

# Rocky Mountain Regional Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes—April 11, 2024, 6PM, via ZOOM

Host: Church of the Beloved, Facilitator-Dennis, Scribe-Alice

(Agenda Items are in black, response and discussion points are in blue and /Action items are in red.)

Attended: Kae, Alice, Dennis, Don, Rosean, Liz, Chuck, Tom, Michael, Anne, Jack, Greg, Jane

## Special Business

1. Welcome any visitors – no visitors.
2. Remembrances of Jack - All
3. Prayer for Jack, Ruth, Jack's family and LOC family- Alice

## Regular Business

1. Agenda approval/addition-approved with additions
2. Review and approval of March notes. Notes approved with Tom's and Michael's changes
3. Financial report-Greg Yonker- report accepted with no questions.
4. Bishop's report-

Question posed on Clergy ethics: Who follows up on those who have not completed Ethics training. Greg suggested Rosean be the one to follow up with those who should have taken it. **Rosean will follow up with the clergy who have yet to complete the Ethics Training. Kae will provide Rosean a list of who is missing and the time frame for completion.**

Pride Booth for Denver Pride. What materials? Pride: Denver Pride and COB will participate in Adams County. **Michael will send us the original RMRC flyer for distribution to all communities participating in any Pride events in the region.**

Dewayne's consecration April 20<sup>th</sup> and then Carol-Ann Blow will be ordained on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Tom asked if anything has happened with the follow up review process of separation process. The team is working on where the shift and conflict happened and looking through notes for 3 years. One of the things that's coming up is where we are as an organization. How firmly do we stand on things? Are we making exceptions. Things loose or never firmed up and so we came across situations in which we don't have adequate guidelines. Process on what happens to a diocese when a bishop leaves?

Dennis: we've had conflict before, it's never been opened to the rest of the communion. It's never been put out there as this has been. It helps us to be open and reviewed and learned from. The awareness that there was conflict makes us want to open up the windows and let the light in. What's happened over time and how can we address obstacles we've dealt with or not from the beginning... Kae mentioned that the role of the review committee is to identify the issues that led to the split, not to recommend solutions. That will be the next steps in a sacred process.

Michael asked if it is a matter of confidentiality... "Conversations with another presbyterate candidate in discernment" .... Who is it?

Kae clarified that this person is Jim Berry from MoM.

#### 5. Vicar's report-

- Colorado Council of Churches will have another webinar in addition to the one on Christian Nationalism on Anti-Semitism on April 16.
- Dennis attended the webinar on Christian Nationalism... and thought it excellent. He suggested we make all these presentations available to our communities. COB will air this in June before mass and have a discussion.
- We might want to publicize to our communities and encourage communities to learn more about this issue.
- Michael stated that CCC Board considers Christian Nationalism as the top priority to address even before Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.
- Jane suggested the Georgetown symposium on Faith and Justice. Jim Wallis, director of new Center on Faith and Justice. Founder of Sojourners. Book, False White Gospel. This presentation can be found on YouTube.
- There is a recording of the presentation on Colorado Demographics. Michael has a link in his report.

**6. Leadership Council Report** – No official leadership council report-which Jack used to present to us. Thankfully, Chuck was able to fill us in. The main item of discussion was the Oct. Synod. Teri reported that there is a replacement for Jack on the Transportation committee.

The Reception Committee will be addressed next by Teri.

Teri wants to come back on the RMRC but not until after Synod. A second person will be asked by Teri to serve as LoC's HOP rep instead of Jack. And the name will be shared with us after official acceptance by that person.

Michael suggested that Chuck determine if another rep from LoC is needed on the RMRC before Teri can rejoin. Chuck said he and Jack had an excellent division of labor.

Chuck feels he can serve as the sole representative for LoC on the RMRC until Teri rejoins with our support especially for notetaking when they lead the meeting.

