

Rocky Mountain Regional Council

Meeting Notes for February 4, 2021

Facilitator: Greg; Scribe: Jim Harrer

Those present on Zoom at 6:37 p.m.:

Greg Yonker, Don Sutton and Jim Harrer - St. Paul
Kae Madden and Dennis Giblin - Church of the Beloved
Teri Harroun and Jack Wolfe - Light of Christ
Rosean Amaral and Tom Moos - Mary of Magdala
Anne Grant – Holy Family
Michael Nicosia - Regional Vicar

Greg, Don opened the meeting with prayers, 6:37 pm.

Addition to agenda – Tom Moos will give an update on the ECC Constitution Amendments Committee

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. **Welcome** Jim Harrer from St Paul was welcomed as a guest and scribe for tonight.
2. **Agenda** approved. Additions: Tom Moos will give an update on the ECC Constitution Amendments Committee
3. **January 2020 notes** are approved.
4. **Personal connections:** In Thanksgiving name 1 or 2 persons you know who have been vaccinated. Several participants told their experiences.
5. **Financial Report.** Greg called attention to the January 31, 2021 Financial Report, which previously had been distributed. Discussion followed, and the report was approved.
6. **Vicar's Report.** Michael reported on events, activities and courses announced in the report. (see Appendix A)
7. **Report from ECC Leadership Council.** Teri Harroun discussed the amendments committee, Synod videos are soon to be finished. Lay Ecclesial women ministers were commissioned as Deacons but Bishop Rafe was not present for laying on of hands in Wisconsin, because of pandemic concerns. There was a miscommunication on what faculties the new deacons can perform, and their bishop is following up with finding a resolution. With new Regions and Dioceses, we are experiencing growing pains, especially in this time of pandemic. The Leadership Council is investigating this. Questions and discussion followed, about new strategies for commissioning, education, and ordination. In a lighter moment, Greg Yonker showed his certificate to marry two

people in the state of Colorado, that he bought for \$40.

8. **Community Updates:** What is each community offering for Ash Wednesday?
Roseann, Mary of Magdala - their churches are administering ashes on Ash Wednesday at 7:30 am.
Fr Don, St Paul - little packs of ashes can be sent to parishioners. Lutheran pastor Barbara and Fr Don will impose ashes outside as people come by the church. Also St Paul is doing a Zoom service, and a discussion of book, Fully Human, Fully Divine for Lenten Study on Saturday morning Zoom meetings. St Paul speaks of two traditions, yet one community of faith; this is not always easy and there are some complaints. The Lutheran and Roman Catholic liturgies are different, especially during Lent and they may experiment with common services and separate services through Lent.
Mother Kae, Church of Beloved - Noon and 7 pm services are scheduled for Ash Wednesday. They may do park and drive ashes in the morning for people to drop by on the way to work.
Reconciliation services and prayer groups will make a rich experience through Lent.
Terri, Light of Christ - Ash Wednesday service at 7pm focusing on Holy dust, glitter, even dirt from a plant. Ashes will be imposed at the front door, 7:30 am, Noon, and 6 pm; one family at a time can come forward. There will be on-line retreats every day for Lent.
Anne, Church Holy Family - They are looking into distributing ashes at the church, and through Lent they will work to define who they are as a community.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Decision** after review of the online “Caffeinated Church” video series for church communicators. Annual Subscription for 5 members at \$100 or \$60 for one member subscriptions.
Discussion
Tom Moos - may be some useful things in this but our service format is fixed, and we are not looking to change and don’t have a need for it now.
Dennis - Overall it is good, the resources page promising, but it may not be worth \$100.
Michael - A major investment of time and energy. If we grow in the future and an Office of the Bishop is created, there might be need for a Regional Communications Person who could better utilize the resource.
Mother Kae, Greg - Each were in favor of trying or waiting, either way.
Teri - Maybe we can better do this later when we can invest in a person to communicate the process.
Fr Don - How do we use local and parochial resources for liturgical commentary?
2. **Calling a local Bishop.** Update from call team. Timeline? What's next?
Dennis – The BCC Team will have two Zoom meeting interviews, one for Mother Kae on Feb 20 at 7 pm and one for Fr. Michael on Feb 22. There is a 100 person limit in attendance, and both meetings will be recorded for people to view later.
CV’s and 5 Questions answered by each candidate as part of their application process, will be sent soon to all communities to distribute to their members.

The Vetting process is continuing. The BCC is meeting weekly to keep on track so people get to know the candidates. These meetings are open to any ECC person in the RM region. Membership can ask questions of the candidates at the Zoom meetings.

