

Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, February 2, 2023 via ZOOM

Host: Light of Christ; Facilitator: Chuck Howard; Scribe: Jack Wolfe

Present:

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)
Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)
Jack Wolfe, Chuck Howard (LOC)
Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos (MoM)
Alice Bradley, (COB)
Christine Casillas, Anne Grant (CHF)
Liz Begalla (St. Paul)
Meeting was started at 6:04

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 - There were none.
2. Agenda - approved with addition of discussion (approval?) of participation in Denver Pride Fest and discussion of Greg Yonker's withdrawal from St. Paul representation and from offices
3. Review and approval of January minutes - approved subject to changes discussed, to be collected by Michael
4. Financial Report - Alice called attention to Greg Yonker's report, which previously had been distributed to the Board. There are no expenses to report yet from +Pablo's reception, but Kae may submit some minor ones before the next meeting. Anne noted that CHF's November and December tithe entries were reversed, with a minor discrepancy on one from what CHF said the check was written for; and she had a question as to whether earlier CHF tithe's had been received and deposited. It was suggested that Greg needed to talk to Gayle Craun at CHF. A question was asked about the difference between "net income" on the P&L and the Balance Sheet, and whether the balance sheet number was a fiscal year-to-date number and whether Greg was doing the accounting on a cash basis or an accrual basis. After discussion, it was consensus that the financial report not be approved at this time, and that Liz talk with Greg about the questions raised, and bring back answers and any changes for approval at the regular March meeting of the Board.

4.a. Jack noted that Greg held positions of St. Paul Representative and Director, Chairperson, Treasurer and Registered Agent of the corporation. Chairperson and Treasurer needed to be members of the Board, but bookkeeping and Registered Agent can be done by someone not on the Board. Discussion followed, and Kae with contact Greg to determine for sure what his wishes are as to all these positions, and obtain necessary written notices of withdrawal per the bylaws. The filling of open positions will be discussed at the regular March meeting of the Board.

It was noted that Christy Chady will no longer be a COB representative. Christine asked whether she could remain on the Board following her move to Las Cruces, and it was noted that this is a decision for CHF to make.

5. Bishop Notes and Vicar Report (see Appendices A and B)

Bishop Notes: Kae called attention to her report which previously had been distributed to the Board. She noted that there was nothing additional to add or say.

Vicar Report: Michael called attention to his report which previously had been distributed to the Board. He suggested that all communities should engage with *Extraordinary Catholics* for collaboration with other communities. He asked whether we should sign on with *Together Colorado 2023*, a legislative advocacy group associated with CCC. It was suggested that it might be better to wait until a decision was made on Kae's "Protocol of Response" before deciding this. It was noted that the Region could probably affiliate with *Together Colorado 2023* without committing to weigh in on any subject. Following discussion, it was consensus that the Region should do this if that were allowed.

6. Leadership Council Report - Chuck Called attention to Fr. Teri Harroun's report which previously had been distributed to the Board (see Appendix C).

7. Personal Connections – What lifted your spirits over the past month ?

Old Business:

1. Regional Synod Planning Tom summarized Kae's notes from the Committee's January 18th planning meeting and noted that the next meeting is scheduled on Zoom for 6:30 pm on February 8th. He noted that the Synod is planned for Saturday April 22 between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm at Mary of Magdala in Fort Collins. He reported that a number of people volunteered to head up sub-committees:

Liz - Hospitality and Food

Tom - AV and a Social Justice project

Rosean and Anne Bevin and Bill Smith of MOM - Liturgy

Education - Rosean

A number of ideas are floating around on content of the various sessions, including one on cross-pollination among the communities being led by Bill Smith. The committee is tentatively planning two breakout sessions to cover the Social Justice project, and educational component and cross-pollination discussions among the attendees. There will be a welcoming and orientation with coffee and refreshments, a lunch break, and a Chrism Mass, which it was originally hoped would be the closing event, but the sanctuary might not be available; and so the Chrism Mass will likely be swapped with another event so that it can be held earlier in the day.

Kae said she would invite +Francis to attend as the recommended second bishop. It was consensus that the Synod be open to anyone who wishes to attend. The idea of broadcasting it on Zoom got mixed reviews from the group, and work needs to be done to figure out how much of the Synod will be Zoomed to allow remote attendees to participate. Kae reminded the Board that +Francis thought it very important that people attend in person.

