

## Rocky Mountain Regional Council Notes, 6-6-2019

### Attendees:

Dennis Giblin, Greg Yonker, Michael Nicosia, Don Sutton, Mike Weil, Teri Harroun, Kae Madden, Cynthia Drew, Jack Wolfe, Jim DeMuth, Jane Reina

**Absent:** John Head

**Guest:** Rosemary Nicosia, mother of Michael Nicosia

**Facilitator:** Jim DeMuth (MoM)

**Scribe:** Jane Reina (MoM)

**Opening Prayer:** Call and Response prayer. Jim DeMuth, initiator

**Introduction:** Jim reviews the night's agenda

### Discussions:

1. Discussion about the resignation of John Head.
2. Council discussed the individual communities caution around the possibility toward a hierarchical structure.
3. Holy Family has a lay representative seat open on the Council.
4. Mary of Magdala will have a seat open beginning with the September meeting due to Jim's retirement. Jim requested a non-voting seat at the Council meetings post-retirement. Council approved.
5. Kae's last edits on the May RMRC meeting were the last and approved by the Council.
6. St. Paul's reimbursement for ECC pins will require payment from their 2018 budget due to their fiscal year beginning at a different time than the RMRC and other communities' budget. Don reports that the check is in the mail.
7. Greg will offer remaining (returned) pins to all other national and international ECC communities
8. July agenda will include update on Zoom, and any response from John Head.

### Vicar's Report: *(see Appendix A below)*

1. Greg recommended and Council agreed to compensate the website operator a fee, as in the past.
2. Michael Nicosia read highlights of his Vicar notes. (See Appendix A). Council approved.
3. Vicar announced that a member of the Community of Discernment in Boulder was in the priest discernment process. She will begin a relationship with one of the ECC communities.
4. Suicide Desperation presentation will be at Holy Family on June 19<sup>th</sup>.
5. Colorado Council of Churches still needs money to cover the cost of the Easter Sunrise Service because insufficient funds were collected to cover the deposit for next year.
6. Bishops/Vicar Call: ECC Constitution was affirmed from the House of Laity with 13 amendments. Compromise needed between the HOP and HOL and it is not yet approved and the process itself

is in question. We have actually 20-25 communities in good standing and the rest are “mission” communities.

7. Next regional newsletter deadline is August 1.

### **Fr. Michael Nicosia, Vicar**

RMRC welcomes the final decision of the Vicar’s previously announced plans to relocate to Nebraska – the Vicar is remaining in Colorado. His housing allowance remains. The Council welcomes him back and the Vicar states that “it is good to be here.” Much joy expressed.

### **Bishop Call Committee Report**

Meeting every two weeks: three members writing Bishop job descriptions which were due on May 14. Committee will then gather to review and synthesizing still. John Head resigned from this committee. Still working on three of four reference pieces.

Michael Nicosia: Team is asking about the role of RMRC? Clarify whether RMRC is an approval committee, along with OPB, prior to a formal laity vote. Voting is critical and included a question about how a person with a vested interest is defined.

Jack Wolfe responds: RMRC comments but does not vote or decide.

Mother Kaye responds: Each community should decide who can vote.

Fr.Teri responds: At some point the churches will review the final draft before the laity vote.

Michael Nicosia adds: Notes will be posted on the website so members can attend any meeting to tackle concerns along the way and not wait until the last minute to raise issues.

Dennis asked: At what location on the website?

Michael Nicosia responds: That portion of the website is “not there yet.”

Clergy received an email from Michael Nicosia about the questions for vetting candidate so that the local presbyter may endorse the proposed candidate (suggestion per guidelines being developed nationally).

Discussion: Does the local clergy want this voice? Consideration will be given to clarifying that the candidate will take time away from their community, and the community needs to affirm that the time spent is ok.

### **POLITY TEAM REPORT**

Polity team has met 4 times; notes not yet approved, however synopsis from Michael Nicosia.: We are blessed to have Chuck Howard who will not be able to stay too long but he will be staying with the team. The working plan’s goal is to produce organizational documents.

The working plan is an outline of the constitution that Jack Wolf wrote. The process is described by Michael Nicosia.

Topics beginning considered:

Place-holder name of the local church in the documents (Region/Synod/Diocese/et al) – final determination to be made after a Bishop is called.

