

# Rocky Mountain Regional Council

## Notes for August 5, 2021

Host: Mary of Magdala; Facilitator: Rosean Amaral; Scribe: Tom Moos

Present:

Greg Yonker, Don Sutton - St. Paul  
Kae Madden (Bishop-elect), Alice Bradley, Dennis Giblin - Church of the Beloved  
Teri Harroun, Jack Wolfe - Light of Christ  
Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos - Mary of Magdala  
Mike Weil, Anne Grant - Holy Family  
Michael Nicosia – Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement

6:32 Rosean opened meeting with the Regional Prayer for Calling a Bishop

### REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. **Opening Prayer:** Rosean led us in the regional prayer.
2. **Welcome any guests:** Jane Reina from Mary of Magdala joined as a guest.
3. **Agenda approvals/additions:** The agenda for today's meeting was approved without amendments.
4. **Approval of July meeting notes:** The minutes were approved as written.
5. **Personal connections:** Rosean asked us to share the title of a poem, story or novel we might have written during the prior month.
6. **Financial report:**
  - Greg presented the financial report covering income from 3 communities (COB, HF, and MoM), expenses, and bank balances. Greg reminded us that we are no longer tracking the specific numbers in the meeting minutes but that the details can be made available to any member of a regional faith community upon request.
  - RMR received the balance of Treasury EIDL grant.
  - We still have a loan obligation, with interest deferred and payments scheduled to begin in about 20 months. Dennis asked whether the loan might be forgiven. No, because the loan is not for paycheck protection. Alice asked whether there might be any advantage or disadvantage of using some of the EIDL grant to pay off the loan. Jack recommended we discuss loan payoff after the consecration and defining next year's budget and income. Alice requested that paying off the loan be added to next month's agenda.
7. **Vicar of Ecumenical Engagement Report.** Some highlights receiving discussion:
  - Utrecht Summer School application didn't go through in time. No tuition expense for the region.
  - Michael will be participating in Dewayne Messenger's ecumenical relationship-building study.
  - Michael is also planning an HOP liturgy working group seminar on sacramental resources for November.
  - Michael answered questions about his role and ministry with Dignity.

## 8. Bishop-elect Report:

- In terms of the bishop's job description, there are several sacramental things that need Kae's focus in the near term, e.g. the consecration, ordinations of Rosean and Alice, some other roles and responsibilities can be decided later in consultation with the RMRC.
- Update re: office space at Rocky Mountain Synod Center. Kae reported that meeting in the COB fellowship hall is tricky and meeting people in Kae's home wouldn't work in setting boundaries between personal and episcopal roles. Bishop Gonia & staff have generously suggested 3 month trial with rent/donation between \$0 - \$200/month. They know we're starting from scratch and are very willing to help us out.
  - i. We also need to consider Jack's outline for transitioning to a region under a bishop and the relative priority of office space vs other expenses. Kae suggested we really need to discuss office space in the context of the overall budget.
  - ii. Many spoke about the value of the Lutheran offer beyond simply an office, e.g. meeting space, access to technology and AV studio, etc. Michael cautioned that their generosity might change with Bishop Gonia's successor. Kae also expressed a benefit of receiving "bishop mentoring" from Bp Gonia.
  - iii. We need more input than we have now to have the budget discussion. **Kae suggested she would meet with Jack to begin outlining topics for a budget discussion, focusing on what is essential and what is not.**
  - iv. In 3 months, we may still be defining our budget and priorities – can we fully appreciate/actualize the resources/services of the office space during a 3 month trial period?
  - v. The Council agreed that we can learn much even while we're formalizing a budget and should accept the offer and **Kae should proceed with building this relationship with Bp. Gonia and pursuing the office space especially for a 3-month trial period.**

## 9. Leadership Council Report:

- LC has been focusing on wrapping up the 2020 Synod, documenting the Synod's decisions and resolutions.
- LC had a retreat with Bp. Frank who is visioning his last year as our Presiding Bishop and encouraging innovation in embodying the gospel to touch people's lives. The LC is asking Bp. Frank to help transition the role through mentoring and documentation to the next Bishop.
- LC is building a nominating committee (steps like information gathering, nominating process, discernment time, vetting, helping folks get to know the candidates, etc.).
- Paula Hayford has had to focus on her husband's illness and recent death so HOL vice-chair, Therese Gabriel, has been assuming many of Paula's duties.

## CONTINUING BUSINESS:

### 1. Plans for Consecration and Installation of Bishop Kae:

- Michael reported that the consecration will use Bethany's livestream to record and initially share the event. Greg Yonker has a live stream channel where we can store the livestream long term.
- We have a good foundations for the liturgy and hospitality plans. Music is coming together. Tom Wilburton of Mary of Magdala is willing to do general catering (except sandwiches) for free. MoM hospitality team will be helping Tom. Rosean asked for a price range for sandwiches but the Council deferred to Rosean's good judgement. Rosean also asked about serving wine. We'd need a different contract with Bethany and Kae thinks we would need to hire a security guard if we serve alcohol. Greg encouraged that we do the consecration party well. **Rosean will collect bids and follow up with the Council.**
- Alice is coordinating the hospitality for the visiting bishops. Alice sought input from the Council about single persons offering accommodations. Don offered his guest suite for Bp Frank. Alice is also covering transportation for the bishops.
- Michael requested feedback to the draft invitation. Suggestions included: adding "Reverend" in front of Kae Madden, perhaps spelling out ECC in the title, a correction to how St Paul community is listed, and emphasizing the date/time of the consecration. **Michael will send out a revision for further review and requests timely final feedback.**

