

## Board of Directors 5-6-2023

### Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

Meeting Minutes, May 6, 2023, 9:30 a.m. at Church of the Beloved

Host: Church of the Beloved

Facilitator: Alice                      Scribe: Kae

Present in person: Michael, Kae, Alice, Chuck, Tom, Rosean, Liz

Present via zoom: Don, Anne, Christine

Guest: Teri

Absent: Jack

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:

- **Welcome any guests** Teri Harroun

- **Presentation by Beautiful Redemption:** [Steve@beautifulredemption.com](mailto:Steve@beautifulredemption.com), 720-333-1147

A non-profit agency providing a bridge to connect churches (individuals and businesses, too) to tangible needs of primarily children identified and referred by social service professionals.

Needs such as clothing, furniture, transportation. This branch of the agency serves Colorado and New Mexico, though in the process of developing the network. Denver is established and other areas will develop as the church partnerships are identified first and then the referral relationships. For the northern ECC communities in our region, collaborating with other interested parties in our geographic areas will hasten the development of the network. There was considerable interest/support among our directors as each member church has the choice to respond to any given need based on their capacity.

**We agreed to educate our members, determine interest and then network among our area contacts to collaborate. Rosean will contact the Fort Collins Interfaith Council to determine level of interest in hearing a presentation on Beautiful Redemption.** (See brochure, Appendix C) Michael to ask Adrian if better to present to CCC Board, Judicators or both.

- **Agenda approvals/additions**

- **Review and approval of March 30<sup>rd</sup> notes, approval of March 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes, too:** March 30<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved. March 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes were still pending at the time of the meeting.

- **Financial Report:** Greg did not connect with Jack so the report looks similar to past reports. Greg will accommodate our request for a more detailed spreadsheet once we pass the new budget. Note: Kae was not paid for March and will be rectified. Income and expenses for the synod will be reflected in the May report. Income in April \$2731.75, Expenses \$593.13 Ending balance: \$21,650.55.

- **Bishop Notes (Appendix A): Responded to questions.** Discussion of the lack of accessible ECC archives for historical documents and the need for an archivist to organize such documents both nationally and locally. Michael reminded us that our “Members” tab on our website could be a repository. Probably it would be wise to compare notes around the region and forward historical documents to Michael for keeping. **Who would be willing to write a volunteer job description for “archivist”?**
- **Vicar Report (Appendix B):** Especially thankful that Easter Sunrise service donations > expenses.
- **Leadership Council Report:**
  - a. Since Teri was present, she commented on the challenges of leadership transition: new presiding bishop, new lay and clergy reps on the LC. Kedda is taking notes (yay Kedda) and is helping communicate with the COB.
  - b. The 2024 synod has been set for Oct 11-14 at the YMCA Camp of the Rockies. Planning to offer most sessions on zoom. Recognizing that communities may need to arrange for lay-led weekend Communion services, a service will be proactively developed and sent out. Volunteers will be needed for transportation to and from the airport. The LC will be meeting on site on September 23, 2023 to pray and plan together.
  - c. Four working groups have been established that are working on resolutions: The wording of the ministry of the diaconate, Women’s Health and gun violence. **(The Ukraine statement as worded was no longer timely and dropped.)** Recognizing that there is no language in our governing documents for defining resolutions or the process of bringing a resolution to synod, the LC is beginning to formulate such guidance.
- **Personal Connections—What was a highlight of our regional synod for you? Combined with the first item of Old Business (see below)**

**Old Business:**

1. **Regional Synod Evaluation (see Appendix D below) Encourage our folks to complete the online evaluation**
2. **Financial Issues:**
  - a. **Approve the budget for 2023-24** The budget as presented was approved and we will remain April to March fiscal year.
  - b. **Request for Debit Cards for Kae and Michael.** Approved with \$500 limit.
  - c. **Shall we put some of our reserve in a CD? Tabled until June meeting**
  - d. **Is Kae an “at will” employee or a contract worker, need for parity between Kae’s letter of call and constitution in this matter. Tabled** until hopefully Jack (?) can contact the clergy resource in Loveland for guidance. Michael mentioned to especially clarify the use of clergy housing allowances in classifications of contract vs employee.
3. **Collaboration with Colorado Public Radio: Tabled**
4. **Pridefest 2023 –invitation after Pride – hand out the invitation to participants? Liturgy?** The discussion centered around Kae posing a question about initiating a post-Pride event invitation to a gathering that could be distributed during Pride in Denver. Consensus that each community needs to host its own followup, i.e. St Paul hosts a Mass in Cheesman Park, Ft. Collin’s event is in July, LoC booth offers a communion service that last 15 minutes at the end of the event, etc. Northglenn will have an event this year on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

