

**Notes of the meeting of the Board of Directors
Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion**

April 7, 2022, 6:00 PM

Host: Church of the Holy Family **Facilitator:** Mike Weil **Notes:** Anne Grant

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!

Present: CHF: Anne and Mike; MoM: Tom and Rosean; LoC: Jack and Rachel; StP: Greg and Don; CoB: Alice and Christy. Office of Bishop: Kae and Michael

Zoom Meeting Host: Jim Harrer

Regular Business:

Opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Welcome any guests

- Scott Jenkins

2. Agenda approval/additions

- Additions: no
- Approval: yes

3. Review and approval of March Notes

- March meeting minutes approved.

4. Personal connections: With Spring, where are you experiencing new growth in your life?

5. Financial Report

- Income: \$504.35 Expenses: \$2,996.00 CCC Income: \$310.00 Denver PrideFest Income: \$400.00

- Reviewed March treasury report
- Holy Family also contributing \$200 to Denver PrideFest
- CCC dues all up to date

6. Vicar of Ecumenical Engagement Report

- Regional interest in joint session on advance directives.
- Michael has stopped taking responsibility for posting news from the communities on the regional FB pages and encourages/expects each community to post their own news.
- Marketing/sharing information probably needs improvement across RMR.
- Denver PrideFest pledges of \$700; will have excess of \$275 – maybe use some for printouts and trinkets for booth and hold rest for next year’s Pride Fest; confirmation of booth will be around mid-April; HF will contribute rosaries to give away. LOC–check to see if we can use LOC insurance again.
- Colorado Unify Challenge – posted and sent to individual communities

7. Bishop Kae’s Report

- Nice gathering of clergy last Saturday led by Fr. Frank. Will plan another one plus one for laity.
- Red Rocks Easter - Kae will be reading the Gospel and giving the blessing. Will send all of the information for Church of the Beloved’s Easter Vigil service next week for inclusion in weekly bulletins.
- Bishop Call with the leadership team. Council of Bishops still working on being proactive and improving communication. New team. How to more effectively record what issues are coming before the council and presiding bishop. Expectations for council currently exceed capabilities. Kae is gaining clarity on how ECC leadership functions and looking at how to be part of the solution. Working on putting by-laws together for the Council of Bishops. Working on how to handle disagreements, rules/procedures for behavior/interaction at meetings and consequences for misbehavior.
- Don: grateful for Bishop Kae’s ability to look at ECC and see opportunities for growth and improvement.
- Michael: Possible discussion for Synod – role of Presiding Bishop and Council of Bishops – everyone is not on the same page and discussion is needed.
- Kae: ECC guidance flows from ECC Constitution; need to find a place of unity.
- Mike: We pledged to help Kae if she needs it; she should feel free to call on RMR BOD members for help when needed.
- Jack: these issues are growing pains – maybe an amendment to the ECC Constitution is needed.
- Kae: how do we gain trust? People should see that we live what we preach. Help people to express what they need and find solutions.

8. Report from ECC Leadership Council

- Synod planning is going slowly; costs should be around \$300/person; theme is Church in Action.
- Teri recommended that communities identify attendees/representatives.
- Presiding Bishop nominating committee is still meeting; additional candidates can be submitted until 3 June. Looking for ideas on how to introduce candidates to ECC communities.
- Numbers in ECC communities are down, so numbers of delegates will also be down; will affect cost per person of Synod. Airline prices will also be going up due to fuel costs.
- Mike will verify the current number of nominations for Presiding Bishop. Nominees must have support from multiple regions for formal “floor” nominations.
- Teri said that some education on Old Catholic theology and ECC origins should happen before Synod. Michael – is there buy-in across the ECC for Old Catholic Theology?

Old or Continuing Business:

1. Update Website

- Michael did not have an update for this month.

2. Denver PrideFest: what should we do with the extra \$275 raised for the booth?

- Discussed under Vicar’s Report

3. Regional Picnic Date

- Agreement that the picnic should be on a weekend.
- Kae: tentative date of 10 July. Will need to put together a planning team. Liturgy plus informal celebration. Don suggested a location at his building – pool plus large patio next to Cheesman Park. Kae mentioned that we may want to have a northern community host this gathering...