While it was not discussed much at the meeting, the committee was leaning toward inviting Fr. Len Schreiner to offer a regional retreat, separate from Synod, to present content from his new book.

1.c Collaboration with Colorado Pubic Radio. There had been no contact with CPR during the past month. Kae suggested that Sally Allen had headed that up before and that she should be contacted for her experience and ideas. Chuck said that he would contact Sally.

2. Website update - Michael reported on the status of the Website, which is up and running.

3. ECC Synod - Kae reminded the Board that an evaluation survey had been sent out on-line by St. Louis, and that all who attended should complete it. She noted that planning was still under way for the 2024 Synod, but she expected that there would be lots of invitations for volunteers to be “boots on the ground” for that.

3.a. +Pablo’s Reception Kae asked for reactions to the Reception, and a number of comments were made. The photos of the reception are posted on the RMRC Website. Tom has put together a 3-1/2 minute slide-show from these, and he will send out a link so that the various communities can directly access it.

New Business:

- 1. Protocol for Rapid Response to Requests for Statements of Position** - Kae called attention to the Draft Protocol that had previously been distributed to the Board. Discussion followed. It was noted that in considering a response, it is necessary to recognize who we would be speaking to: internal within our communities or the greater ECC, and/or to surrounding communities and audiences. It was asked whether an individual could still state their personal position on an issue when not responding on behalf of the Region; and it was suggested that it should be necessary to consider how the audience viewed the person making the statement, as an

individual or as a leader of the region, and that this could change depending on the makeup of the audience.

2. **Denver Pride Fest** - Applications for participation will be due by March 31, and booth space may be spoken for before then. Registration is set at \$75.00 and booth registration is set at \$350. Following discussion, it was consensus that Michael move forward with registration, including a booth.

3. **Community Updates –**

COB – Is thinking about what they will do for lent, but otherwise it is business as usual.

LOC – At 11:00a.m. on the 11th of each month, LOC joins groups around the world to ring the bell in front of church eleven times, with prayers and reflection on the urgency of the climate crisis and in support of environmental justice.

MoM – They will hold a joint service with their Episcopal and Lutheran partners on February 26th, to be followed by a potluck. It will be broadcast live on Zoom, but DoorDash service from the Potluck will **NOT** be provided for Zoom participants.

CHF- They have been doing a lot of cleaning at their location - throwing out a lot of clutter from the move from their prior location. They will have a Mardi Gras Potluck on February 19th.

Next Meeting Host Communities: Mar 2-STP; Mar 30 (April meeting)-MoM; Sat. May 6 in-person meeting-COB; June 1 -LOC.

Upcoming In person meetings1st Saturday of May and October from 10a-noon (location TBD)

Closing Prayer: Chuck

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm/

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in January 2023

by Bishop Kae Madden

Personal: Traveling to the western slope to see family Feb 3-7.

Listening and Relationship building

Participate as available in weekly regional clergy prayer/sharing on Friday mornings
Meeting with and phone conversations with clergy members as requested.

Advocacy/Presence/Consultation

I sent out conversation points for developing a standard protocol for issues requiring “immediate” response and look forward to the conversation at the meeting.

Attended Advance Care Planning with the CCC on Jan 10th at MoM.

Attended a couple trainings by CHAN for refugee asylum and resettlement .

Presence: To follow up regarding a healing service. I'm wondering if we need to offer it to clergy first since that is where the pain was expressed, to invite the expression of experience/stories, invoke mercy for all concerned, explore individual and corporate forgiveness ritual, bless and be blessed? Zoom? in person? I'll send out a query and see if any clergy are interested in creating the service and/or participating.

Consultation: Meetings with clergy and lay members as requested.

Liturgies/Sacraments

Presided at MoM on Sun, Jan.29th with pizza and Q and A following Mass.

+Pablo's reception and blessing ritual on Jan 21st. Attached are some de-brief questions if you could give some thought prior to the meeting....

Planning for the sacrament of confirmation at MoM on May 7.

Formation

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike and Christy

Continuing work on forming a local Education Team to accompany our candidates' learning and to determine MDiv Equivalency and what classes need to be substituted and/or added for Bishop Kemper School of Ministry. I participated in a portion of the Interjurisdictional meeting last night.

Local 2023 Synod Planning:

Planning meeting on Jan 18th. Next meeting Feb. 8th.