5. **2024 Synod planning: October 11-14 – Friday through Monday at YMCA in Estes Park**
6. **Update on Greg Y's status as a director:** The Board needs to take formal action to ensure that our officer positions are occupied by active directors. Agenda for June.

#### **New Business:**

1. **Discussion about regional participation in ministry to at risk children/families: see above**
2. **How to highlight the breadth and work of Ecumenical Engagement – an annual report?**

Michael updated his list of member contacts in each community for engagement/advocacy notices. Kae mentioned that CoB initiated an electronic "bulletin board" on which social justice, advocacy, "for sale" items, FYIs can be posted without a "formal endorsement." It is especially helpful for time-sensitive matters which can get lost in the bulletin. Active links are especially helpful so that it is easy to respond/take action.

#### **Community Updates:**

**CHF:** Cara is leading instruction on making knotted rosaries to have to distribute at Denver Pride

**MoM:** The three bishops will meet on May 31<sup>st</sup> at MoM to bless the covenant that they are working on

**LOC:** Pentecost is their community's 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary! And they will have a blessing of graduates

**StP:** 6thAveUCC will participate in StP Mass Pride weekend in lieu of their Sunday service (Gray La Fond of MoM will share their story); StP will host coffee and donuts before parade at Don's, StP marching with UCC.

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Next Meeting Host Communities: Jun 1-CHF; July 6 Aug 3 Sep 7

## **Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in April 2023**

by Bishop Kae Madden

**Personal: Whew! What a whirlwind.** The month has gone by in a blur.

Greg and I plan to take a week of vacation June 15-21.

#### **Listening and Relationship building**

Participate as available in weekly regional clergy prayer/sharing on Friday mornings

Planning to bless the 301 Covenant at Mary of Magdala with the Episcopal and Lutheran bishops on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Administration**

Spoke with Greg Y about the monthly budget format and budget for 2023-24. He assured me that he could provide ongoing "bookkeeping" services as he regains his health. The issues that I identified for the board meeting include debit cards for Michael and I, the 2023-24 budget approval, resolving my employment status (contract or employee) and moving our reserves to an interest-bearing account.

#### **Advocacy/Presence/Consultation**

So much gratitude to Michael for advocacy on gun violence legislation and keeping us informed of other legislative initiatives and highlighting trans awareness.

#### **Liturgies/Sacraments**

Our apologies to those who tried to join us via zoom for Easter Vigil. It didn't work : ( Some button got pushed or unpushed. Best laid plans.

Chrism Mass!! Wow! What a lot of investment by many to celebrate our first regional Chrism Mass. It was great to see involvement from all five communities in a Spirit-filled and sacred celebration of the Eucharist. I was very happy to celebrate **all** the orders without diminishing any.

FYI: We did consecrate and send oils for Charis Community in Minnesota and the Mid-America diocese.

Bittersweet preparation for Sheila's Celebration of the Resurrection on May 5<sup>th</sup>. She was such a wonderful mentor and friend to me. I am grateful for Teri's holding of harmony in involving in the liturgy Women's Eucharist women, the Community in Discernment and Light of Christ members, as well as the role of bishop and regional clergy. It's the first funeral of a priest here in this region, so lots of prayerful consideration.

Looking forward to the sacrament of confirmation at MoM on May 7. Met with Jane, the candidates and sponsors on April 30; what a great group.

### **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. Scott and Teri are part of the team. Some progress : ) The bishops will address this item specifically during our working retreat.

### **Local 2023 Synod Planning:**

Thanksgiving overflows. What an amazing gathering: enlivening, educational, relational, strengthening...all. The planning team did such a great job – collectively and individually. And so appreciative of the effort of so many to attend. It will be interesting to ponder the results of the evaluations just sent out. Persons in our community COB are asking for a summary of the synod, so we'll need to compile a brief overview.

Let's breathe....and then plan a picnic, soon...

