

**Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes for 09/05/2024 @ 6:00 PM MDT, via ZOOM**

Zoom Link for Thursday Meeting only:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81677152445?pwd=ejhNZ0MySFBzc2J5bElvdUNaZHJNdz09>

Meeting ID: 816 7715 2445 Passcode: 10500

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Host: Church of the Beloved Facilitator: Rev. Alice Bradley Scribe: Dennis Giblin

Attending: +Kae, Don, Michael, Chuck, Rosean, Tom, Greg, Dennis, Jane, Alice, Liz

Excused: Anne

Guests: None

Meeting commenced at 6:00 PM.

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 (action items in red)

1. **Welcome Visitors:** No visitors
2. **Agenda approval/additions**
 - a. Tom asked that we recite the Synod prayer at the opening of our next meeting.
 - b. Dennis asked that we discuss the need for chalices and patens. Michael responded that we do not need but one chalice but we do need patens.
 - c. Liz moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Rosean. Council concurred.
3. **Review and approval of August minutes**—approved/revisions
 - a. Kae moved to approve, seconded by Tom.
 - b. Minutes approved.
4. **Financial report**—reviewed/accepted; significant details or action items if any:
 - a. Greg presented the financial report.
 - b. No issues noted.
 - c. Noting that 4 scholarships (2 partial and 2 full) to Synod are approved. One additional scholarship may be submitted.

- d. Tom moved to approve the financial report. Chuck seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- 5. **Bishop's report**—see Appendix A. Significant details and action items:
 - a. Conversation with Fr. Scott for two things. per evaluation of Kae. Scott: the council and one at-large clergy should provide the evaluation. Kae is looking for feedback on what we expected the bishop to do (and in conjunction with Michael), how did that get done, or not. Do people want her to shift focus or not. Kae proposed two of the council put their heads together and, based on the constitution, let's ask our communities and/or leadership if the bishop and vicar on focus or if some, or all, of the focus should shift. This can be an agenda item for the October meeting. Since we are halfway through the term, it makes sense to do this.

Dennis asked Kae was asking for the council to come up with an evaluation. Kae responded yes. Kae asked if we thought doing this was a good idea. Genral consensus was yes. Alice suggested we talk about it being mid-term feedback and not call "evaluation". Don suggested it be both feedback and a happy conversation.

Kae commented that the general idea is that we need to pause and understand if the needs of the region are being met. Don responded that Kae knows better than the rest of us what is, and is not, being done. We need to leverage that experience.

We agreed to use the November meeting to discuss Kae and Michael's experience and any feedback from our communities. ACTION ITEM: we need to follow up with our communities.

- b. Code of Ethics document is edited and ready to go. Kae will present (via a Power Point presentation) this to us via a Zoom meeting. One goal is to expand the Code of Ethics to include at-risk adults.
- c. Clergy continuation education: Fr. Scott is taking this on. Scott will be consulting with clergy on what the process might look like.
- d. A regional delegate meeting was discussed. Since there was no legislation proposed for the Synod, it was suggested that we did not need the meeting. However, it was pointed out that such a meeting would be good to help build relationships among delegates from the region. It was agreed to have a meeting on 9/24 at 6:00 PM for 1 hour.
- e. Week of Christian Unity: Michael was unable to attend the Colorado Council of Churches meeting because he was out of town. More discussion later in meeting.
- 6. **Vicar's report**—see Appendix B. Significant details and action items:
 - a. Need to identify who can take over for Michael if he ends up moving to Ithaca.
 - b. Agreement is that he will make a list of what he does and how we can move forward and what to prioritize.
- 7. **Leadership Council Report**
 - a. Please remind communities that the mass at Synod is open to all who care to travel there. There is no fee.
 - b. Michael asked if the keynotes will be recorded and made available free of charge. There was no clear answer except that the precedent was to do this and we saw no reason why that would change.
 - c. Leadership also asked us to appeal to our communities for help in transporting people to the Synod from the airport and then transporting them back to the airport after

Synod. Rosean asked about transportation while at the Synod. It is expected that any delegate and volunteer at the Synod who have vehicles will help with this.