ECC

Council of Bishops

- Monthly meeting on Jan 9th
- Mid-America working on their process for election of a bishop.
ACTION: Our local communities need to check that our community and regional and ECC constitutions are "currently" in agreement.
- Clarification: In the ECC, you are connected to a bishop – local or presiding bishop. No "free-standing."
- Spent a chunk of time preparing for +Pablo's visit to St. Matthew's at the end of January
- Continuing to work on ordination and incardination standards and the requirement to submit same to the Council of Bishops prior to approval

With the Leadership Council: pending

Pending: Continued work on members to form the Standing Hearing Committee (Appeals board) regarding constitutionality – I am unaware of anyone volunteering from the HOP or HOL and perhaps someone has.

Pending: Continued work to form a commission regarding education standards for ordination

Pending: 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.

Reception/Blessing of +Pablo de-brief questions:

- 1) What was the best part of the morning for you and why?
- 2) What detracted from the quality of the time together? and recommendations to avoid it in the future?
- 3) How could the overall process, from planning to implementation, be improved?

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 02 02 2023

submitted 1/31/2023 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

1/18 attended Together Colorado 2023 Legislative Kick-off; advocacy goals resonate with ECC mission (consider formal affiliation? Note: membership does not mean approving every suggested Together Colorado legislative goal.)

1/31 circulated *Extraordinary Catholics!* news, noting:

- Brag on Your Eucharistic Community! - opportunity to share about your community and get to know others;
- Pod P: Collective Prophetic Speech Creative Cluster - getting on the ground floor of joint statements;
- Fr. Jayme published his keynote address about the ECC;
- On-line directories of communities and clergy - add your info!

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Attended ADVANCE CARE PLANNING listening circle at MoM 1/10

(Thanks to participants; very helpful to project.)

Concluded Advisory Board duties with debriefing on 1/12.

1/12 participated in Independent Catholic Happy Hour social.

1/13 participated in Interfaith Shabbat Service at DU Hillel kicking off MLK weekend; challenging “whiteness”; interesting parallels drawn btwn Jewish and Black Church experiences of oppression and liberation.

Presided at Dignity 1/15.

1/16 marched in Denver’s MLK Parade.

1/19 participated in Independent Catholic “Pub Pod” on publishing; Jayme hoping to mark 500th anniversary of Utrecht this year with a history of the movement in the USA.

Ascension Alliance Presiding Bishop Alan Kemp reached out to me afterwards with prayers..

1/21 participated in +Pablo’s blessing/listening reception and welcomed Tom Moos’ photo contributions to website gallery (and added some of David Cloyd’s).

Presided at MoM 1/22.

1/31 helped revise Chrism Mass liturgy.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - missed 1/18 Board Meeting

(late night at the hospital; needed to sleep in).

Appendix C—Leadership Council Report January 2023

submitted by Fr. Teri Harroun

The Leadership Council met on Tuesday January 27. Here are the things that I think you would want to know.

We know the ECC website is not updated. The person who does it for us has been busy and we haven't been able to get him to do it.

We also thought George was putting together a newest Constitution as approved after Synod 2022, but that hasn't happened yet. So we are aware of this and working at getting it done.

We are getting closer to deciding on a location for Synod 2024. I think by next month that will be settled.

We are expecting the Leadership Council to come for a couple of days next summer to plan themes, etc together in person . I believe I can find local housing for everyone visiting as well as a space for us to meet and transportation for an onsite visit. We have every intention of having more people in the planning of Synod 2024, and will be looking to Colorado ECC members for that (transportation, technology, liaison with the site, etc). I am confident you will hear more from us as we have clarity.

Newsletters will start coming out to all delegates starting in February. There is no newsletter in January. We (HOL-HOP-OPB) will take turns putting these newsletters together. The hope is that it will lessen the burden on the various leaders, and increase communication amongst all of us. So in February, the all ECC delegates email will come from the HOL. In March it will be the HOP. In April it will be the OPB (and I think the COB) and will include an Easter message from Bishop Paul. It will take us a bit to grow into and what is useful, etc. (For the HOP, this will take the place of the monthly HOP newsletter that Rosa did. For me that is too aggressive, and folks outside of the HOP felt left out of information the way we were doing it. So we are hoping this method will help us all.)

We did get updates on MidAmerica and California from Bishop Paul, but Bishop Kae would be more involved with that and should be able to update you better than I can. Hope that helps.