### **ECC**

#### **Council of Bishops**

- Monthly meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>, extra meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Mid-America working on their process for election of a bishop. Guidelines for the Selection of a Bishop were sent to them belatedly.
- Continuing to work on ordination and incardination standards and the requirement to submit same to the Council of Bishops prior to approval. There was a question about why the photo of Holy Spirit's Chrism Mass only had women clergy. He has only "incardinated" priests so far in their community. God willing, there will be women in formation soon. Holy Angels has women clergy.
- Follow up on the amendment regarding the role of deacons. +Pablo will convene a discussion. The lived experience of deacons in the RMR is different than the role of deacons in Lutheran and Episcopal churches in relationship to the bishop not pastor.
- Continued conversations with St. Matthew's and +Peter

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 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.

## **Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 05 06 2023**

submitted 5/4/2023 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

### **REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS**

Coordinated presentation at May meeting by Steve Ringelspauh, Director of Outreach with Beautiful Redemption.

4/9 opened #RedRocksEaster celebration again—GREAT ECC exposure with Bp. Kae last year and Bp. Pablo this year! (Redesigned our slide emphasizing inclusive welcome.)

Provided consultative input for Chrism Mass planning.

4/18, 4/24, 5/1 participated in Independent Catholic BRAIN TRUST on liturgics (6 week series sharing practices and resources).

4/19 and 4/24 participated in Independent Catholic THINK TANK on interjurisdictional collaborations; much content already done, looking at how to organize as a central resource. Need clarity about who we are as an organization (e.g., Inclusive Catholic Collective, consortium, association, collaborative, co-op, movement, et al) with shared responsibilities so not Jayme-dependent; acknowledging ground up movement of the Spirit. Participated in name brainstorming for resource website.

4/23 attended panel discussion on German Synod; amazed that progressive German Roman Catholics were unfamiliar with Old Catholic synodal polity!

4/24 participated in Review of ACP-Café Advisory Board.

4/24 participated in monthly ECC Chaplains meeting.

Presided at CHF 4/2, MoM 4/16, Dignity 4/30.

Added #TransAffirmation memes to my series of #CelebratingDrag memes to counter the wave of anti-LGBTQ legislation around the country.

Posted Regional Synod info on website.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts.

### **COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – 4/19 Board Meeting**

PRESENT: ED Adrian Miller (Campbell Chapel AME), Chair Rev. Stan Adamson (Plains & Peaks Presbytery, retired), Rev. Roland Halpern (UU), Wesley Moncrief, Rev. Gretchen Sausville (SC Denver Presbytery <mailto:gretchen@denpres.org>), recording secretary Fr. Michael Nicosia (ECC)

ABSENT: Rev. John Case (MCC)

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL**

- Bill for Red Rocks staff outstanding.

- Want to replenish the Money Market account after paying some of Adrian's salary in arrears.

#### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- Invited to apply to CO Health Foundation’s Congregational Land Grant Survey; several churches interested in partnering with us. >\$100K for 2-3 years with which we’d hire an organizer.
- Interfaith Alliance of Colorado interested in forming another, separately funded coalition.)

#### EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE RECAP

- More positive comments than in recent memory.
- Weather in our favor; good network coverage.
- \$9K-\$10K net expected; still in-person donations average \$2-3; PayPal and CashApp donations almost 3x higher than last year, with slide show paused for donation slide with QR code (also on livestream and program); larger post event mail-in contributions; tweaked sponsorships for higher range for reserved seating; some via Instagram, none on Facebook.
- Wonder about going cashless with mobile texting app (\$1K/year subscription; explore using another non-profit’s subscription); maybe include cash donations at exists; value seeing folks give; add contribution updates periodically—take into account “nasty grams” that consider it distasteful; liturgy to include thanksgiving blessing of symbolic sample of collection. Any resources for counting machines that are mobile? Charging parking fee raises cost of venue.

#### MONCRIEF ADVOCACY UPDATE

- Nearing close of session.
- Few more have testified; more have expressed interest.
- No update on healthcare bill, but coming after point person returns.

#### ADVANCE CARE PLANNING EVENTS

- Judaism Your Way considering event after Passover; an Anglican church in Denver is working on promoting it for younger members.