The Polity Team is clarifying “mission status” of loosely unaffiliated communities and finding a way to establish a connection.

### **General Comments for Both Teams**

The committees need more participation, and to be open, but no one knows when or where they are. Agreed to write a bulletin announcement with time and place.

Website: Bill wants to make it more dynamic and include a dedicated page for the Calling the Bishop documents. Michael Nicosia will have a discussion with Bill.

### **Denver PrideFest Update**

Schedule provided to each community. Additional communities are not expected to be involved.

### **Community Considerations**

Jim DeMuth raised the issues of guest presiders for MoM when he retires beginning after Aug. 31. He put a call on the table for additional guest presiders. Any questions please let Jim know.

Don offered his church for a dinner and a farewell for Jim in advance of the dinner. Vicar and Treasury reports and the other reports will be emailed. No agenda is necessary. Recommended that we invite John Head.

Retirement celebration for Jim at MoM is Aug. 18 after Mass and RMRC wants to be invited.

Naming our needs for the Bishop to come: 1. Confirmations and a Diaconate candidate at COB with confirmations set for November; 2. Confirmation candidate at St. Paul's.

Holy Family is offering a Suicide education program, an outdoor mass, and a sowing seeds of climate hope.

Light of Christ is celebrating their anniversary, conducting a bike blessing at shops (taking the church outside!), posting a Facebook live reading program for children, a youth summer reading group, two activities in Pride, Ecumenical Pride of the Soul. Rev. Paula Williams with a Ted Talk -- she is a trans woman. Additionally, a parade and booth; noticing Peace program. Michael N lauded LoC for online presence.

St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community had an infant baptism (family formerly members of Pax Christi). St. Paul affirmed their budget for Rocky Mountain Regional Council ECC tithe payments.

A jazz vespers was given on Pentecost at 7pm by Pastor Barbara. Father Don's 37 years of priesthood was recognized by Father Michael Nicosia.

Church of the Beloved: Held community meeting to get the ministerial teams talking to each other. Candidates for confirmation are coming along. They had a baptism.

MoM: Ordained priest discernment for Jane Reina is going well. Election of leadership council officers; ecumenical service with Trinity Lutheran and St. Paul's Episcopal will be held on June 20; St. Paul's plans on establishing an ecumenical center including another chapel. David Cloyd went to immersion in El Paso to work with immigrants. Outdoor Mass with tree for members to sign a leaf with their names and added to the tree.

Don added: Pope Francis said 'do not wait for theologians --, it's about the journey not the destinations.'

Next meeting is July 18 at Don Sutton's house, followed with a return to our regular schedule beginning on Aug. 1, 2019. COB hosts.

Sept. 5, CHF

Oct. 3 LOC

## **Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 06 06 2019**

### **FORMATION/RECEPTION**

3 regional priesthood candidates (2 at MoM, 1 at COB) progressing in their discernment.

On 6/4 vicar met with new candidate from Boulder Community in Discernment to clarify process and time requirements and begin relationship-building.

### **REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS**

Participated in **RMRC meeting** 5/2.

Gave presentation on ECC understanding of Eucharistic lives at **StP** 5/5.

Presided at **Dignity/Denver** on 5/5 and 6/2; at **COB** 5/18; at **MoM** 5/19, and provided entertainment for social sponsored by Men's' Group; at **StP** 6/1 and Baptized child of former PC members / now members of StP.

Attended local **Rabbi/Minister gathering** on 5/8 with Mthr. Cynthia.

Attended 5/18 **Episcopal Bishop Kim Lucas's consecration** with Aux. Bp. Denise.

Attended 6/5 planning meeting for **Denver's Interfaith Pride Service** to be held at 6:30p on 6/13 at 1st Baptist Church of Denver. At my suggestion, date changed so as not to conflict with Pride Shabbat; also enlisted Jewish and Muslim participation. Will be leading the opening prayer.

Coordinated **ECC Pride Booth**; starting **poll to fill 6/15-16 staffing needs** with assist from church coordinators.

Attended **Bishop Call Committee** meetings on 5/7 and 21, 6/5; participated in Google.docs sharing and input.