Old/Recurring Business

1. **Holy Synod** Oct 11-14, 2024 planning and support
 - a. Tom asked Michael how many microphones were needed. Micheal responded the song leader, the presider, and the deacon at the altar.
 - b. Don noted that, given the time of year, there might be a concern about the availability of open restaurants and suggested we might try to apprise restaurants. Rosean took an action item to ask Mary Lu to apprise the restaurants in Estes Park.
2. Community updates
 - a. MoM
Having a confirmation this Saturday. A 23 year old woman who is very excited. 301 is working on an October service with theme of immigration. Social justice committee helping out. Dory Healy, from the community, is beginning discernment to become a deacon.
Don suggested that they could do the blessing of the animals with all three traditions.
 - b. LOC
After sanctuary closed down, upon reopening, a pear tree was planted. It finally produced fruit this year and it turned out to be plums! Deacon Mike is joining them! LOC indebted to Holy Family as they helped them start up. LOC is looking forward to him being there.
 - c. COB
Christy Chady has been ordained as a Transitional Deacon. COB will celebrate Feast Day on 9/14. Mass at 4:00. Dinner and fundraiser afterward. Baskets being raffled off. 20 years! All are welcome to join us.
 - d. STP
Celebrating 100th anniversary of the 6th Ave Church of Christ building. Whole neighborhood has been invited. Hoping to look how to revitalize the campus. StP has bought a set of communion cups.
 - e. CHF
Community picnic was held this past Sunday. It was well attended and everybody had a good time. Synod prayer is embedded for slide deck every Sunday. Noting Anne well not be available next meeting. Holy Family is hosting the next meeting and so looking for someone to scribe. Deacon Mike is starting his internship at LOC.

New Business

1. Week of Christian Unity
 - a. More discussion needed at the October meeting
 - b. Jane did note that Christian unity is more important than ever given that the Gospel is being weaponized more and more right now.
 - c. Kae prefers to do something on Monday (1/20). Rather do it earlier so people can get connected. Asked Michael to test that date with Adrian (CCC) to see if that works.
 - d. Kae noted we should talk to our partner churches to see if they want to participate (they have in the past).

- e. Michael: if CCC would sponsor it, we could do it in a larger space.
2. Marketing Update
 - a. Liz tried to clarify our position with Aaron but was unsuccessful in getting in contact with him. Given the lack of communication, Liz recommended tabling the effort. There weren't any dissenting voices.
 3. Continuing Education
 - a. Discussed above in Bishop's Notes.
 4. Christy's Ordination
 - a. Thank you all for attending her ordination. It was regional event. Some feedback from Tom: being surrounded by the people on her discernment committee was powerful. Kae: wished we had gathered regional people for around her for a picture.
 5. Truth & Reconciliation Commission
 - a. Preparing a trifold handout. Bishop Paul has committed to purchasing books to raffle off. What the titles are and the quantities are unknown. Also, buttons and magnets to distribute.

Jane expressed concerns that the topic of racism isn't that important in the region, if not the whole ECC. As far as she knows, only MoM and HF have done anything with the 1619 Project. Alice expressed the opinion that whether a community was doing education on racism or not does not mean that the community does not feel the issue is not important and should not be judged on what they do and don't do. Jane responded that the relative prioritization of racism does not seem to be a high priority. Jane acknowledged T & R Commission can do more to bring racism to light within the ECC. The T & R Commission wants to make their existence more well known.

T & R Commission needs to get some printing done and t-shirts for the people working the booths. Jane asked for money since the T & R Commission has no budget. The ECC will pay for the easel. Liz suggested \$500. Jane thought it was too much. Alice pointed out they could print more brochures with more money. Michael suggested enlarging a single copy to be on display with a QR code to link to a pdf that each community could print on their own. Jane wanted something to hand out to put it top of mind for people but that using a QR code to link to a pdf would be a good supplemental option.

Liz proposed a nest egg of \$500. Kae seconded it. As did several other council members. Greg will write a check.

Tom: we should put out a proposal to the HOL to include a budget for T & R Commission.

Tom was concerned that the Region was funding the initiative when it should be the ECC. After discussion, Tom can live with the Region donating the funds. Per consensus, we agreed to donate \$500.

6. October Meeting

- a. Since we will see each other at Synod, should we meet virtually on our regular day (Thursday, 10/3) and time instead of on Saturday, 10/5. The decision is to meet on 10/3 especially since StP has a conflict.
- b. Tom suggested we add the meeting times to our upcoming meetings.
- c. Michael will keep us updated on possible relocation.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:02 PM.

Closing Prayer given by Dennis

Lead Rotation of Remaining 2024 RMRC Meetings:

Aug 1-MoM, Sept 5-COB; Oct 5-CHF leads; in person at LoC; Nov 7-LOC; Dec 5-STP

2025:

Jan 2-MoM; Feb 6-COB; Mar 6 (? day after Ash Wed)-CHF; Apr 3-LOC; May 1-STP; Jun 5-MoM; Jul 3-COB; Aug 7-CHF; Sept 4-LOC; Oct 2-STP; Nov 6-MoM; Dec 4-COB

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in August 2024

+Kae

Personal:

Listening and Relationship building: August 10th I attended a 3 hour online Compassionate Listening workshop, a refresher for me. It's a good backdrop to both listening and relationship building.

Administration

Mid-term, it would be useful to me if the council could design an evaluative tool send out to our communities to assess my ministry as bishop and whether expectations have been met or a shift in my focus is determined to be necessary. I checked the local constitution and it does not address evaluation in any way. Your thoughts?