4. Update presiding Bishop Nomination – see above LC report

New Business:

1. Special offering for Bishop Peter during Holy Week (Scott Jenkins)

- Bp Peter brought Scott into the ECC many years ago. Bp Peter had a stroke; raised money to try a stem cell procedure, which worked very well. Doctors would like to try another stem cell procedure with Bp. Peter, which will cost \$20,000. With Holy Week coming, Scott would like to ask ECC communities to consider donating/taking up a collection during Holy Week to help Bp. Peter pay for a stem cell procedure. Asking RMRC to consider helping. One donor offered to match up to \$1000.
- Jack: Bp. Peter’s son set up a GoFundMe page for Bp. Peter.
- Mike: Bp. Peter encouraged him to become a deacon.
- Michael: if we donate to the GFM page, let each parish know the amount for tracking purposes.
- Kae: Maybe add parish abbreviations to donations, so it is easier to track.
- GFM link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/bishop-peter-hickmans-stem-cell-therapy>
- Michael: should we include it on the regional FB page?
- Kae: make sure to include information on Bp. Peter being founder of ECC.

2. Legislation for Synod

- Group of ECC deacons working on possible changes to definition of deacon in the by-laws.
- What do we do if we think something is unconstitutional or behavior is not acceptable under constitution/by-laws?

3. Community Updates

- LOC: having joint services with the Lutheran community for Holy Week. Teri will read Easter morning Gospel on FB at sunrise – all are welcome.
- MOM: Well-attended Lenten program. Discussions of scripture, icons, racism. Program scheduled in both morning and evenings, which increased attendance. Full schedule for Holy Week. Easter service at 0930 on Sunday morning.
- COHF: Full schedule for Holy Week with Fr. Len Schreiner and Mike celebrating.

Closing Prayer:

Next meetings: May 5 StP, June 2 MoM, July 7th COB, Aug 3 LoC

Remember, when you host to send out the agenda, have a facilitator and scribe, bring opening and closing prayer, bring Consensus Document (Appendix C, below), and send notes in a timely fashion.

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Month of March 2022

+Kae

General notes ongoing:

Gratitude for Michael as Vicar in the roles of Ecumenical Engagement: advocacy, interfaith relationships, ecumenical relationships including Colo. Council of Churches board, and communication/media.

My primary initial focus is 1) Listening internally, building relationships, determining the felt needs/priorities of the region; 2) getting to know the bishops through monthly calls and the annual retreat; 3) transitioning some responsibilities at Church of the Beloved; 4) learning about the bishop role and responsibilities from Michael and the other bishops;

Listening and Relationship building

Coordinated and participated in a clergy moment of reflection on the Cross lead by Fr. Frank on Saturday, Apr 2nd.

Discernment and ordination: Ongoing conversations with two

Liturgies

I had to cancel being with the good people of St. Paul on March 12. Let's get a new date in May?

Preparing for my participation in the Red Rocks CCC Sunrise Service :)

We will send out the link for Church of the Beloved's Easter Vigil service. There will be room for some people in person, also. 9 p.m.

ECC

Participated in the zoom Town Hall regarding liturgy on March 9th. “Gathering” was the topic.

COB

Participated in the Council of Bishop call on March 14th and Apr 11. The CoB is meeting with the Leadership Council intentionally right now to improve communication, determine a path for questions of conduct or constitutionality, alternatives to MDiv in formation of priests, and more clearly articulated roles, responsibilities and collaboration of the HOP, HOL and CoB. Met with the LC on Mar 8 and Apr 4. Working with George VS (chancellor) to draft a “rules of engagement” guideline for our CoB and offer it to the Communion as our covenant as to how we will relate to one another. Also working on our CoB bylaws :) We are a work in progress to be sure.

Consultation: regarding confirmation materials and classes throughout the region; continued interaction with CHF in discerning their leadership model of church.

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 04 07 2022

submitted 4/4/2022 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

CCC: time to send in our 2022 Regional contribution.

Advance Directives Seminars: Some regional interest expressed. Waiting to hear if a joint presentation at a central location and/or Zoom are possible. If doable, we can also invite our ecumenical partners.

ColoradoECC Facebook page:

Stopped sharing member churches’ social media posts on our regional page.—How’s that working?

2022 Denver PrideFest Booth:

Charge for booth went through, organizers to confirm that we have a space by 4/15.

Registration was only \$350+75 (vs. anticipated \$500+75) and \$700 was pledged;

some funds to go toward printing costs;

if it’s the will of the Board, the balance can be held as special line item for next year.

Volunteers from StP, MoM and CHF identified thus far.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CFCU Rapid Response, and CCC posts.

Participated in March Gun Buyback.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Presided at Dignity on 3/13,27; MoM on 3/20; CHF on 3/27.

Participated monthly OPB Ecumenical Seminar 3/23.

Participated monthly ECC Chaplains meeting 3/28.

Participated in Regional Clergy Retreat. (Thank you, Fr. Frank, for leading us!)