Attended first meeting of **Polity Team** 5/25; participated in review of notes & process development via email.

**Suicidal Desperation Awareness** now scheduled for CHF on 6/19.

**All communities encouraged to schedule a presentation for their full membership.**

NEEDED: 1) the presence of any members or associates who have intervention skills training through a program like Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) or its equivalent.

2) white board or flip chart. 3) 10-page handout for each participant.

(Presenters have to have gone through the Soul Shop training; if Fr. Michael is unavailable, there may be presenters available through CFCU.)

Populated regional **Facebook** page @coloradoecc and augmented **Instagram** and **Twitter** presence.

Regional newsletter, **The Journey Shared**. **Next deadline, August 1**

**COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES** Board Meeting May 22, 2019

**Easter Sunrise Service:**

Net of \$1,682 from the 2019 Sunrise Service after expenses, does not give us enough revenue to put \$10,000 in deposit for next year. **Adrian will be reaching out to the Judicatories for a one-time donation for the deposit.** If that is not successful, then other fundraising efforts will be needed.

Fr. Michael suggested special appeal with gift incentives for donors and offered to donate art prints.

As by contract ED Adrian is paid a % of revenues after expenses and there were none brought in by this event, the Board agreed that the balance of \$1,682 be split, 60% as compensation to Adrian and 40% to the savings account for Easter Sunrise service.

**Grants:** Adrian clarified the revenue structure for the Vaccination Grant; Adrian's expenses and fees will be invoiced to the organization holding the grant. Increased monies in the Homelessness Grant this year will probably be divided among a larger number of groups participating.

**Voices for Justice Report:** Summary of the 2019 legislative season to come. Marcia felt good about the work done this year and is beginning to put together the team for next year.

**Faithful Tuesdays:** Great turnout. The Colorado Sun, however, provided good coverage. If the program continues again next year, it will be offered on another day. Also, given the positive feedback, other groups will be joining so that the original groups will not have to do multiple sessions.

**Innovage** senior care program: offering presentations, ideally to multiple congregations at individual events.

**Executive Director Activities:** First Presbyterian Church of Littleton 5/18. While the invitation was to talk about Black chefs, a conversation about CCC business also occurred.

Payne Chapel AME 5/19. Adrian made a presentation about lay leadership in churches.

Church Security Panel in Breckenridge 6/9. Good exposure beyond the Front Range.

**Sanctuary Movement:** At the community level, Adrian is seeing increased interest; considering exploring whether or not to propose that the Board draft a statement to send to the Judicatories re the Sanctuary Movement. We can also tie into the Immigration Task Force with the Denver Presbytery. Noted differences btwn asylum seekers & those who are in sanctuary but here without documentation.

**Ethical Eating Discussion:** Stan Adamson led the conversation; reviewed input of members of the farming/ranching community concerning the proposed resolution and discussed the rural/urban cultural divide. Rather than a draft position statement, the document will continue as an internal

document as we determine our next steps. After further conversations with rural stakeholders, it may evolve into a position statement presentable to the Judicatories.

## **BISHOPS/VICARS CALL 3/15/19**

### **Regional updates**

- EC ~ Regional Retreat scheduled for Oct 18-20, 2019.
- SW ~ Vicar Delores and Theresa celebrated anniversary (25yrs engaged + 5yrs married).  
~ Clarified standing of St. Oscar Romero Community, not an ECC affiliate; pastor very active but membership unknowledgeable re ECC (similar to experience of Mary Magdalene in E. Rochester).  
~ Community in Albuquerque paperwork on hold while pastor rehabs from a stroke.

### **Form and Purpose of Call**

- ~Dimensions missing if only vicar participation include bishop input on conversations re vocations and ordination processes.
- ~Timing of change wrong. After 2020 Synod there will only be 2 vicars on the call, with limited experience and cross conversations.
- ~Looking into Zoom conferencing for increased intimacy.

### **Constitution Revision**

- ~Revised document with amendments approved by HOL by a majority vote; sent to HOP President for HOP ratification or amendment (but to date not circulated among HOP delegates).
- ~ CLARIFICATION: We often taut 40-45 ECC churches + a handful in Europe and a new foundation in India. ACTUALLY there are only 25-30 member churches in good standing; the rest are missions.