

## RMRC MEETING NOTES

JUNE 7, 2018

**Present:** Michael Nicosia (Chair), Terri Harroun, Jim DeMuth, Don Sutton, Greg Yonker, and John Head (notes)

**Welcome** to new reps Don and Greg of St. Paul Catholic Community (SP)

### **Agenda - Amendments:**

Kae Madden unable to attend. She is with Jim Burnik and family. Life support will be withdrawn from Jim during this meeting; Michael led us in prayer in thanksgiving for Jim and for his transition.

**May 2018 minutes accepted.** No Addendums Add Vicar appendix and give to Bill Hansel for publication.

**Finance Report:** No Financial Report from Lara.

**Vicar's Report:** *(See Appendix A)*

Highlights:

**Diaconate 101 repeated in July, 2018; send any new deacon candidates' names to Bp. Rafe.**

Chair of Colorado Council of Churches organized a contract with the Executive Director; there was a salary shortfall of \$23,000 owed the ED who agreed to (2) payments totally \$15,000 in lieu of past salary non-payment; going forward ED will receive 60% of income in excess of expenditures.

### **Pride:**

SP will help out at Episcopal/Lutheran info booth at Denver PrideFest.

MoM will participate in Fr. Collins July Pride Fest on July 14, 2018.

Regional Banner for Pride Fest lists communities by city so no change needed with SP replacing PC as one of the 5.

### **A local bishop?**

Terri Harroun says there is no talk of particular candidates. There is a need for education re:

the role of a Bishop. Explain the particular and the peculiar between the ECC and the Roman Catholic Church. Confirm the language of question, "Do we want to call a bishop?"

Michael cited history of the bishop call question as having been stalled and mired in details.

Terri Harroun says the education brochure is available, but may be too much detail. Maybe just provide bare ideas without details.

Jim DeMuth said MoM to review the bishop question on the 7<sup>th</sup> & the 9<sup>th</sup> of September.

Emphasize the laity input.

John Head noted Holy Family deferred presenting the question of process agreement vote requiring majority of ECC parishes (2/3's of 4/5's) with regards to calling a Bishop. HF council demurred giving an immediate answer to this question. HF council stated they were

currently involved with (2) separate concerns of (a) calling a Pastor and (b) current negotiations with Holy Love Lutheran Church and Christ the Savior Lutheran Church re: co-sharing these respective Lutheran Churches with Church the Holy Family.

### **@Coloradoecc**

Michael launched new Regional Facebook page; inquired about respective communities linking any important posts to said site.

Terri Harroun noted LOC had a big Facebook presence. She was thinking of going where LOC did not have a current footprint, suggesting Michael focus energies on Instagram or Twitter. Michael noted that as vicar he has no authority to tweet in the name of the Region so creating single RMR Twitter or Instagram accounts would be problematic, but stressed the importance of everyone becoming familiar with and active on social media platforms, particularly to connect with younger people.

**Next social media training conference** of the Episcopal Diocese is **Saturday, July 28**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm—Live online via Zoom video conferencing & in-person at The Episcopal Church in Colorado, Office of the Bishop, 1300 Washington Street, Denver.

<https://caffeinatedchurch.org/register>

### **EEC/Lutheran Gathering:**

Michael noted Bishop Frank coming to visit the RMR on **Thursday, July 19, 2018**. He and the Lutheran Bishop for this area are meeting at the Rocky Mountain Lutheran Center with leadership from the ECC and Lutheran communities that share space. Michael believed Bishop Frank's office would pay Bishop Frank's expenses for this visit to Denver.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Constitution Committee:**

Constitution revision moved a lot of the Constitution items to the Bylaws and Provisions. Rocky Mountain Regional Council will see what these particular former Constitution items are and where they are now located in the new Bylaws and Provisions.

Terri reported that **RMR delegates will tentatively meet on Saturday, August 4, 2018** to see what particular items were moved and what the current language is.

**Bishop Denise's visit** was wonderful. Travel expenses are to be paid by Lara out of RMRC funds **to be reimbursed by those communities involved**, viz., St. Paul and Holy Family (HF Council to meet 6/19 to discuss their share); Michael suggested that, as regional clergy gathered with +Denise, RMRC could pay a portion (general agreement but no formal vote). Jim said that MoM would be willing to contribute as well.

**Closing Prayer** by Michael.

*(Notes amended June 29, 2018)*

## Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 6/7/2018

### FORMATION/RECEPTION

Welcomed Fr. Don Sutton and St. Paul Catholic Community ECC Church into the Communion 4/2/18!

There was a last minute rush to file documentation, and one of Fr. Don's three Evaluating Team members never connected with him (possibly due to international complications of time and space).

No one in the ECC had any liturgical texts for the reception of new communities or the incardination of a priest (with the exception of Sue Ringler who found a rite they used, but after we went to press), so I had to write a liturgy heavily adapting one from an Independent Catholic Church on line.

(+Rafe recommends the *Book of Alternative Services* of the Anglican Church of Canada as a liturgical resource, though it doesn't include said welcoming rites.)

ELCA Bishop Gonia was to arrive late due to a pastoral conflict, so a lovely shared Penitential Rite with +Denise had to be skipped. The wonderful liturgists of St. Paul opted rather for a wonderful shared solemn blessing by the two bishops at the end of Mass.

Correspondence with new ordination candidate Jane Wagner, member of Mary of Magdala in Fort Collins. A certified minister with the Federation of Christian Ministries, I had met with her in Feb'16 after her relocation to CO. Working on clarifying educational holes; will likely attend courses through Iliff.

Continued prayers for deacon candidate Jim Burnik. Psych Eval completed and paperwork filed; EfM in the Fall may need to be put on hold.