Participated in IndiCath HIVE MIND on RC “persecution” of so-called Catholics and schismatics 4/4

Participated in ECC Liturgy Town Hall 4/6

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting 3/23/2022

ADVOCACY UPDATE:

~Voices for Justice Half-Time Report 2022 sent to Region's communication point persons on 3/23;

~Big ones for CCC are funding school lunches and affordable housing;

~Relayed our Regional Board's comments re: proposals for using TABOR funds for Education

CASTE BOOK STUDY PILOT UPDATE: Dining discussion groups, joint worship events and voter registration drives energized and moving forward

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE UPDATE: 5am arrival of participants; prayers for good weather!

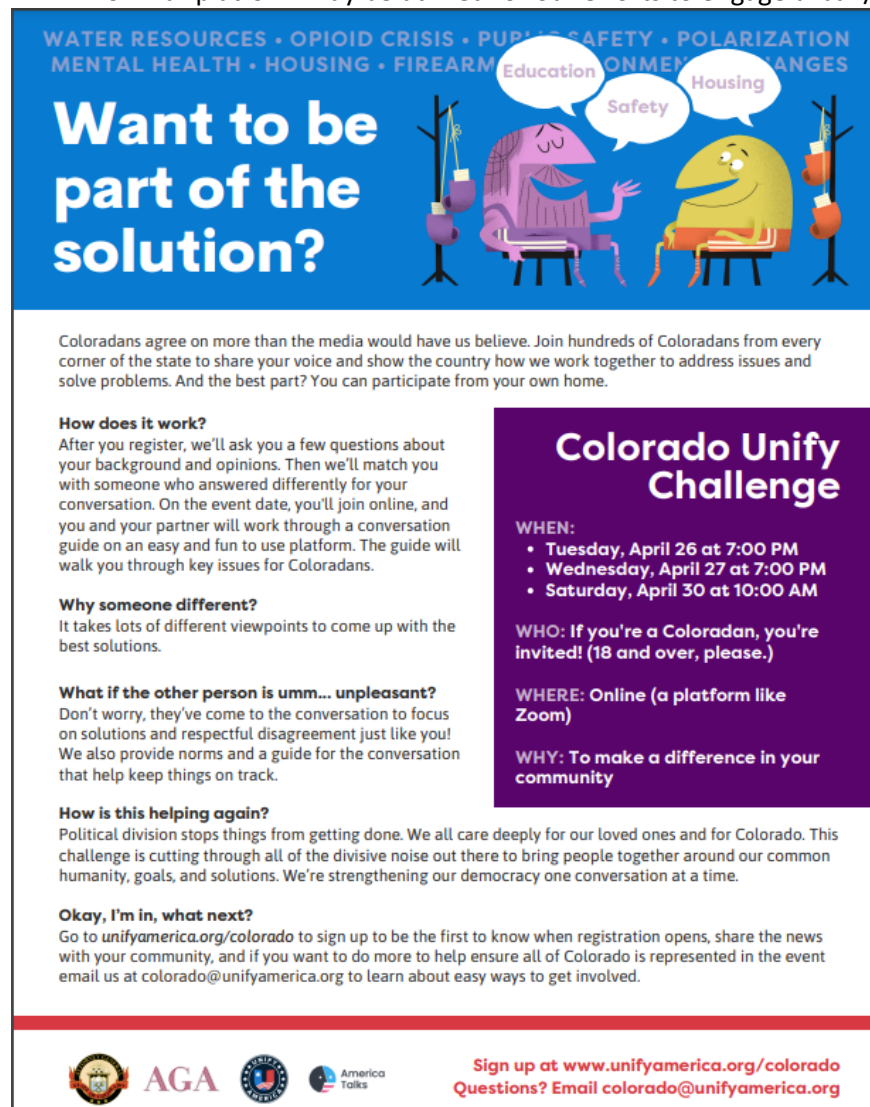
AFL-CIO OUTREACH: points of intersection/collaboration to be discussed

MULTIFAITH LEADERS FORUM TRIP TO MONTGOMERY PILOT: Legacy Museum trip, leading to Colorado actions to address racism May 3-6

UNIFY CHALLENGE FOR COLORADO: Unify America presentation in participation with Attorneys General Alliance replacing political fighting with collaborative action; virtual one-on-one conversations between persons of divergent views, challenging confirmation bias.

Tuesday, 4/26 at 7PM; Wednesday, 4/27 at 7PM; Saturday, 4/30 at 10AM (*see flier, below*)

Similar platform may be utilized for our efforts to engage urban/rural discussions.



