

Rocky Mountain Regional Council

Introduction: This document serves as the Foundational Document for the Rocky Mountain Regional Council (RMRC) of the national Ecumenical Catholic Communion (ECC). The ECC identifies the Rocky Mountain Region as Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, Idaho, and Nevada. As of 2010, the Region consisted of the following faith communities in Colorado: the Church of the Beloved in Northglenn, the Church of the Holy Family in Aurora, Light of Christ in Longmont, and (St. Augustine) Pax Christi in Denver. As mission churches develop in the Region, they are expected to become self-sufficient and seek formal affiliation with the ECC.

Description of the Council: The Council is a body of discerners and decision-makers who, in many cases, may be implementers of their own decision, i.e., a working council. In addition, the Council is a collegial, consensus-building body, wherein its collegiality is derived from the charism of Baptism.

Purpose: The purpose of the Council is to serve the relational, social, and organizational needs of the people of the region, in collaboration with the Regional Vicar and/or the Regional Bishop. Its representative authority to serve derives from the Spirit present in the Region's faith communities. Therefore, it is accountable both to the faith communities whom it represents in Regional, fiscal, and administrative matters, and to the ECC Constitution and By-laws.

Affirmations: The Council attests that its responsibility to serve derives from these beliefs:

- The Baptismal call to serve arises from the Gospel example of Christ;
- - All good authority in the ECC manifests itself in service to the People of God;
- - Discerning the will of the Holy Spirit is more likely when the collective voices of the group are heard rather than any single voice; therefore, Regional ECC members are always welcome to attend and participate in meetings as guests.

Functions: The work of the Council includes the following:

- Defining policies and developing procedures for the efficient operation of the Region;
- Identifying and securing resources to support the work of the Region;
- Engaging possible new communities interested in learning more about the ECC;
- Initiating and facilitating the work associated with calling forth a bishop when appropriate;
- Promoting ecumenical relationships within the Region;
- Facilitating relationships among the Regional member communities, such as retreat opportunities, social outreach, and educational events;
- Sustaining ongoing communications by all available means;
- Hosting a meeting, i.e., a summit, with the two delegates of each faith community in the Region, on an annual basis;
- Fostering relationships with other ECC communities outside the Region;
- Administrating special projects related to growth, including hiring employees, writing job descriptions, reviewing performance, and obtaining funding.

Composition and Terms of Service: The Council is comprised of women and men of faith from within the Region who are committed to the ECC. Each faith community in the Region will select two members, one lay person and one cleric, with respect for diversity and gender balance. In addition, the Regional Bishop and/or Vicar will also serve as a member of the Council.

Members will hold two-year terms and will serve a maximum of two terms. Terms will be staggered so that only one member from each community leaves office in a given year. In the event of unanticipated departures from the Council, the respective faith community will select a replacement to serve for the duration of the term.

Call and Discernment of Members: As terms expire, each community will invite members who are interested in serving the Region. These prospective members accept the call to fulfill the purpose and the function of the Council, in the spirit of the affirmations. If there is more than one prospective member, it shall be the responsibility of each faith community to discern and select their own Regional Council member.