

NOTES FROM March 3, 2022 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Facilitator: Rachel O'Neill Scribe: Jack Wolfe

Those present on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. :

Anne Grant - Holy Family
Don Sutton and Greg Yonker - St. Paul,
Alice Bradley and Christy Chady - Church of the Beloved
Rachel O'Neill and Jack Wolfe - Light of Christ
Rosean Amaral and Tom Moos - Mary of Magdala
Bishop Kae Madden
Michael Nicosia - Vicar of Ecumenical Engagement

Rachel opened the meeting with a prayer

Christy Chady from Church of the Beloved was welcomed as a guest, and new member. Ruth Homan of Light of Christ was welcomed as a guest.

Rachel called attention to the meeting agenda which had previously been distributed to the Board.

February, 2022 Meeting Notes. Rachel noted that the notes had been distributed and approved with one minor change, and that they had already been published.

Personal Connections Those present offered the positive things that they were doing for Lent.

Financial Report Greg called attention to the February 28, 2022 Financial Report, which previously had been distributed to the Board. He noted that Bishop compensation and Vicar housing allowance would be split starting in March. Discussion followed, and the report was approved.

Bishop's Report Kae called attention to her monthly report, which previously had been distributed to the Board, and reported that Church of the Beloved would be hosting a hybrid 9:00 p.m. Easter Vigil service, and welcomed those communities that were not scheduling their own. She hoped that next year a regional easter vigil could be held.

Kae suggested that rather than hold a regional Synod this year that a regional Picnic be held to build community and have fun. **She noted that if one were to be held this year, then a date would need to be confirmed by the April 7 meeting of the Board.** She implied that Don Sutton was on the planning committee, and Don did not dispute this.

Kae reported on several topics that were under discussion by the Council of Bishops, including Bishop Peter's ordination of Fr. Chinnappa for India, and whether an M.Div. degree is always required for ordination as a priest. She reported that the Presiding

Bishop Nominating Committee had nominated Fr. Paul Burson from Church of the Beloved to serve as the next Presiding Bishop of the Communion, and noted that the Floor Nomination Process was still open. Discussion followed concerning whether the Committee should be vetting up to three candidates that had come forward, or whether they should be choosing who they thought was the best. Kae responded that the Committee struggled with this question in their deliberations, and that it would be interesting to see how a grass roots process through the Floor Nomination process works.

Vicar's Report. Michael called attention to his monthly report, which previously had been distributed to the Board, and reported that Voices for Justice is now fully staffed. He called attention to a possible upcoming presentation on Advance Directives, asking whether the Region was willing to support this; and that the Chaplains Association was planning a presentation for the upcoming Synod.

Bishop's Call Letter. Greg and Kae called attention to the final draft, with \$\$, of a Call Letter, which previously had been distributed to the Board. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the letter be signed as distributed .

Regional Website. Greg reported that he had obtained a second opinion supporting using BeMax as the region's website designer. Michael reported that he will articulate and collect things needed from each Community for the website using the Wix platform. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the BeMax contract is approved, but that Greg should hold off signing it until Michael says "GO". A discussion followed about whether Michael should be compensated for all the time he was putting into the new website, and Michael agreed that he would submit an accounting of the time he was spending for a future decision on such compensation.

A discussion followed as to whether a "Donation Button" could be added to the website. Greg offered an opinion that we could not do that unless we had acquired 501(c)(3) status from the IRS, and that in any event, the Region received its income through "tithes" from the five communities, and not from donations. Jack responded that IRS Publication 1828 and the Instructions to IRS Form 1023 and 1023Z (applications for 501(c)(3) status) all indicated that 501(c)(3) was automatic for churches and organizations of churches, and that an application for such was not necessary, and that he therefore was not planning on preparing an application. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that a "Donation Button" could be added to the website, even though no donations were anticipated at this time. It was also recognized that some supporting non-profit organizations would only make grants to 501(c)(3) organizations, and that if such a non-profit raised an objection to a request from the Region for a grant, that filing an application might be needed at that time."

2023 Fiscal Year Budget. The Board discussed the proposed 2023 Fiscal Year Budget, which begins April 1, 2022, which previously had been distributed to the Board. It was noted that there were likely to be extra Synod costs, and extra website costs, including

compensation for Michael's time. It was consensus that these probable extra costs not be specifically budgeted at this time, but that they could be paid out of the Region's savings account. Greg did indicate that he would add \$350.00 per year for website maintenance. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the budget be approved as distributed and revised pursuant to this discussion.

Fallout from the January 29 ECC Zoom Meeting. Kae reported that the Council of Bishops would be meeting with the Leadership Council on March 8th, and that how the meeting and the reactions to it should be dealt with was going to be on the agenda for that meeting.

Pridefest Participation and/or Support. Michael noted that in some past years the Region's communities had either marched in the parade or sponsored a booth, and he asked whether the Region would be able to do anything this year. He then advised that the cost of either would be in the range of \$500.00, that marching was a commitment of a few hours while a booth was a commitment of the entire weekend, but that it offered the opportunity for one-on-one conversations. It was noted that some of the outlying communities might be participating in local activities, but representatives said they would advise Michael within 2 weeks of whether and/or how much they would be willing to contribute toward Denver Pridefest. Any contributions should be sent to Greg for the account of the Region.