Follow up pending:

- Clergy Ethics/Safety Training:
- Continuing Education: Fr. Scott is willing to assist us by holding this expectation, assisting and conversation with clergy. Rosean would still retain the official records.

Advocacy/Presence/Consultation

I plan to attend Together Colorado's visioning session on Sunday Sept 22.

Clergy support:

Praying with many...

Clergy meetings and phone calls

Weekly Friday clergy gatherings:

Community support:

Liturgies/Sacraments

Confirmation at MoM on Sept 8

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is Jan 18 -25. See below for theme and context

Ordination: Christy's transitional diaconate ordination on August 3rd Hooray!

Formation

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike and Christy and Jim. Mike meeting on August 18th.

ECC

Regional Delegate meetings: Shall we have a zoom delegate meeting for the region prior to synod?

Council of Bishops

- Meetings
- Synod planning

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

1. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 resources available worldwide

NEWS

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 resources available worldwide

Churches and Christian communities worldwide are invited to use the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 resources to pray together for the unity among churches throughout the year.

14 March 2024

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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For the year 2025, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy.

The resources are jointly published by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches. The final material is sent to WCC member churches and Roman Catholic episcopal conferences. Persons are invited to translate the text and contextualize or adapt it for their own use.

2025 marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 AD. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the creed formulated during this council.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

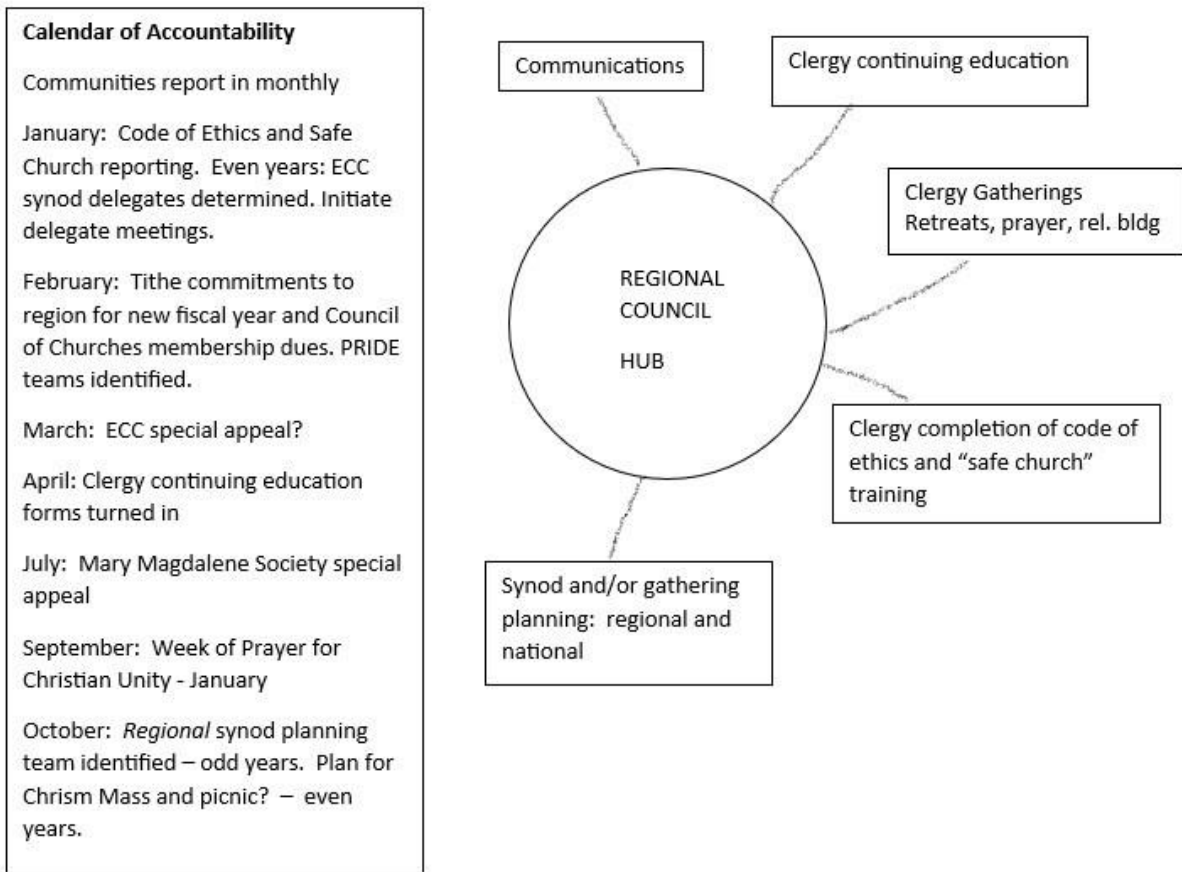
The guiding biblical text for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 comes from John 11:17-27. The theme for the week, "Do you believe this?" (v. 26), takes its cue from the dialogue between Jesus and Martha when Jesus visited the home of Martha and Mary in Bethany following the death of their brother Lazarus.