#### LAND CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY UPDATE

- Developing spirit-led discernment processes to offer faith communities.
- Collaborations coming together; late Spring, early Summer launch.
- Mile High Ministries to be fiscal lead. Asking \$50K toward CCC participation.
- (Denver Presbytery actively discerning such options.)

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Should CCC weigh in on Governor’s proposal to increase multi-family zoning?
- Wesley to write up summary to present to judicatories.

#### OFFICER VACANCIES

Note: we didn’t vote on new officers.

#### BOARD RECRUITMENT UPDATE

- Gretchen discerning level of participation, willing to step into Olivia’s former role.
- Still working on the following:
  - Rev. Felicia Smith-Graybeal, ECUSA (since declined)
  - Rev. Rodney Perry, American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains
  - ELCA candidate dropped out due to health crisis; looking for alternates

UPCOMING 2023 MEETINGS May 24, 2023 Continued prayers for Adrian’s Aunt in Chattanooga.

# Appendix C—Beautiful Redemption brochure

## OUR MISSION

Beautiful Redemption connects kids in crisis to a community that cares through a simple technology called CarePortal. We are here to make serving others in your neighborhood simple, meaningful, and consistent!



## YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Most of us want to make a difference, but we don't know how.

With CarePortal, you can take the guesswork out of loving your neighbor and simply serve the most vulnerable in your community!

## SERVING MADE SIMPLE

- ✓ Mobilize your church members
- ✓ Serve local families in crisis
- ✓ Collaborate with other churches for a greater impact

**GET STARTED!**



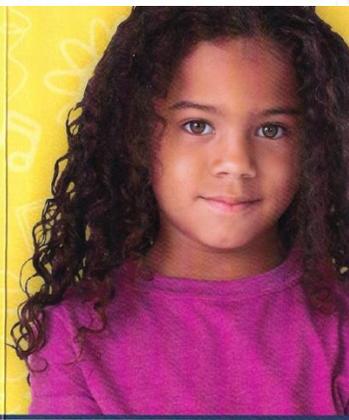
Scan



**Real People Responding to Real kids in Real-Time**

**WANT TO CONNECT?**  
 720-333-1147  
 steve@beautifulredemption.com  
 Beautifulredemption.com

**Beautiful Redemption**  
**CarePortal**  
 PARTNERS



## Simple

CarePortal makes it simple for churches and individuals to view and respond to requests from families in need in YOUR neighborhood.

## Meaningful

We believe that there are more than enough resources in our community for vulnerable families when we all work together!

## Service

All requests have vetted through child welfare professionals so you can simply focus on serving others.



## Appendix D—BOD Evaluation of Synod

### Those present commented on the aspects of the regional synod that were most poignant:

Emphasis on all roles/and valuing all – lay, deacon, priest, bishop

Sense of belonging during the Eucharistic Prayer – a family

Sense of belonging – of One Spirit – leading to JOY

+Pablo holding the capo for Greg’s guitar \*\*\*

And what that symbolized

Re-commitment

“Church building was built with bricks from the top down”

Reunion with early beginnings – 18 years

Cross pollination – good topics

So good to be in person \*\*\*

Liturgy recessional song – uplifting, movement, clapping

Things we love and challenges we face – finding what we have in common, sharing

Car-pooling conversations : )

### Strengths:

Excellent Flow and organization of the day \*\*\*

Including the table conversations topics

And the time to gather with one’s own community – connection

Earth Day theme carried forward in the term “cross-pollination”

The creation of the blessing bags and the outreach ripple effect

Next step: adult ed re: George’s presentation with the recording and the slides

### Areas for improvement

Extending cross-pollination discussion so that there is time to get to collaborative ideas

Cross-pollination: there were too many around some tables – couldn’t get to everyone

More time – longer day or two days or fewer topics

Low participation? possibly due to members not embracing our regional identity, how to build up our regional identity (Note: the participation was higher than the team predicted, but still a small percentage of our members. Possibly all day is too much to ask : )

More breaks –

Try to discover the cause of the late registrants – why?

More carefully consider the activities offered after lunch (nap time) – be more interactive/movement

Consider discussion time after the keynote to recap

Remember to make accommodations for those who are hard of hearing (some more enclosed spaces)

When moving from one table to another, give a 5 minute warning so it can wrap up

More detailed explanation of +Frank’s presence would have answered some questions regarding observer vs overseer.