A discussion followed as to whether it would be better, and or practical, for the CCC to collectively be present as supportive of all civil rights, including gay rights. Michael was not sure if this would be logistically possible. The suggestion was made that a proposal be made to the Pride organizers for a show of collective support affirming the dignity and humanity of all people. It was also suggested that the Interfaith Alliance might be an avenue to do this. *[It was suggested after the meeting that putting all faith booths in one area might be counterproductive, as it could cause historically oppressed, church-averse, people to simply avoid the area.]*

Regional Newsletter and Facebook Page. The Board discussed the value of continuing a Regional Newsletter and Facebook Page. It was the consensus of the Board that the Region should commit future resources to the website rather than a newsletter. Communities should be kept up on current events in other communities via the Regional Facebook Page, but they should no longer count on Michael to chase them for content. Each community should post their own current stuff on the Facebook Page.

Consensus Decision Making. Kae asked that all members practice using the five finger consensus indications rather than thumbs up, even on routine things, so that we will be used to it if a sticky decision needs to be made,

Closing Prayers. The Board offered prayers for all people around the world suffering from violence, and their families, particularly those in Ukraine.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m., after the Board proclaimed Hallelujah before Amen. The next meeting will be led by Holy Family on April 7th.

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Month of February 2022

submitted 3/3/2022 by +Kae Madden

General notes ongoing: Michael as Vicar in the roles of Ecumenical Engagement: advocacy, interfaith relationships, ecumenical relationships including Colo. Council of Churches board, and communication/media.

My primary initial focus is 1) Listening internally, building relationships, determining the felt-needs/priorities of the region; 2) getting to know the bishops through monthly calls and the annual retreat; 3) transitioning some responsibilities at Church of the Beloved; 4) learning about the bishop role and responsibilities from Michael and the other bishops;

General Matters that may need attention:

Lenten sharing of schedules, Easter Vigil at CoB

Listening and Relationship building

- Appt with Bishop Karen Oliveto (United Methodist) Feb 11 – It was great to meet with her. She serves over 2000 members over 900 square miles! Wow!
- In contact with various clergy
- Clergy Gatherings: I have heard interest in ongoing gatherings and a retreat. I will put out a request to see if there are clergy interested in being a part of a planning team to pursue these activities.

Regional Liturgies

- **In lieu of a regional synod this year, how about a picnic and shared liturgy? If so, we need to get a team together to plan – date, location, fun and games...**
- Sent out regional prayer invitation in advance of Russian invasion. Do we need a “statement?”

Planning: Met with Fr. Michael on Feb 26

Consultation: Support for clergy – personal and resources

Community Support/Visits

- Zoom: CHF follow up meeting on February 18 and another scheduled in April
- Presided at LOC on February 12 with discussion following
- Scheduled to preside at St. Paul on March 12th

OPB and Council of Bishops: Participated in the Council of Bishops call on Feb 11, 17, 21 and Mar 1st. Centered on ordinations in mid-America diocese and the misunderstandings and resolution. Also Bishop Peter’s consecration of Fr. Chinnappa to serve in India. The March meeting was the COB’s vetting of Presiding Bishop candidate(s). Following the ECC-wide meeting regarding Code of Ethics, process for constitutional concerns, value of subsidiarity, the COB has a meeting with the Leadership Council scheduled for Mar 8 to discuss a way forward in this regard.

ECC:

Discernment/Ordinations

- Met with three members in discernment
- Met with Bishop Rafe and Fr. Scott and Fr. Teri to discuss alternatives to MDiv for presbyteral ordination. I spoke extensively with Fr. Michael to get more background on the process of discernment/ordination.

Colorado Council of Churches: Submitted my bio and photo to the CCC for the sunrise service.

Continuing Education

Administration: Completed the hopefully last final letter of call for myself :) with the finances added

Pending/Parking Lot

Regional Calendar: Are our communities offering any classes that could be opened for regional participation?

Budget in development

Website design and maintenance

Office supplies/printing

ECC Bishops retreat – biannual – likely some funds in the ECC budget for travel and lodging

Registration, hotel and travel to synod ECC 2022

Synod RMR 2022? 2023?

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 03 03 2022

submitted 3/3/2022 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

Would the Region be interested in a joint presentation on Advance Directives offered through the CCC?

Central location and/or Zoom?

ECC Chaplains Association planning a Synod presentation on chaplaincy.

Are there any lay chaplains in the Region? We want folks to know it's not solely an ordained ministry.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Met with Bp. Kae.

Began coordinating pieces needed for website prep.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy updates and member churches' social media posts, incl. CFCU Rapid Response.

Presided at StP on 2/5,12,19, MoM on 2/20.

Participated monthly OPB Ecumenical Seminar 2/23.

Participated monthly ECC Chaplains meeting 2/28.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting 2/23/2022

UNDER CONSIDERATION: signing on to a collaborative initiative to educate, motivate and empower individuals and communities to oppose Genocide & Crimes Against Humanity.

CASTE: Subcommittees looking at various issues including Speakers group; Dinner convo groups; Group to advance voter registration, incl in prisons; Joint worship groups.

VOICES FOR JUSTICE: focus teams fully staffed.

Upcoming supported legislation:

Criminal Justice Reform - raise wages of incarcerated persons; sealed records;

Education - Farm to school lunches

Upcoming opposed legislation:

Education - Address GOP push for more parental choice and curriculum control; ban discriminatory practices by educators and school districts, i.e., topics that might offend, e.g., critical race theory, one-sided presentations of the Civil War, the Holocaust, et al.

EASTER SUNRISE

Featured speaker, Rev. John Yu of the DenvPresb; Korean community involvement anticipated; Opening Music by Lance Swearingin, pastor at Conifer Community Church and lead vocal for the group Blood Brothers.

\$5K donation for Adrian's Black History Month presentation

22-23K toward goal (expect to reach it)

Professional live broadcast for free! With live donation

Opening flute; +Kae participating

Channel 7 promotion

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES: \$4K Grant toward Adrian's salary for identifying 4-5 communities for Advance Planning presentations. Polling to see if there's ECC Regional interest.