

Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, September 1, 2022

6:00 PM via ZOOM

Host: Light of Christ **Facilitator:** Jack Wolfe **Notes:** Rachel O'Neill

Present: Kae Madden (Regional Bishop), Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement), Jack Wolfe and Rachel O'Neill (Light of Christ), Greg Yonker and Don Sutton (St. Paul, Denver), Rosean Amaral and Tom Moos (Mary of Magdala), Alice Bradley and Christy Chady (Church of the Beloved)

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!

Regular Business:

1. Welcome any guests - No guests
2. Agenda approvals/additions - Agenda approved without changes
3. Review and approval of August minutes - Approved
4. Personal connections: Something good that happened to you this summer
5. Financial Report - Still working through picnic reimbursements
6. Bishop Notes and Vicar Report
 - a. Petition from St. Matthew still pending, Council of Bishops prayerfully discerning, desire is to get it right rather than expedite the process.
 - b. Discussed statement from Council of Bishops about apostolic succession, hopefully will be out by Synod. The ECC identity is still developing, and Old Catholic vs. influenced by Old Catholicism is one of those questions.
 - c. Website information needed by 9/15 so that Fr. Michael can sign contract.
7. Leadership Council Report
 - a. Update taken from email from Teri. Synod legislation still pending.

Old Business:

1. Website Update

- a. Need list of council members

2. ECC Synod 2022

- a. Regional Table
 - i. Pictures already being collected from communities for parade of parishes video - could put our region's pictures on laptop.
 - ii. Photos from Kae's consecration

- iii. Bookmarks from Pride
 - iv. Poster of consensus model -- Kae will find source for people who ask
 - v. Sell pins for free will offering
 - vi. Michael will coordinate table
- b. Travel needs - Rachel will send out list of contact info for delegates for coordinating purposes
- c. Legislation, Resolutions and issues - Do we need a delegate meeting
- i. After release, anyone on RMRC/delegates can call a meeting to discuss, if needed.
 - ii. SEFFY (+) resolution pending for continued education/training for abuse awareness/prevention

3. Local Synod Planning for 2023

- a. Weekend of June 11th - Corpus Christi - including a chrism Mass
- i. Community councils to check on April 22-23 vs. June 10-11
- b. Do we want just delegates or You'all Come??
- i. Brainstorming: invite families, have management meetings in separate room as part of programming. Shorter duration with inviting everyone. Jack has memory of something with Bp. Frank a number of years ago focused on community building, table conversations, etc. Use for development of strategic plan.
 - ii. Kae will research what other regions have done

New Business:

- 1. Future meetings** to be on-line or in-person, and possibility of starting at 6:30. - October meeting on a different date to accommodate people driving to Synod - possibility of meeting in person on Saturday morning once every 6 months??
- a. Movement to 6:30 contingent upon 90 minute meetings
 - b. October meeting moved to Wednesday, 10/5 at 6:00
 - c. Continue discerning in-person opportunities to meet

2. Community Updates

- a. COB celebrating feast day
- b. MoM hosting multi-week enneagram workshop, see bulletin for more
- c. St. Paul hosting group for discussing parables starting in September, will send out information to RMRC

Closing Prayer: Kae

Future Host Communities: Oct. 5 - St Paul; Nov. 3 - MoM; Dec 1 - CoB; Jan 5 - HF

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in August 2022

+Kae

Personal: Greg had total ankle replacement surgery on Aug. 11. He is non-weight-bearing until at least Sept. 15. Needless to say, my presence is necessary to support him and keep our household running. I am getting by, but am not as focused as I would prefer.

Listening and Relationship building

Lots of phone calls and emails

Participate as available in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing

Vicar Michael: Michael brought to my attention an article pending publication in Extraordinary Catholics which calls into question the validity of our (ECC) ordinations and sacraments. It was brought to the Council of Bishops and encourage writing a statement outlining the foundation of our validity, perhaps addressing it during +Francis' state of the communion address at synod. Pending.

Discernment and ordination

Formation: I think we'll wait until after synod to form our region's education and formation team so that we don't have to double back. Any in your communities who may be interested in being part of the team, please let me know.

Liturgies/Sacraments

Confirmation: Light of Christ: Nov. 12th, Mary of Magdala pending

ECC

Council of Bishops

- Council of bishop calls on Aug 8, 17th, and 30th Lots of email communications.
- Leadership Council suggested that having a 2nd bishop present for LC meetings may be helpful. The Presiding Bishop appointed Kedda to serve consistently as a "guest" (no constitutional amendment required) primarily to assist with communication and accountability.
- Council of Bishops bylaws completed.
- The Southwest region is waiting on a vote regarding proceeding to form a diocese. Vote due Sept 1.
- Response to HOL guidelines presented to us for new faith communities
- Mid America Diocese: Rafe is retiring, and the MidAmerica diocese will likely not hold an election prior to synod.
- Follow-up on St. Matthew's: Ongoing

Statement on Petition from St. Matthew from Presiding Bishop Francis Krebs

St. Matthew ECC Community in Orange, CA, has recently made a petition to the Communion to be its own diocese. Article V, Section 8 of the ECC Constitution states that all applications

for the formation of a new diocese must be reviewed and affirmed by the Council of Bishops. We take our responsibility, to which we have been called by the Communion, very seriously. We will entertain this application from the Community of St. Matthew in a manner commensurate with our obligation to uphold the Constitution and Statutes of ECC. And we will find a way to live up to our highest standards. Processing this application may not happen as fast as some may like. We bishops have a responsibility to get this right because of the precedent that our decision will set. That is what we intend to do. We ask for your prayer as we endeavor to walk that path.

+Francis, Presiding Bishop of the ECC and Chair of the Council of Bishops

With the Leadership Council:

Continued work on members to form the Standing Hearing Committee (Appeals board) regarding constitutionality

Continued work to form a commission regarding education standards for ordination

Review of the approval process for ordination of clergy

Consulting with Pablo: Phone calls and meetings to discuss the current climate and functioning of the ECC, perspectives.

Synod: Oct. 9th-12th 2022

Consultation:

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 09 01 2022

submitted 8/31/2022 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

8/24 sent out revised website info to regional communities; requesting response by 9/15 (put in 2.45hrs)

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Attended 8/18 Healthy School Meals for All Western Slope Launch via Zoom.

Participated in ECC Chaplains Zoom 8/22 planning healing ceremony at Synod; submitted photos of my chaplain ministry for group presentation.

Informed ECC Leadership on 8/23 of Fr. Marek's FB post about apostolic succession.

Debriefed Leadership Council and +Kae about my interactions with +Peter and Matthew Hickman.

Attended HOP Synod training 8/24.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing—invitation extended to all regional clergy.

Presided at St. Paul 8/6, CHF and Dignity 8/21.

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

OPB Ecumenical Study group postponed this month.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board on summer break. Monthly newsletter circulated.

Participated in first meeting of Advisory Board for Advance Care Planning education initiative in conjunction with CCC and UCHealth 8/11