 2023**

by Bishop Kae Madden

**Personal:** Lost lots of time to not feeling well and isolating due to COVID exposure.

### **Listening and Relationship building**

#### **Administration**

Spent considerable time on the ECC 101 presentation along with many of you. Way to go, team.

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

**Colorado Council of Churches:** Nov. 28. Met with Adrian and a few others for a review of 2023 and looking forward to 2024.

#### **Clergy support:**

Praying with many... Clergy meetings and phone calls; Weekly Friday gatherings

#### **Community support:**

Met with LoC's parish council on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> on zoom

#### **Liturgies/Sacraments**

#### **Formation**

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike and Christy. Conversations continue with another presbyterate candidate.

#### **ECC**

##### **Council of Bishops**

- Meetings on Nov 15 and Nov 27.
- *Bishop Armando was married on Dec 3 – Bishop Frank presided and Pablo was present, too*

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

### Calendar of Accountability

Communities report in monthly

January: Code of Ethics and Safe Church reporting. Even years: ECC synod delegates determined. Initiate delegate meetings.

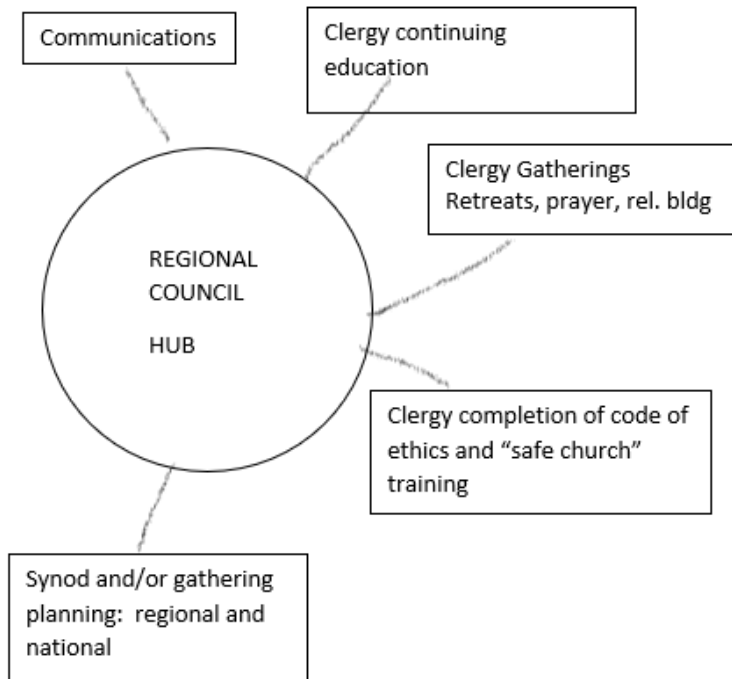
February: Tithe commitments to region for new fiscal year and Council of Churches membership dues. PRIDE teams identified.

March: ECC special appeal?

April: Clergy continuing education forms turned in

July: Mary Magdalene Society special appeal

October: *Regional* synod planning team identified – odd years. Plan for Christ Mass and picnic? – even years.



## Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 12 07 2023

submitted 12/5/2023 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

### REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

**Need new community photos for Website.**

11/5 attended CFCU annual membership meeting

11/6 attended MoM liturgy meeting; networked across Communion, confirming wide variety of Creeds/Profession of Faith/none in use

11/10 circulated Inclusive Catholics directory request to local ECC clergy

11/13 attended Bob Franch's services at LOC

11/18 baptized Caleb Michael, cousin of a former Pax Christi member

11/21-27 vacation

11/29 participated in ECC 101

11/30 Participated in CAFÉ-ACP planning to fine-tune grant proposal

11/30 reconnected with family formerly of Pax Christi and StP who moved to Colorado Springs

12/6 will attend CFCU Candlelight Vigil marking 11th anniversary of Sandy Hook

Presided at Mom 11/19 and Dignity 12/3.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts.

## COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – Board Meeting November 29, 2023

### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- Social media promoted COLORADO GIVES DAY ON 12/5 with Easter Sunrise hook
- Adrian submitted grant to Lily Foundation FAITH & MUSEUM
  - curating Black Faith in CO exhibits tailored to locale and develop regional advisory councils; Boulder exhibit until Aug2025
  - find out if grant received in January (\$100K for planning; opportunity to apply for \$2.5M for execution)
  - possibility of getting funding from America 250 / CO 150 Commission for travelling exhibit
- letter of inquiry to Anschutz Foundation to see if interest in funding our URBAN-RURAL INITIATIVE (Summer/Fall weekends would include Friday night arrival to respective communities; Saturday service project directed by host church and local partners; Sunday worship)
- Still trying to get CO HEALTH FOUNDATION funding for Congregational Land Survey (Adrian attended conference call with 1st Congr. Church Longmont and other UCC churches about land use; seeds planted)

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES

- Food and Faith event at Franklin College, Indiana (disappointed in recipe execution)
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at First Plymouth UCC
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Temple Emanuel (pretty neutral on Israeli/Palestinian tensions, though slightly focused on Israeli pre noted)

2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL REVIEWED, to be approved at Dec meeting

2024 PROGRAM PLAN—discussion and amendments [in blue](#); Adrian to revise after hearing from Iliff)

Program activities listed below are ranked according to priority during that particular quarter.

#### First Quarter

- Voices for Justice
  - Easter Sunrise Service at Red Rocks preparation, fundraising, and hosting [Search for volunteers to coordinate speaker search\\* and music unfruitful](#)  
[\\*Weatherproof headliners, hopefully a woman \(possibly Bishop Karen UMC\)](#)
  - Lenten—pastor resiliency program
  - *This space* cohort building and management
  - Lily Grant planning
- [Discussion revealed priority of Antisemitism/Islamophobia and Christian Nationalism programs; may be able to focus on said issues at Sunrise as kickoff of programs without being too political \(though everything about Easter is political\); possibly Iliff student projects that could be implemented sooner](#)

#### Second Quarter

- Voices for Justice
- Antisemitism program [\(move earlier\)](#)
- Islamophobia program [\(move earlier\)](#)

- Pentecost video
- *Thisspace* cohort management
- Lily Grant planning

#### **Third Quarter**

- Rural outreach
- *Thisspace* cohort management
- Public Policy Statement Redraft
- Christian Nationalism program ([move earlier](#))

#### **Fourth Quarter**

- Rural outreach
- Ballot initiative advocacy
- Election education and get out the vote—[add link on website to Secretary of State](#)
- Advance care planning cohort work
- *Thisspace* cohort management
- Public Policy Statement Redraft

#### **2024 OFFICERS**

- Stan nominated Michael to continue minutes, though Adrian “may have other plans for Fr. Michael”
- Slate of nominees should be approved at Dec meeting

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Adrian was encouraged to apply for CO Black Hall of Fame
- Introductions suggested to Rebecca Howard as possible UCC board member

**NEXT MEETING—DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 8 AM**