**Tom will take notes for the next meeting LOC is scheduled to lead.**

If Teri and Chuck want to appt a temp rep until Teri returns, it would be fine and decision is fully up to LoC. Kae reiterated we will all work to support LoC and Chuck as the delegate from LoC until a temp is identified or Teri come back...

A five-minute break was taken at this point then...

Kae asked if we would donate from our Regional Funds to donate to Jack's memorial.

**Consensus was reached to donate \$250 from Regional funds in honor of Jack. Greg will send the check to LOC.**

Kae suggested we do a Pentecost ECC collective collection/appeal in addition to our tithes and asked for response for this suggestion from all of us.

Don thinks people would be open to contributing especially in light of the synod. Tom likes the idea. He doesn't think there has been an opportunity beyond the tithe. Kae. i.e., Jack's comment... Without the ECC where would we be? Chuck reminded us that Pentecost is the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LoC so they might want to do it on another weekend. Michael... How about specific appeal from the Bishop and RMRC...

Rosean expressed support from MoM. Jane said it sounds good to her as well as Liz...well worth the price of a cup of coffee or glass of beer... Jack...LoC doesn't do second collections but council will decide an appropriate amount. Jane, Anne, sounds good and CHF hasn't done any special collections and doesn't do anything with money in person. Jane suggested just giving advance notice and not mixing it up with their regular collection. **Kae will send out pre-Pentecost pastoral letter with the request for participation from both Bishop and RMRC by the end of the month.**

## Old Business

1. ECC support/lack of for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission both generally and for input into the Oct. synod – Jane

Concern: no one on the synod committee has approached the T&R committee which feels marginalized because of not being included or consulted by the Synod planning committee. They asked to be on the agenda, and no one answered the question about whether they could make a presentation or not.

The T&R Committee is crafting a letter to inform the planning committee of their concerns and are seeking consultation with the speaker, Christopher Prama, prior to the synod. Jane asked if the letter should go to Trish Vanni or someone else about this concern.

Liz asked what the T&R Committee is seeking.

Jane responded that the committee is asking for recognition as the ECC racial relations committee at the national level of the ECC.

The T&R Committee feels left out in the planning of the synod and ignored in approaching the planning committee. Also, 6 people had signed up for the pilgrimage. Anyone any questions on the pilgrimage.

As a Commission and the source of information and guidance on DEI in/for the ECC, they wonder why the planning committee for the synod did not consult with the T&R Committee about a speaker for the Synod who would be talking about Race Relations.

Rosean suggested connecting with Trish...

Alice suggested talking before sending a formal letter may be a better approach. Jane with consider but it is the T&R Committee's decision...

Kae suggested clarifying what the speaker will be talking about what the focus of the speaker's presentation is expected to be. She wasn't aware of any info that his talk was intended to include discussion of DEI issues.

Michael asked about the pilgrimage. Is there enough interest or support in our Region?

Do we want to send someone to represent us. Liz asked if they are asking for financial support? 6 from our region will be attending so far before registration is even open. Michael asked for a post-event sharing from attendees of the pilgrimage to the region. Jane felt that wouldn't be possible because the experience would be so strong. Michael is wondering if the council can support someone's attendance for someone to represent us.

2. Jane asked about which communities are planning a 1619 Project Study Group. HF/MoM and COB this summer.

Joan is offering to do her seminar perhaps some of our communities can take that up.

Michael mentioned different communities have different charisms and different foci, please don't think it's not a priority but it's not the focus right now.

Chuck agreed and shared about LoC's Social Justice committee and did things like watch a movie and did their Stations of the Cross at KKK sites.

Alice reiterated that many communities and individuals are committed to Racial Equity and educating ourselves in various ways in their local areas such as the CCC events and discussions.

Jane's thought is that this issue is not about individual community charisms and interest and support of Race and Equity issues, it's about the ECC as a whole recognizing and seeking input of the Commission when addressing issues related to the Commission. It's about promoting support for the efforts of that commission.

