

**RMRC Notes**  
**May 2 2019 (Updated June 5, 2019)**

**Facilitator:** Jack Wolfe

**Scribe:** Teri Harroun

**Attendees:** Don Sutton, Jane Reina, Greg Yonker, John Head, Kae Madden, Jack Wolfe, Teri Harroun, Michael Nicosia, Dennis Giblin

**Absent:** Jim de Muth, Mike Weil

**Guest:** Cynthia Drew

**Regular Business:**

1. Opening Prayer, All
2. Regional Prayer, All
3. Notes from April 2019 Approved (**ACTION ITEM**: Michael can attach Vicar notes and give to Bill Hanzel for posting on Colorado ECC website.)
4. Addition to May Agenda: Zoom, under Old Business
5. Financial Report, Updates from Greg. See his distribution via e-mail dated 5/1/2019. Greg plans to send one pin to each ECC community with a letter explaining the fundraiser.
6. Move to Approve RMRC Budget 2019/2020 as sent from Greg on April 8, 2019. All present approved.
7. Vicar Report, sent by Michael on 5/1/2019 (see Appendix A). Michael hopes to be in Omaha sometime in July.

Some discussion on the transformation of the OPB Vicar/Bishop call. There is ongoing discussion related to this matter. Values of independence for ECC diocese as well as a felt need for broader identity with the ECC. Michael will keep us updated.

HOL has passed the Constitution with their 13 amendments. Watch for guidelines and process as it gets passed back now to the HOP.

Women's Ordination Conference is protesting outside the RC basilica on May 12 2019 from 9:30 to 10:30am. Contact Michael if you are interested in participating and want more details.

Bishop Denise is coming in May for the *consecration of the new Episcopal bishop*.

8. Newsletter deadline has passed so if anyone has anything to add they should get it to Michael as soon as possible.

## New Business:

### 1. Vicar Role

Michael reported that Bishop Francis has approved Michael as vicar remotely from Omaha. Bishop Francis will evaluate this change at the end of the summer and how Bishop Francis' and the Region's needs are being met. Michael plans to be back in Colorado quarterly. He is concerned about direct action and ECC presence and encourages all of us to show up for events that the ECC is invited to.

### 2. Leadership Council received our letter Signed by members of the Region on March 20 2019 and has affirmed our Episcopal Vacancy. Michael understands we will be receiving a letter of response from them soon.

### 3. Update on the 2 Teams formed for moving forward.

a. John Head is serving on the Bishop Team. They are working on a Job Description. The team met on 4/23 at the ELCA Synod office and got to know each other, planned their next meeting, and created an aggressive agenda which would post a call in July. This team include Greg Yonker (chair), Michael Nicosia, Alice Brady, Annie Hayes, Kim Hammer, John Head, Frank Pavlak, and Dennis Giblin. Three different job descriptions are being prepared and then will be compared. There is discernment that a qualification that all candidates must have 2 years experience as a pastor, but that qualification was a proposal and at this time is not binding. Mary of Magdala is still looking for a member for this team and Michael has appealed to local clergy to join this team. (ACTION ITEM: Jane Reina will be added to the distribution list for this team by Greg Yonker so MoM is receiving information and staying informed.) Bishop Francis wants to review any job description that is generated. ~~These~~ This team has a goal right now of meeting every other Tuesday.

b. Polity Team has not met yet. Michael has shared Kae and Teri's history documents and gotten them back to the next best step forward. They are currently on task, but have not selected a chair and have not scheduled a meeting. Holy Family members are frustrated. (ACTION ITEM: LOC, StP, MoM, and COB RMRC representatives will follow up with their members to determine if there's a commitment to go forward and possibly look for new members so that this team can get started. Ask all participants to check in with Gayle Craun at HF as she is willing to coordinate gatherings, but not willing to chair this group.) (ACTION ITEM: Jane Reinae should also be added by Michael Nicosia to this group's distribution for now so that MoM stays informed on their progress.) There is no need to panic at this time, as the timeline that Jane and Jack developed shows that they aren't falling behind yet. Also note, that this team is targeting Saturdays for meetings.

### c. What to do with the minutes from these 2 teams?

It was decided after discussion that minutes would be posted on the local Colorado ECC website that is managed by Bill Hanzel. Bill will create a dedicated page for this, but is waiting for documents. For a process of what is posted: first, the team itself should approve its own minutes; then, minutes should be sent to the Regional Council, who will have a rapid turn-around in approval (within one week) focusing in particular on sensitive information not getting posted to our website; after the Regional Council has approved, these minutes will be posted onto the Colorado ECC website.

Meetings themselves are open, and where possible meeting times and places should be posted.