### 2. Transition to Operating with a Regional Bishop

- Jack prepared a roadmap of tasks needed to incorporate the region, obtain 501(c)(3) status, register with the State of Colorado, etc., and asked us to focus on August actions and discussions.
- We already have a Federal EIN number but not a State number. For now, Greg is willing to continue as the registered agent and provide his physical address as place of business.
- Jack recommended we do NOT attach our Constitution with the State documents to avoid amendments with the State whenever we change the Constitution.
- Initially, we need a corporate name. The council agreed to use the name specified in our regional Constitution, **Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion**
- Jack is willing to file the 501(c)(3) paperwork but needs to be signed by an officer (e.g. a President or Secretary).
- Each community in the region has a 7% tithe to the ECC.
- Kae also requested a **Letter of Call** that includes details about her compensation as Bishop, expected work hours, etc. that she can include with her tax returns.

### 3. Other Brief Topics:

- October ordinations of Alice and Rosean.
- Confirmations are being planned.

- Dennis: raised question about meeting in person. Meeting masked and with social distancing may create problems with hearing one another. Council recommended continuing to meet over zoom to save on commute time and minimize Covid risks.
- Kae noted that HF members leave early and proposed we **schedule future meetings to begin 30 minutes earlier, starting at 6:00 pm.**

**4. Closing Prayer:** Kae shared an indigenous “Lord’s Prayer” from New Zealand.

Next meetings: Sept 2: COB; Oct 7: HF; Nov 4: LOC; Dec 2: StP

## **Appendix A— Bishop-Elect Notes: July 2021**

~ submitted by Bishop-Elect Kae Madden 08/02/21

### **Transition**

- Our recommendation to the council is that Michael be appointed as Vicar in the roles of Ecumenical Engagement: advocacy, interfaith relationships, ecumenical relationships including Colo. Council of Churches board, and communication/media.
- My primary 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; and 5) working with the council to plan the affirmation and consecration.

### **Listening and Relationship building**

- Met with four clergy members
- Met with Bishop Gonia  
In conversation with staff at Bethany Lutheran regarding meeting/office space Aug 5

### **Consultation**

- Met with leadership of two communities – multiple meetings  
Joined with Bishop Gonia in a consultation

### **Consecration**

- Toured Bethany Lutheran on July 4<sup>th</sup> with Fr. Don
- Core Planning and Liturgy Team Meeting on Aug 4<sup>th</sup> on site at Bethany Lutheran
- Liturgy Planning Meeting July 8 and 29
- Date: Sept 19 at 3 p.m.
- Completed paperwork for reserving the space
- Liturgy development/review
- Worked with Bishop Rafe to order bishop vestments. Ring in process. Crosier in process. Pectoral cross possibilities.

## **OPB and Council of Bishops**

- Participated in the Council of Bishops call on July 12 and 29
- Participated in the OPB/Vicar call on July 21
- Delegate meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> and conclusion of Holy Synod on July 18 including confirmation of the bishop election : )
- Researched possible bishop retreat locations and contracted with Mother Cabrini Shrine, 9/20-23

## **Discernment/Ordinations**

- In conversation with Alice and Rosean regarding their respective presbyteral ordinations in October
- Met with two members in discernment

**Confirmation:** Planning for the confirmation of youth from Church of the Beloved on Aug15th.

**Regional Calendar:** pending

## **Budget in development**

Consecration

Laptop??

Insurance

Office/Meeting Space

Office supplies/printing

Bishop retreat – biannual

Travel

Synod ECC

Synod RMR

Contract wages/Stipend (1099?) for bishop and vicar(s)

## **Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 08 05 2021**

~ submitted by Fr. Michael Nicosia on 08/05/21

### **REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS**

Participated as StP delegate to Holy Synod.

Registration for Utrecht Summer School never went through; by the time I was informed there was no time to do the advance readings.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (CCC)

solicited feedback from RMRC about CCC collaboration with American Red Cross (clarifications to come);

planned Judicators' Dinner with ED Adrian to be held at our home Aug 13;

July Board Meeting suspended; next meeting Aug.

Tracked down missing vocational documents for Bishop-elect.

Participated in consecration planning meetings (coordinating invitations, media releases; liturgy input).

Circulated bishop consecration “save the date” announcement among CCC Judicators and Board Members.

Facilitated communications between various regional clergy and Indy Catholics.

Updated participant information in Old - Indy Catholic Zoom Community database.  
Confirmed interest in Rev. Dewayne Messenger's ecumenical relationship-building study (confirmed that StP was not paired with a TOCCUSA community).  
Lunch conversation re: ECC with interested Dignity member.  
Planning HOP Liturgy Working Group's November seminar on various Sacramentary resources.  
Presided at in-person and hybrid Masses with MoM 7/11, StP 7/24, CHF and Dignity 7/25.  
Presided or co-presided over memorials for two former Pax Christi members.  
Participated in weekly regional pastoral ministers' Zoom gatherings.  
Participated in ECC Chaplains Association 7/26 meeting (last Monday of each month).  
Populated Regional Facebook page with member churches' posts including ECC documentary video; circulated advocacy updates.