Jane's clarification: The 1619 Project is more than appreciation of the work of the T&R committee. It's about an understanding of the importance of the book itself, the committee and the book study. The issue of racism, because its effects extend to any marginalized group of people and groups of people at the margins, is not promoted. Yes, each community has its own social justice preference, all important, but the impact on voting rights, agency, equity in education, health, law, etc., reaches out like hundreds of arms. The importance of its impact is largely underestimated or misunderstood. This is a chance to understand the foundational tension of the founding principles of our country and the theological crises it has always presented and it presents.

3. Update and Planning for October 11-14, 2024—Holy Synod at YMCA of the Rockies no new info-discussed with delegate meeting agenda item #9 below.
4. Financial commitment to the region—any new discussion? *Not now.*
5. Clergy continuing education—any new discussion? *Not now.*
6. Accountability Calendar—any new discussion? *Not now.*
  
7. Regional Media Plan-follow up from Aaron Bailey's presentation from March.-  
**Tabled to next month.**
8. ECC Pentecost Appeal- *discussed above.*
9. Delegate meeting scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>- Should we hold this meeting? What to do?
  - Tom thinks there is much that could be discussed in a delegate's meeting, viz., information and details that may be useful for the Synod Planning Teams.
  - Fleshing out what material should be in the Hospitality Bag.
  - Consolidate plans on what we still needed.
  - Kae...How do delegates get involved? They could disseminate to communities about what is needed. Updates might be helpful.
  - Rosean shared notes from Trish on synod planning process.
  - Rosa Buffone and Paula Hayford heading registration committee.
  - Area for setting up tables for people who wanted to do a presentation so they can promote and share information.
  - Concern about altitude sickness.

- Want people have enough time for rest.  
Dennis: we need to have an agenda for the delegate meeting and wants to meet face to face.  
Jane felt in support of meeting and who knows what may surface until we ask the delegates, and this will be an opportunity.

**Consensus is to hold the April 20<sup>th</sup> delegate meeting in person and encourage participation of our delegates and attendance at COB  
Meeting time is 9:30 to 11:00 please bring food to share...**

10. June Regional Picnic: **Please forward the name of anyone in your communities with Picnic planning interest on to Kae...**

### **New Business**

1. Michael's response to On Human Dignity - **read and get back to Michael within 24 hours about whether to post it on Regional Website.**

2. Next meeting—in person or on Zoom? [On Zoom.](#)

3. Community Updates- [Chuck---](#)Stations of the Cross at the KKK locations. Tremendous press, Denver Post all local newspapers. The DOJ just requested to use it.

**Closing Prayer** - Dennis

### **Lead Rotation of Remaining 2024 RMRC Meetings:**

**May 2-CHF; June 6-LOC (Chuck will facilitate and Tom will assist by scribing this time); July 6 STP leads in-person at COB; Aug 1-MoM, Sept 5-COB; Oct 5-CHF leads in person at LoC; Nov 7-LOC; Dec 5-STP**

## **Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in March 2024**

by Bishop Kae Madden

**Personal:** Our Holy Week liturgies at COB went well. ? Was there any zoom participation from others in the region?

### **Listening and Relationship building**

#### **Administration**

Clergy Ethics/Safety Training: We need to follow up with those clergy who did not complete the training. ? **Who?**

**April** is our Continuing Education check in with clergy. Michael sent the guidelines to me last month during the meeting. Perhaps the first step is to “educate/inform” regional clergy of this expectation. I sent a note to the admin person, Carolyn Sue, to see if she knows the status of the guidelines.

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

Scheduled to lead an Ecumenical Prayer Service at Contemplative Outreach on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Clergy support:**

Praying with many...

Clergy meetings and phone calls

Weekly Friday gatherings: It was suggested that the clergy share a Caring Bridge site to self-report any joys or concerns, prayer requests. Evidently it didn't work – no participation in it : (

**Community support:**

**Pride: Denver Pride Apr 22/23.** Adams County Pride is June 8<sup>th</sup>. COB will have a booth. ? What regional information would we like to hand out at all the events?

