

# Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting, July 1, 2021

## Notes

Action Items in **RED**

Host: St Paul    Facilitator: Greg    Scribe: Fr. Michael

cast of characters (in order of appearance): Greg (StP), Michael (vicar / proxy for Fr. Don/StP), Kae (Bishop-elect), Teri (LOC), Dennis (COB), Jack (LOC), Dcn. Mike (CHF), Dcn. Alice (COB), Anne (CHF); understudy: Jane (MoM)

6:39 pm Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer (Greg)

*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:**

- June meeting notes approved with amendments
- Financial Report
  - Status of EIDL Grant and Loans in process;
  - discussion of bishop-elect stipend retroactive to election, amount to be determined based on resources; compensation conversation to be revisited after consecration (suggestion for consideration: general stipend for Office of the Bishop (OoB), which might be disbursed to vicar(s) with clarification about duplication of benefits with COB. Prep work includes state registration/documentation and employment agreements.
  - Need to establish budget for OoB.
  - Liability insurance discussion: **Greg researching; Kae sending resource.**
  - Bishop Office Space: offer from ELCA Synod to host.
  - Issue raised of efficiency of meeting once a month, at least in the interim; possibly *ad hoc* committees to do work. Time somewhat flexible establishing incorporation and 501c3 status.
  - Make list of what needs to be done (Greg and Jack) including Constitution ratification, incorporation, name of the Region, et al. **Action items and information items to be developed by Jack.**
  - **August agenda item:** name of the Region that might be more concise.
- Bishop Elect's Report see Appendix A; addendums:
  - email inquiry to Bishop Kym about host church for consecration;
  - wrist band notification of people's comfort level of physical proximity;
  - **summary of OPB and CoB meetings requested;**
  - noted that bishop voices not included in Constitution Amendment process, especially that they don't get a vote in its ratification (Bp. Rafe to offer comments) and that two regions/dioceses did not have representation on committee. Acknowledged that communication between the 3 legs need improvement;
  - ECC website not up to date; responsibility of those with revisions to inform webmasters in Poland.

- Vicar of Ecumenical Engagement Report see Appendix B
  - Michael asked to present update about tensions between the Lutheran and ECC communities at StP due to different understandings of common life; Catholics “stepping back” from participation in Church Council and various volunteer ministries; Catholic liturgies will be held at other locations starting 7/3.
    - Greg added context, citing frustrations.
    - Kae advised keeping the community in prayer; in conversation with Bp. Gonia, they realize that COVID has been a catalyst for conflict and dissolved relationships among many blended communities.
    - Concerns raised about possible ramifications for other ECC communities in relationship with other Lutheran communities; none anticipated. Michael raised positivity of having consecration in an ELCA church to reinforce our commitment to ecumenical engagement.
    - Possibility raised about needing to shift to another Zoom account (RMRC currently uses StP’s account; COB has an account).
    - Jane shared deepening relationships among the 301 Faith Community, conscious about learning from StP experience.
- Leadership Council Report; getting ready for Synod (very behind).

***Not So Ordinary Business:***

- Letter to Leadership Council seeking affirmation of Kae’s episcopal call; will be talked about at their 7/6 meeting.
- Report on ECC Constitution Amendment Process and Reconvened Synod
  - Tom absent for update;
  - Jack raised issue of apostolic succession not being in the Constitution; possibly for consideration in future amendment;
  - suggestion to invite Council of Bishops to Review meeting; Jack will ask Tom to ask George to invite representation.
- Plans for Consecration and Installation of Bishop Kae: Planning Committee working on site and liturgy options.
- Regional Calendar good idea, **needing development.**
- Regional Constitution and Transition to Operating with Regional Bishop **(Greg, Jack and Dennis to work on to-do-list)**
- Community Updates
  - StP above
  - MoM: 301 Faith Community updated COVID protocols; social justice communities have united; education about each other underway. new organization started in Fort Collins to influence legislators and businesses about equity.
  - COB: Council considering meeting in the church; still outdoor liturgies; noted that risk is increasing due to Covid Delta variant. Encourage vaccination.
  - CHF: Mass in the Park June 13; doing hybrid Masses, considering in-person (members fully vaccinated) prayers requested for internal traumas/transitions.
  - LOC: hybrid; masked in church with social distancing; outdoor VBS.

***Placeholder:***

1. Discussion of “Caffeinated Church”

**New Business:** MoM received email (as did COB and LOC) re: pairing of ECC and Old Catholic communities from Dewayne Messenger, ECC Ecumenical Officer; LOC declined as no Old Catholic communities in Region. **Other communities will follow up independently.**

8:32 pm Closing Prayer: Alice

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

## **Appendix A—Bishop-elect Notes: June 2021**

~ submitted by Bishop Elect Kae Madden on 7/1/21

### **TRANSITION**

- Met with Michael to continue sorting out transitioning responsibilities: Our recommendation to the council is that Michael continues for an indeterminate time 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 two clergy members
- Met with Bishop Gonia

**CONSULTATION:** Met with leadership of two communities

### **AFFIRMATION/CONSECRATION**

- Core Planning Meeting on June 16th
- Liturgy Planning Meeting June 22nd
- Sept 19th afternoon –

### **OPB and Council of Bishops**

- Participated in the Council of Bishops call on June 21st
- Participated in the OPB/Vicar call on June 16th
- working with the CoB on review of the constitution and statute amendments
- Participated in the delegate meeting on June 19th

### **ORDINATIONS**

- Attended Alice's ordination by +Kedda on June 6th (along with Terese from Idaho).
- In conversation with Alice and Rosean regarding their respective presbyteral ordinations

**CONFIRMATION:** Planning for the confirmation of youth from Church of the Beloved on Aug15th. If there are others ready for confirmation, let me know. \* Permission was granted by +Francis for me to confirm our youth.