The traditional period in the northern hemisphere for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January. In the southern hemisphere churches often find other days to celebrate the Week of Prayer, for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for the unity of the church.

Mindful of the need for flexibility, organizers of the Week of Prayer invite you to use this material throughout the year to express the degree of communion which the churches have already reached, and to pray together for that full unity which is Christ's will.

Those interested in receiving the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 resources in advance are kindly asked to send in their requests to the email address Media@wcc-coe.org.

Brainstorming model of administration of the region....



Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 09 05 2024

Submitted 9/3/2024 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS in red below

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Declined Council approved registration for Caffeinated Church Conference, siting upcoming move out of the Region and resignation of my Vicar and media responsibilities.

Suggesting replacement(s) to assume my duties, sooner rather than later so that I can mentor them.

Continued participation in Inclusive Catholic’s Coffee Chats and Happy Hours.

Continued work on Synod Planning, Liturgy and Music Teams (LOTS OF IT!),

including workarounds after finding out chapel pews are immovable,

and our OneLicense only covers the Mass so I composed an original closing song for Synod.

Also, at Teri's request, designed an ECC Communion Service for use in communities whose clergy will be at Synod—we're encouraging people to attend the Sunday morning all ECC Mass on Youtube, but we also want communities to have an option with already consecrated hosts should they want to gather themselves in person.

Continued participation in Ecumenism Study Group with + Kedda, + Francis and our Dennis G.

Reviewed plans for Chaplains' healing service for Synod at our monthly meeting.

Presided at MoM 8/18, StP 8/24 and 8/31, Dignity Denver 9/1.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy and event updates.

Shifted priority positioning of some elements of the website.

Site visits were down again in August.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES –

Council met 8/28 but I missed the meeting due to an emergency chaplain visit at the hospital. Adrian said it was a short meeting. Hope to view the recording.

Appendix C—RMRC Adopted Practice of Consensus Decision Making

Final May 2, 2019

Overall: The council definitely prefers face to face meetings rather than email discussion or conference calls. Zoom visual technology may help but if at all possible, we need to meet in person. Meetings begin and end with prayer.

1) Our general practice during meetings will be to slow down and engage each person around the table, listening, asking or responding to clarifying questions and engaging with Love, respect, emotional strength and intelligence, commitment to the common good and foregoing personal agendas.

2) Facilitators will ask if there are any opposing views on every decision and wait for a response, and also to call on those not vocal during issue discussions. If the facilitator prefers, s/he may ask for a volunteer to take the role of assuring that we are hearing from all voices during the meeting.

Members may request to abstain from a particular decision if there are unusual circumstances such as a conflict of interest.

If the group is divided, we will: Yield. Stop. Pray. Listen. Try to identify how a problem emerged, if it is local or regional, and the source of resistance by going around the table. Honor no crosstalk as each person responds uninterrupted. After hearing from everyone, if there is not clear consensus, use the 5-finger model:

1. *I love it. I insist on it. I can't live without it.*
2. *I prefer it. I like it. But I can live without it. And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.*
3. *I am neutral on the question. I have no preference. And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.*
4. *I prefer not to do it/support it. I don't like it. But I can live with it. And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.*
5. *I hate it. I insist against it. I can't live with it. I veto it.*

3) Repeat :) We cannot move forward if 1s or 5s are present. We listen again and amend.

4) If consensus cannot be reached, hit the pause button and postpone the decision until the next meeting. At the next meeting, if we still can't reach consensus we may resort to voting as we continue to listen to the minority voices (see below). If consensus is blocked and no new consensus can be reached, the group may stay with whatever the previous decision was on the subject, or does nothing if that is applicable.

5) Major philosophical or moral questions that will come up with each affinity group will have to be worked through as the group forms and re-forms with each new member.

Difficulties in reaching consensus: If a decision has been reached, or is on the verge of being reached that you cannot support, there are several ways to express your objections:

- Non-support ("I don't see the need for this, but I'll go along.")
- Reservations ("I think this may be a mistake but I can live with it.")
- Standing aside ("I personally can't do this, but I won't stop others from doing it. ")
- Blocking ("I cannot support this or allow the group to support this. It is immoral." If a final decision violates someone's fundamental moral values they are obligated to block consensus.)
- Withdrawing from the group. Obviously, if many people express non-support or reservations or stand aside or leave the group, it may not be a viable decision even if no one directly blocks it. This is what is known as a "lukewarm" consensus and it is just as desirable as a lukewarm beer or a lukewarm bath.

***The facilitator of the meeting is responsible to bring a copy of this document to the meeting.