(**ACTION ITEM:** All 5 Colorado ECC communities should advertise and promote where these minutes can be found.) This action satisfies our goal to inform people who want to be fully informed know of these resources. We are posting as much as we have, not summaries.

#### Old Business:

##### 1. Consensus Decision Making

Kae distributed a draft that was discussed and modified. Kae made the changes to that draft and sent a final version to all members on Saturday May 4 2019. To note, Abstaining from a Vote is only allowed in matters of conflict of interest. The goal of this process is to promote conversation and understanding in making the best decisions for our region, and we strive to have definitive buy-in for decisions made. We prefer to pause on decisions rather than rush them in order to achieve consensus. (**ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator is responsible to have a hard copy of the Consensus Decision Making process at hand each meeting so that it can be implemented if necessary.)

##### 2. Update on the Regional Website

Michael talked to Bill Hanzel about a dedicated page on our local Colorado ECC website for information related to the process moving forward as a region to call a local bishop. Bill said that it is done. Thanks, Bill!!!!

##### 3. Invoice for Music used at the Holy Conversation on March 30 2019.

LOC paid for the licensing, and has agreed to pay for half of this license. The total cost was \$129. Motion by Kae to reimburse LOC \$64.50 for half the license fee. Seconded by Dennis. Passed unanimously. Greg wrote a check from our account and gave it to Teri for deposit to LOC.

##### 4. Zoom Account

In order to include Michael in our meetings once he moves to Omaha, it would work well if we could have access to a Zoom account. This product requires a laptop as well as an account on Zoom. Deacon David Dunn has such an account and is willing to share with us. StP also believes they have access to an account. (**ACTION ITEM:** Don and Michael will coordinate so that we can test one of these Zoom accounts at our next meeting June 6 2019. They will bring everything needed for the Zoom account activation of a meeting that night. Don or Michael will know everything for how we initiation the session on June 6.) (**ACTION ITEM:** Each of the 5 communities will bring a laptop with them to the June 6 2019 meeting so we can test Zoom. Michael will also bring a laptop. That's 6 laptops. ) (**ACTION ITEM:** Once Michael moves, the facilitator will be responsible to bring a laptop and to know how to initiate the Zoom session for each meeting.)

### **Community Reports:**

1. Mary of Magdala  
3 new people in leadership; call committee formed for new pastor call; 2 local members are discerning *presbyteral ordination*; Lenten program to benefit Servicorp for immigration; Fr. Michael presiding at Mass on 5/19 and leading a concert after Mass
2. Light of Christ  
focus lately has been on outreach and ecumenical relationships in Longmont
3. Holy Family  
Parish Council visioning process for the year of transition; Psalm gathering was a success
4. Church of the Beloved  
Baptism at Easter Vigil; 3 adults also enrolled for confirmation; process of leadership shifting
5. St. Paul  
Lenten series Soup Supper study on prayer; Wed Holy Week all day prayer day in sanctuary; 7000 postcards; seeking information on Confirmation; celebrating Mass at a brewery on 5/19; socks for outreach was 330 pairs; Michael speaking to ELCA members on history of ECC
6. Fr. Stan  
Has gone back to India for 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Returning to US in July. Upgrading his home to be a Montessori school for kindergarteners.
7. Pax Christi  
Former members gathered for a potluck on Holy Thursday. They have closed their accounts now and were able to donate \$200 to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue UCC, their nesting community.

### **Closing Prayer, All.**

### **Next Meetings:**

June 6 MoM; July 18 StP; August 1 COB; September 5 HF; October 3 LOC

## Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 05 02 2019

### Conversation with Bp. Francis 4/16

~Leadership Council affirmed Episcopal Vacancy in the RMR.

~approved Fr. Michael's staying on as vicar from Omaha; at summer's end, +Francis will evaluate if his needs and those of the region are being met remotely.

### FORMATION/RECEPTION

2 regional priesthood candidates progressing in their discernment.

Dcn. Roseann discerning presbyteral ordination in response to multiple calls from MoM members; in dialogue with +Francis; +Rafe to review academic needs. Starting application file.

### REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Presided at LOC 3/27 and published homily on social media about my relocation and Resurrection hope.

Attended Bishop Call Team organizational meeting. Raised issue of no clergy representation, and said that I would send out an appeal to regional clergy. (No takers as of this report. The lack of their ground-level participation may be mitigated by clergy feedback down the road.)

Sent email to Polity Team to help move things along, clarifying that values and concerns already articulated in preparation for the vote last year. Stressed that concerns about being to hierarchical or "Roman" should inform our work so as to include safeguards.

### Suicidal Desperation Awareness

**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.)

Regional newsletter, *The Journey Shared*. **May 1 DEADLINE PASSED!!**

Populated regional Facebook page @coloradoecc.