**Liturgies/Sacraments**

**Confirmation** COB on June 1<sup>st</sup>

**Formation**

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike, Christy and Jim.

**ECC**

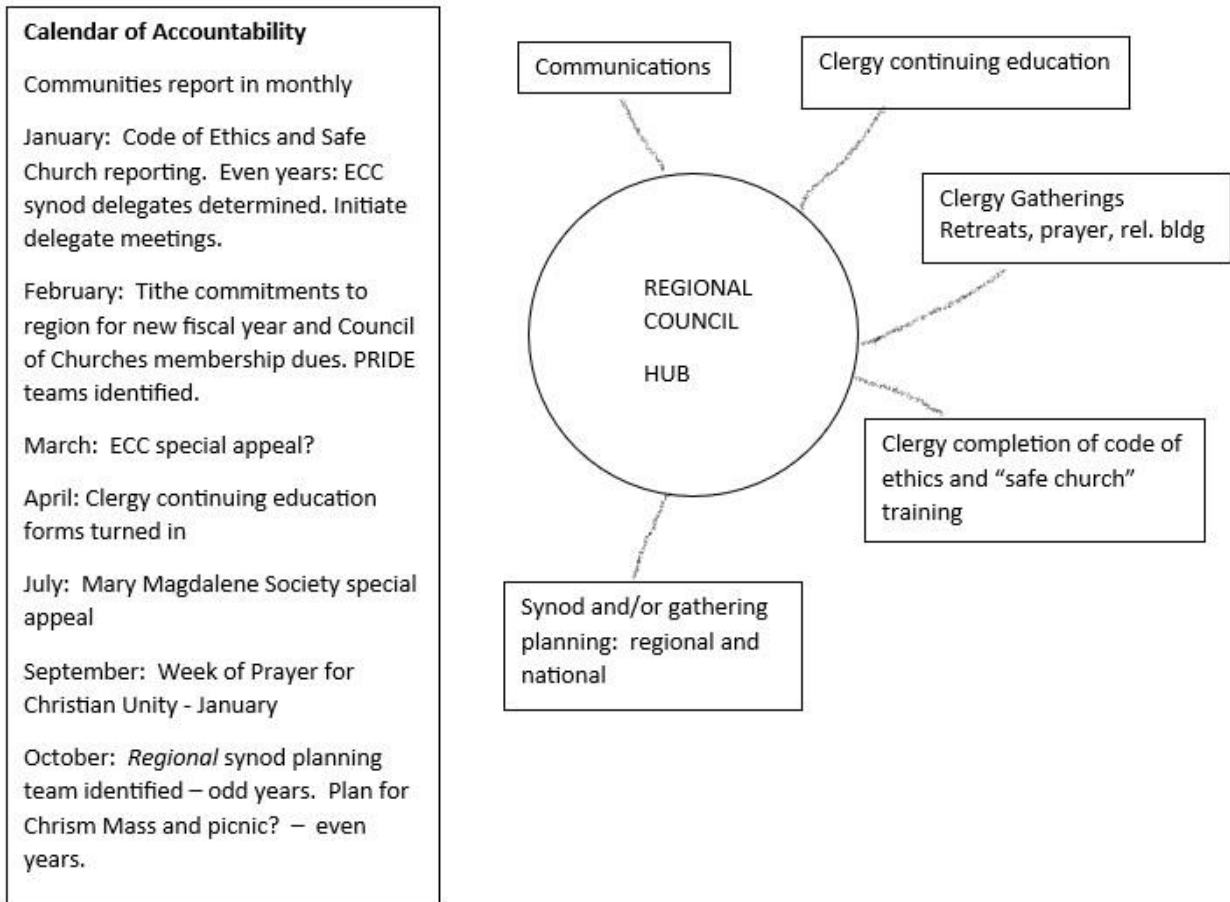
**Regional Delegate meeting:** Next meeting in person on April 20, 9:30 to 11 at COB. ? Shall we go forward with the meeting with nothing firm to discuss? Perhaps coordinate local support, i.e. transportation, etc.? Perhaps invite Teri again to give a synod progress report?