**Diakonate 101 to be repeated in July.** Forward deacons and candidates to +Rafe!

### REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Published *The Journey Shared* on 5/12/18.

Launched **new regional Facebook page** at <https://www.facebook.com/Coloradoecc/>.

Should vicar be the manager/gatekeeper? Is there a need for a rep from each community to have authorization to amend and post? Should anyone be able to post?

Coordinated logistics of **+Denise's visit**.

Picked her up at the airport with Fr. Don, lunch at her host's home (Liz Baggala, new HOL delegate), celebrated with the St. Paul community, attended Sunday morning Mass at CHF, hosted a light lunch for +Denise and Don then drove with them to our regional clergy gathering, back to Don's for a wonderful informal dinner Sunday evening, and took +Denise to the airport at 4am Monday.

## **COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

May CCC Board Meeting canceled in anticipation of Board Retreat 6/8/18 to review relationships with other judicatories; public policy statements; and the funding needs, funding opportunities and program direction of CCC's Justice work, Ecumenical work and the Easter Sunrise Service.

Signed on to Ballot Initiative #126 to Cap Payday Loan Rates at 36%

Circulated query from Kevin McCoy, a reporter for USA TODAY:

*I'm getting in touch with the Colorado Council of Churches because I'm researching a news story that touches, in part, on a Colorado Springs investment advisory company that specializes in retirement plans for faith-based organizations and those in ministry.*

*The company is called Envoy Advisory. In September 2017, the company agreed to a settlement of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission allegations that Envoy Advisory had placed some of its clients' investments in retirement funds with fees that were higher than those for equivalent funds. The company agreed to pay refunds to some of its clients.*

*I'm trying to find out whether any Colorado churches were victimized by this situation, and, if so, how the church officials and congregations felt about it.*

*I would be very appreciative if you would let me know. My contact information is below.*

*Thanks very much!*

*Kevin McCoy, kmccoy@usatoday.com, 212-715-2084 (office), 917-579-3031 (cell)*

## **ADVOCACY**

Attended **Colorado Faith Communities United to Prevent Gun Violence** general membership meeting and presentation on the stats and prevention efforts for firearm-related suicide deaths. Literature packets available. Forwarded the PowerPoint presentation to region's rapid response network with the following ask:

### **Taking Action:**

#### **What your congregation can do to help bring down Colorado's rising suicide fatalities:**

~ Distribute suicide prevention information and emphasize the importance of storing firearms away from home during times of crisis. For more materials contact Emily Fine

at [emily.fine@state.co.us](mailto:emily.fine@state.co.us)

~ Promote and participate in suicide awareness and response training (QPR - Question, Persuade and Refer) by Carolyn Swenson of St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith

~ Support passage of Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) bill and candidates who support it.

Attended **One Colorado** rally on the steps of the State Capitol on 6/4 in wake of Masterpiece Cake decision of the SCOTUS to affirm that the rights of LGBTIQ Coloradans are still protected.

Video at <https://www.facebook.com/onecolorado/videos/1969840099695597/> ...check out Shorter Community AME pastors preaching at 5:45min!

**Denver PrideFest—4th Annual Interfaith Pride Service** 6 pm Fri, June 15 at First Baptist Church of Denver.

Preached last year. This year leading the final blessing of peace, taught to me by the wife of a Jewish resident at St. John's Home in Rochester NY - *Hevenu Shalom Alechem*. (Thank you, Mrs. Saperstone.)

## **BISHOPS/VICARS CALL** May 23, 2018

### **Regional updates**

**SW** ~ 3 communities, 1 mission, 1 community in discernment.

Talk of becoming a diocese progressing; looking at sample Constitutions; majority of communities want to proceed though the largest isn't ready, citing not yet big enough and feeling pastoral needs met thru Aux. Bishop. Pushing for election before Synod, but vicar doesn't see that as realistic, seeing no urgency, but open to the people's desire.

ECC Report directed by HOL Finance Committee not to include community stats related to budget/actual tithes.

**NE**

Regional conference call went well, included MA, NY, PA and FL. Eagerly anticipating regional retreat in 2019. Benedictine community completing documentation for reception.

### **MidAmer**

Confirmations celebrated in Tulsa and St. Stan's (working on reception).

Anticipating priestly ordination at Thanksgiving in Oshkosh, and ordination of another transitional deacon TBA.

Check out website of San Damiano in Little Rock [www.LRCatholic.org](http://www.LRCatholic.org) re: non-violent responses to violence.

### **PNW**

in the process of electing a bishop; nominations going on now; candidate visits in July; election in August; confirmation at Synod.

Increased violence in Olympia; Interfaith Works forming a Safety Council; very wary of possible violent protests of PrideFest.

Monthly conference calls unite region.

Evaluating Team presently interviewing woman candidate for priestly ordination.

### **+Denise's report on Mexico visit**

She went with +Francis, +Armando and Fr Ray (CA Vicar); +Peter had planned on joining them. Trip was "profitable." Met with 7-8 priests and some candidates looking for ordination.

Reception of woman bishop: some apprehensive. Stayed in a religious women's retreat center/convent (possible future Synod location to be considered); sisters' initial shock and delight; after sister's affirmation and the rest of the sharing, all the men were on board.

### **Need for an ECC Archivist voiced.**

#### **Synod info**

Registration open, but having trouble accessing who has done so.

Possible one-woman show about Joan Chittister.

### **Violence Prevention Resource under development** <https://www.violencepreventionhotline.org/>

Mentee of +Rafe's launched proposal site posting resources for would-be perpetrators, offering early, available intervention. Seeking signators in order to affirm need in order to justify NIH funding.