UPCOMING:

Vicar will attend Episcopal Bishop-elect Kim Lucas's consecration 5/18;

Aux. Bp. Denise will attend in Presiding Bishop Francis's place.

### ADVOCACY

Attended **Faithful Tuesdays** concluding event 4/30 (*see CCC report below*)

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook posts re: Advocacy on LGBTQIA inclusion, progressive Christianity, Islamophobia, et al. Also shared posts of regional churches and the CCC including re Easter Sunrise Service and Faithful Tuesdays.

### BISHOPS/VICARS CALL April 17, 2019

OPB Calls ~originally info/communication for PB Peter. Now We're a communion of communities/dioceses, no longer one, operating independently while maintaining

communal identity.

~Ideally the Bishop's Episcopal Council meetings are the proper occasion for checking in across the communion. Suggestion made that the OPB Call (a.k.a., Bishops/Vicars Call till now) focus on PB and his/her vicars.

~Desire expressed by vicars to maintain communication, including with other bishops on the calls, so that they can learn from each other.

~Suggestion made that we start a variety of topical calls open to all interested, e.g., chaplains, social workers, et al. Encourage Zoom meetings across broad geographic areas.

~Real sense throughout the US, and Poland in particular, that people value belonging to something broader than just the local church. PB Francis stresses need for both/and.

~next Call agenda: recommendations about form and purpose of OBP Calls.

#### Deacons

~Diakonate 101 is a requirement at least for all candidates to the Permanent Diaconate.

~3rd offering soon after Easter for CA candidates; Bp. Rafe encouraging some former participants to join in. Contact Mike Proffer (?) in CO or Bp. Rafe.

#### **COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES** - Board Meeting April 24, 2019

##### Treasurer's Report/Financial Update :

~about \$10,000 less in donations from the Easter Sunrise Service than expected, as giving was down.

~The Homelessness grant is under review. The disbursement will be later than expected, however, we may also get more than expected.

~We also have some additional monies coming in from Stan's mother's memorial and Bill's church.

##### Easter Sunrise Service:

~We are still receiving donations for the event. While revenue was down a bit, we have expenses to repay. First, the loan was repaid. The expenses for the event are still coming in.

~We had an increase in sponsorships. We had about 12 sponsors, some of whom were from outside Colorado. We discussed follow-up strategies with them.

~We did not have any advertising because previous advertisers had budget concerns.

~The Board had a conversation about fundraising and other similar services.

~May break even \$; ED's salary is % of profits, so there are none to pay him for his work on the event.

Voices for Justice Report: Rev. Marcia Meier (Disciples of Christ) is out of town. We will be putting together an end-of-the year report instead of also having a mid-term report.

Faithful Tuesdays: The program is getting good traction. Getting media to cover the event is still a problem. Getting legislators to attend this year is a problem because they have caucus during lunch on Tuesdays. If we do the program again next year, we will be meeting on another day.

##### CLOSING EVENT 3/30:

~watch at [www.facebook.com/TogetherColorado/videos/371730586775635/](https://www.facebook.com/TogetherColorado/videos/371730586775635/)

~Celebrated passage of Drivers License For All Coloradans; Full-day Kindergarten; Renter's Protection; Cash Bail Reform; Exploring Options to Expand Health Insurance Coverage

~Lament over failure of FAMILY leave act; Repeal of Death Penalty; Right of State Workers to Collectively Bargain; Stronger Protections for Immigrants in our State

~Upcoming: **HB-1210 Local Wage Option; HB-1124 Protecting Immigrants from Federal Overreach**; Rent Stabilization; further protections for undocumented persons

Status of Task Forces: deactivation of the following 4 task forces is being considered. The understanding is that we will continue to do work in these areas, but we'll dissolve the formal structure.

~Criminal Justice has not met for a year. No energy around this justice initiative.

~Ecumenical Relations reduced to Easter Sunrise Service. May not need the work of this group.

~Interfaith Relations does not have a chair. Adrian involved in programs but no Board leadership.

~Respectful Conversations. This program never got any traction. Had opportunity with someone who was willing to do the urban/rural divide and may be able to move this event ahead.

Right to Survive Forum: The program was well received. The project falls under Respectful Conversations, so the form of the conversation would work well as a model.

Marc Mauer: With the death penalty bill being pulled, this event will be postponed to next year.

Housing Survey for Denver Mayoral Candidates: We will be sending out the result of this survey.

Innovage Events: We will be hosting several events for this program for supporting those who are aging and social needs.

Other Business:

~Michael will most likely be moving to Nebraska, but has been asked by his Bishop to continue in his role as Judicatory for the CCC. That news was received with gratitude.

~Many from the CCC attended the Governor's Prayer Breakfast on March 26th.

~Members reported on various events they had attended.