**REGIONAL CALENDAR:** perhaps it makes sense for the council to maintain a regional calendar so that all may see our regional commitments, bishop commitments, etc. Website? Thoughts?

**FINANCIAL NEEDS:** Liability insurance for bishop and council members (perhaps will need to wait until incorporation?)

# Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 07 01 2021

~ submitted by Fr. Michael Nicosia on 6/29/21

## REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Registered for Utrecht Summer School; offered work-study to reduce tuition (no confirmation or details yet).  
Created QR codes linked to our respective community websites.

Updated StP contact info on websites; sent RMRC notes to webmaster for publication on Regional site.

Forwarded survey results on OC/IC criminal background checks & psychological/behavioral screening to ECC bishops and vicars.

Populated Regional Facebook page with member churches' posts; circulated advocacy updates.

Clarified question re: Independent Catholics raised by Interfaith Alliance of CO.

Engaged in discussions re: ecumenical partnerships across the Region.

Participated in weekly regional pastoral ministers' Zoom gatherings.

Presided at in-person at hybrid Masses with Dignity 5/30 and MoM 6/13.

Participated in RMR delegate meeting re: ECC Constitution and Statutes 6/18; notified consulted Rabbis that committee agreed to striking "hope of Israel" (they thanked us for our sensitivity).

Participated in consecration planning 6/22.

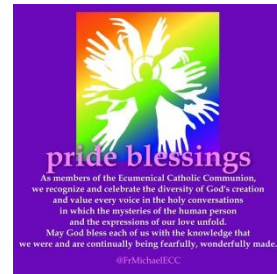
Participated in ECC Chaplains Association 6/28 meeting (last Monday of each month).

Participated in 6/1 "Pride Blessings" Zoom service coordinated by DignityUSA; published ECC Pride meme.

Participated in CCC Board Meeting 6/23 (see report below).

[Will attend CHUM /WHI "Reclaiming the Public Square, Civility, and Political Collaborations" with Michelle Ferrigno Warren 6/30]

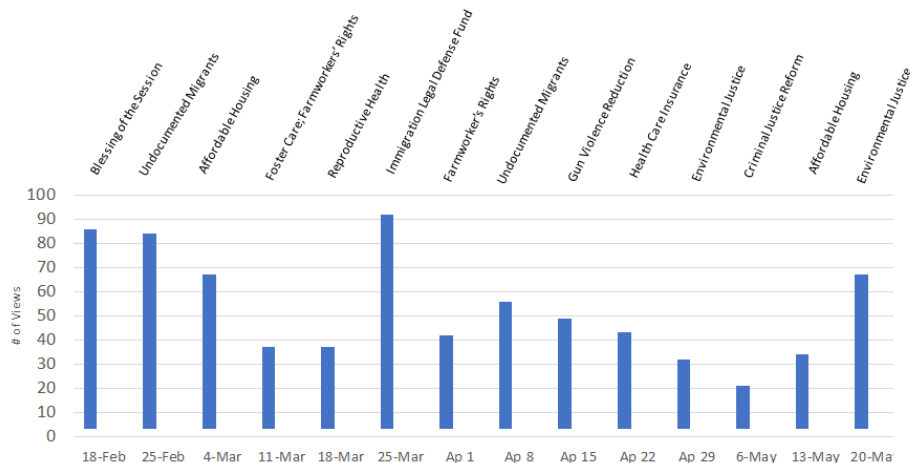
Participated in Faithful Thursdays Review 6/10



future

- Attendance and engagement was more when TogetherCO was sponsoring it; not much buy-in from partners (when in-person, committed to 4-5 members attending); Adrian to ask about their collaboration.
- Wondering how many of our target audience viewed (the legislators) ; unfortunately, often preaching to the choir. Encourage those who write legislators include links to applicable videos.
- Appreciated shared faith fundamentals behind our progressive advocacy.
- CCC hoping to not only support legislation but put forward bills in future. Interfaith Alliance will be sponsoring a criminal justice bill next session re: record sealing.
- Do preliminary work with legislators whose bills were tabled.
- Addressing so many bills may be too scattered; looking at strategic focus on 2-3 important bills hit repeatedly throughout the session.

Number of Faithful Thursdays Video Views: Opening Video Through May 27, 2021



**COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES** Board Meeting 6/23/2021

Welcomed Rev. Joseph Wolyniak (Christ Church Episcopal Denver); reflections re: death of pets and related losses; prayers for bookkeeper Ingrid recovering from car accident

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES**

Pine Street Church becoming covenanting member

Joyous Juneteenth celebration

DE-BRIEF ON FUNDRAISING MEETING for Sunrise Service 75th; challenge to raise \$50K

VACCINATION STUDY in partnership with Dr. Josh Williams at Denver Health; outreach stage, goal of 6 listening circles at Black Churches Aug/Sept

MENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES mental health first-aid training sessions for lay leaders & clergy planned for the Fall

ADVOCACY/LEGISLATIVE: Faithful Thursdays Closing Event on May 27<sup>th</sup>, CCC was host;

Voices For Justice summary of legislative session upcoming.

*Mourning to Unity* book study of Isabel Wilkerson's *CASTE* with Black and White churches, asked to be part of a pilot program this Fall

Leadership Denver project on COLORADO SAFE SPACES—church parking lots for overnight availability;

Aug 10 Lunch and Learn will provide resources and tips

Iliff Intern for 2021-22 Fiscal Year, Haley Anderson, starts after current vacation

July meeting suspended; next meeting Aug.