**Council of Bishops**

- Meetings on March 4 and 11.
- As anticipated, there are other communities wanting to opt out of their diocese and return to the proto-diocese. We are encouraging them to “hang in there” until we can have the commission formed to study and recommend action.
- Mid America: DeWayne will be consecrated as Bishop on April 20<sup>th</sup> – the principle consecrator from the Old Catholic Communion, along with Bishops Steve R., Rick and Rafe. Carol Ann Blow will be ordained to the presbyterate May 4. I am coordinating the “process review team” to determine the sources of disagreement leading to the withdrawal of the MidAmerica diocese. This task will take considerable time as we go back through written communications, meeting notes, and possible conversations.

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

Brainstorming model of administration of the region....



## Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 04 11 2024

submitted 4/9/2024 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

### KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

**ANTISEMITISM PROGRAM—APRIL 16TH webinar**—will share announcements when published.

Here's a recording of the interesting presentation of Colorado's demographic trends:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/0MK5FnWpjoio5s79P5iHnJQv1ACbsPxu4uEagHZWF4TLy5nmPnqQ3GTHDZkgHW13.kMOCnKAgkDxWWxJj> Passcode: w!h7Eo\*T

### REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

3/14 participated in Inclusive Catholic's Happy Hour; also Coffee Chat on 3/26.

3/19 attended CCC hosted webinar on Xian Nationalism and wrote blog published on StP and CCC websites.

3/21 attended LDS's *Lamb of God* Oratorio representing CCC.

3/25 1-on-1 Zoom with Bp. Kae.

3/27 attended Fr. Scott's Visio Divina Gathering.  
Presided at MoM 3/17; StP Passion Sunday and Good Friday (with premiere of Stations of the Tomb);  
Dignity 4/7  
Opened #RedRocksEaster with flute mediation; new design for RMR-ECC slide.  
4/8 attended first session of Inclusive Catholic's retreat on Liturgy As Art with Fr. Frank Q.  
4/10 participated in first Synod Liturgy Team Planning meeting.  
Bp. Keddah reviving the ECC Ecumenical Study Group (Rev. Jane and I are members).  
Was able to reconnect with Rev. Kathleen Jess, now in AZ; was able to return her ordination chasuble  
and stole which she had gifted me when she left CO.  
Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.  
Circulated advocacy and event updates, incl. CCC posts.  
Posted on RMR website: Jack's and Mthr. Ester Diane Smith's memorials; PB Pablo's Easter message;  
Xian Nationalism presentation recording.

### **COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – Board Meeting March 26, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER/ GATHERING THOUGHTS related to:

*God Bless the USA Bible*; Xian Nationalism parallels with rise of the Third Reich populism.  
CCC will be looking into a *Voting our Values* resource.  
PCUSA preparing 5 Ways to prepare your church for cultural and political engagement.

ROLAND HALPERN elected as vice chair.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE: major private donors may be on board for #RedRocksEaster.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE UPDATE: moving to digital giving along with end-of-service buckets.

ADVOCACY UPDATE–SINAI BEBO: preparing mid-term report to be posted as a blog post.

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM PROGRAM RECAP

Amanda Henderson presentation recording posted.  
Michael had posted a blog, reprinted on CCC website, and created meme widely posted.

ANTISEMITISM PROGRAM–APRIL 16TH webinar.

Councilwoman Cambell City Council Dist 4 will be hosting forum mid-April with mayor Johnston and faith  
leaders.

CAFE-ACP UPDATE: Michael made a contact at the LDS's *Lamb of God* Oratorio interested in joining the  
clergy cohort.

OFFICE MOVE UPDATE: Mountainview Church in Aurora in the lead for move by Apr 16.