The flyer features a blue header with the text "Want to be part of the solution?" and an illustration of two cartoon figures, one purple and one yellow, sitting at a table and talking. Above them are speech bubbles containing the words "Education", "Safety", and "Housing". At the top of the blue header, there is a list of issues: "WATER RESOURCES • OPIOID CRISIS • PUBLIC SAFETY • POLARIZATION", "MENTAL HEALTH • HOUSING • FIREARMS • WOMEN'S RIGHTS • CLIMATE CHANGES".

Coloradans agree on more than the media would have us believe. Join hundreds of Coloradans from every corner of the state to share your voice and show the country how we work together to address issues and solve problems. And the best part? You can participate from your own home.

How does it work?
After you register, we'll ask you a few questions about your background and opinions. Then we'll match you with someone who answered differently for your conversation. On the event date, you'll join online, and you and your partner will work through a conversation guide on an easy and fun to use platform. The guide will walk you through key issues for Coloradans.

Why someone different?
It takes lots of different viewpoints to come up with the best solutions.

What if the other person is umm... unpleasant?
Don't worry, they've come to the conversation to focus on solutions and respectful disagreement just like you! We also provide norms and a guide for the conversation that help keep things on track.

How is this helping again?
Political division stops things from getting done. We all care deeply for our loved ones and for Colorado. This challenge is cutting through all of the divisive noise out there to bring people together around our common humanity, goals, and solutions. We're strengthening our democracy one conversation at a time.

Okay, I'm in, what next?
Go to unifyamerica.org/colorado to sign up to be the first to know when registration opens, share the news with your community, and if you want to do more to help ensure all of Colorado is represented in the event email us at colorado@unifyamerica.org to learn about easy ways to get involved.

Colorado Unify Challenge

WHEN:

- Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00 PM
- Saturday, April 30 at 10:00 AM

WHO: If you're a Coloradan, you're invited! (18 and over, please.)

WHERE: Online (a platform like Zoom)

WHY: To make a difference in your community

Logos for AGA, the State of Colorado, and America Talks are at the bottom left. Sign up information is at the bottom right.

Appendix C—RMRC Adopted Practice of Consensus Decision Making

Final May 2, 2019

Overall: The council definitely prefers face to face meetings rather than email discussion or conference calls. Zoom visual technology may help but if at all possible, we need to meet in person. Meetings begin and end with prayer.

1) Our general practice during meetings will be to slow down and engage each person around the table, listening, asking or responding to clarifying questions and engaging with Love, respect, emotional strength and intelligence, commitment to the common good and foregoing personal agendas.

2) Facilitators will ask if there are any opposing views on every decision and wait for a response, and also to call on those not vocal during issue discussions. If the facilitator prefers, s/he may ask for a volunteer to take the role of assuring that we are hearing from all voices during the meeting.

Members may request to abstain from a particular decision if there are unusual circumstances such as a conflict of interest.

If the group is divided, we will: Yield. Stop. Pray. Listen. Try to identify how a problem emerged, if it is local or regional, and the source of resistance by going around the table. Honor no crosstalk as each person responds uninterrupted. After hearing from everyone, if there is not clear consensus, use the 5-finger model:

5. I love it. I insist on it. I can't live without it.

4. I prefer it. I like it. But I can live without it. And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.

3. I am neutral on the question. I have no preference. And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.

2. I prefer not to do it/support it. I don't like it. But I can live with it.

And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.

1. I hate it. I insist against it. I can't live with it. I veto it.

3) Repeat :) We cannot move forward if 1s or 5s are present. We listen again and amend.

4) If consensus cannot be reached, hit the pause button and postpone the decision until the next meeting. At the next meeting, if we still can't reach consensus we may resort to voting as we continue to listen to the minority voices (see below). If consensus is blocked and no new consensus can be reached, the group may stay with whatever the previous decision was on the subject, or does nothing if that is applicable.

5) Major philosophical or moral questions that will come up with each affinity group will have to be worked through as the group forms and re-forms with each new member.

Difficulties in reaching consensus: If a decision has been reached, or is on the verge of being reached that you cannot support, there are several ways to express your objections: ·

- Non-support ("I don't see the need for this, but I'll go along.")
- Reservations ("I think this may be a mistake but I can live with it.")
- Standing aside ("I personally can't do this, but I won't stop others from doing it. ")
- Blocking ("I cannot support this or allow the group to support this. It is immoral." If a final decision violates someone's fundamental moral values they are obligated to block consensus.)
- Withdrawing from the group. Obviously, if many people express non-support or reservations or stand aside or leave the group, it may not be a viable decision even if no one directly blocks it. This is what is known as a "lukewarm" consensus and it is just as desirable as a lukewarm beer or a lukewarm bath.

***The facilitator of the meeting is responsible to bring a copy of this document to the meeting.