3. **Progress with election committees.** Dennis started the Election Committee Team meetings, Notes have been sent out. The next meeting on next Thursday (February 11). Mary Lu and Dennis are co-facilitators.
4. **Ordinations? Confirmations? Coordination of Bishop Travel?** No travel can be done at this time during the pandemic. In two or three months, some communities may have youth in classrooms.
5. **News from the ECC Constitution Amendments Committee.** Tom Moos reported on 3 points:
 - (1) The meeting on January 23 was to discuss the process of submitting amendments and assign ownership for areas of high priority that have not yet been submitted by the Rocky Mountain region. Discussion ensued about the lack of a process for debating and critiquing the amendments and ensuring that as the Core Amendment team modifies wording, the spirit of the original amendment as written is not lost.
 - (2) George von Stamwitz sent out an email inviting all ECC delegates to submit amendments. However, this email was an early draft which only permitted amendments to the Constitution, not the Statutes. A later revision of the email, approved by the core team and allowing for minor modifications to the Statutes would be forthcoming.
 - (3) The deadline for submitting amendments was February 28.
6. Development of the 2022 Fiscal Year Budget (runs from April 1, 2021 through March 31). Greg will send out a report for the new budget, and present it next month.

New Business:

Terri Harroun – The Website for the RMR ECC needs to be updated, there are several mistakes in it. The Webmaster is volunteering but lives in California. Dennis – it is not secure (no https), and can be hacked.

Michael – we could consider taking local control of our website, for better communication.

Closing Prayer: Fr Don

Meeting Ends 8:27 pm

Next meetings: Mar. 4: MoM; March 25: COB; May 6: HF; June 3: LOC; Jul 1: StP;
Aug 5: MoM; Sep 2: COB; Oct 7: HF; Nov 4: LOC; Dec 2: StP

Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 02 04 2021

FORMATION/RECEPTION/CONTINUING ED

Opportunity for local candidate to participate in Pacific Northwest Diocese's ordination fell through. Forwarded diaconate process and reading materials to woman discerning ordination who has been attending St. Paul Lutheran & Catholic Comm. of Faith.

OLD CATHOLICISM

- Participated in Bishop Francis's closing Old Catholic History and Theology Seminar. Planning to offer course again as well as Bishop Rafe's seminar on the Diaconate—**When available encourage new participants as standard part of regular continuing education.**
- Hope to offer other courses on this and other topics.
Other resource: The Liturgical Institute with Dr. Fagelberg <https://liturgy.teachable.com/>
- +Frank highly encourages participation in Utrecht's Summer School classes, VIRTUAL this year; credits should apply as electives in any course of study.
See info at https://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl/sites/default/files/2020-12/Tentative%20programme%20Summer%20School%201-short%20181220_0.pdf

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Noticed Mar-Jun 2020 gap in RMRC meeting notes record; located through requested search.
Solicited submissions for RMR Winter Newsletter.
Helped coordinate Polity Team permissions for sharing draft Constitution.
Presided via Zoom at MoM 1/17, CHF 1/24.
Planned / led CHUM/WHI daily Zoom "Holding our Nation in Prayer" on Wednesdays until Inauguration and morning thereof; also hosted Interfaith Prayer service the night of the Inauguration with friends of former Pax Christi (was nice test model for a new virtual ministry).
Circulated event announcements from CCC, Interfaith Alliance of CO, Progressive Congregation Network, Caffeinated Church, Interfaith Immigration Coalition, and Christians Against Christian Nationalism.
Participated in weekly regional pastoral ministers Zoom gatherings.
Populated Regional Facebook page with member churches' posts.

OPB CALL in January cancelled

Forwarded updates on regional participation in Strengthening Our Future Initiative to +Francis.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (CCC)

Board Meeting 1/27/21

- Colorado Humanities—"Of the Spirit" on January 17th was best panel yet; all panelists sincere and on topic; recording will be posted.
- Vaccine outreach initiative: shared personal and anecdotal experiences of vaccination; reactions vary, typically minor after 1st, often one-day flu-like symptoms after 2nd; stressed need for safety precautions even after vaccine; note: now saying having had COVID-19 only offers 30 days of immunity.
- **Faithful Thurs virtual kickoff noon on 2/18** by Interfaith Alliance of CO (ECC Vicar doing closing song); weekly "Legislative Minute" video updates / call to action; CCC to lead one closing session.
- BOARD OFFICER VACANCIES—Pastor Barbara Berry-Baily is discerning about joining as ELCA rep.
- STATEMENT OF THE JUDICATORIES on State's decision to remove persons in the general incarcerated population off the vaccine schedule posted on CCC website.