

# Rocky Mountain Regional Council Board of Directors Meeting

## Minutes—February 1, 2024, 6PM, via ZOOM

Host: St Paul; Facilitator: Liz Begalla; Scribe: Don Sutton

### Present:

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)  
Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)  
Jack Wolfe, Chuck Howard (LOC)  
Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos (MoM)  
Alice Bradley, Dennis Giblin (COB)  
Jane Reina, Anne Grant (CHF)  
Don Sutton, Liz Begalla (St. Paul)

Meeting begins at 6:05; Greg Y was still absent.

### 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!

- Welcome any guests - no guests
- Approval of Minutes from January minutes approved with title correction: title is changed and new date of meeting of April 11th which is a Thursday

### OLD BUSINESS

#### 1. Update and Planning for October 11-14, 2024 Holy Synod at YMCA of the Rockies.

- Chuck said that with the resolution of the mid-America challenges, new info should be coming forward in two weeks;
- Info will be sent to the whole ECC in a whole ECC newsletter; please make sure our members are informed.
- Kae wonders if we have extra funds if some might be reserved for scholarships for delegates to Synod- perhaps from the renewal of the CD
- First meeting of RMR delegates to the Synod is at 10 am on Feb 17.

#### 2. Feedback on January 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Mother Roseanne said it was wonderful and the participant from Trinity Lutheran was especially pleased. Tom Moos and Laurie Gudim did a great job with AV and ensuring that speakers were heard and unmuted for their parts.

Chuck Howard said the pastor from the Lutheran church was also very grateful.

How many participated? Tom reported 28 individual ZOOM sessions with multiple participants at some sites, so maybe 40 attendees in all.

Kae's ecumenical participants also liked it. Because of the ECC issues it was especially poignant. Jane R said it was beautiful.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **1. Accountability calendar.**

Michael wants the calendar to include participation in the Parade. CSU and Ft Collins also have an annual march and MLK celebration. In December calendar we should start planning local celebrations with partners. Jane noted that Holy Family does not have a nesting partner now. No participation with any other groups now. Michael says in the past Holy Family partnered with Our Savior's Lutheran, e.g., Family Promise.

### **2. Financial Report** Greg Yonker

Greg Yonker requested that we update our records of his email address ([gyonker@me.com](mailto:gyonker@me.com)) and his mailing address for sending tithes and other physical mail is 11951 Ridgeview Lane, Parker, CO 80138. More income over expenses in January.

### **3. Bishops Report**

Boundaries and Ethics participants from ECC outnumber the ELCA members; the course is more than just boundaries and is well done and an expansion of the more traditional boundary training. Rev Alice finds the course robust and thought provoking.

St Louis communities remain in the ECC and with the Emmaus community will now be under the proto diocese; St Benedict also remains (Question: does this refer to the Benedictines of Holy Wisdom? I thought they are national, not necessarily Mid-America?). Future of the mid-America diocese is under discussion.

### **4. Vicar's Report**

Website has new photos of people and recordings of the Prayer for Christian Unity Service and the edited ECC 101 Webinar. Too early for formal planning for Pride. Adrian Miller is going to be inducted in the Colorado Black Hall of Fame. Michael is registered for the World Council symposium of the Council of Nicaea.

### **5. CD re-investment**

Greg mentioned that he plans to rollover the \$14K CD when it matures. Bishop Kae thinks we should only re-invest \$10,000 when we renew and reserve the remainder for potential synod expenses. Greg thinks we should do otherwise. Greg thought we had enough funds in our accounts, outside the CD, to offer some Synod scholarship support but as discussion progressed, the potential outlay might be more than anticipated – especially if we offer some scholarship support for Spanish-speaking communities in CA. Ultimately, he agreed with Kae's proposal.) The best estimate is about \$3000 per community for 4 delegates.

Our current monthly expenses are about \$609. Per month. We have about additional \$3,000. With the CD and bank balance, the total is \$21,000.

**DECISION:** Move \$10,000 into a new CD and put the difference into our bank account. Bishop Kae moved and Greg seconded. Unanimous vote.

Bishop Kae reminded us that public radio might be a good venue for us to advertise.

Kae and Dennis agreed to serve as the scholarship committee.

A discussion about how wide to offer scholarships – e.g. the California diocese and how to determine scholarships to individuals.

This is a unique year because we do not have travel expenses for our local delegates.

Each community will assess local needs and discuss and feed the info to the scholarship committee and to Greg so he knows the extent of the need.

The item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

The Council agreed to this proposal for fielding scholarship requests.

**6. Leadership Council Report** Covered earlier.

Michael needs response to the proposal for a retired clergy association.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Regional Marketing Plan** Alice Bradley

Wondering how much we should do regionally as other groups (specifically LOC) have used professional marketing persons. She summarized conversations with Teri Harroun who said it was a detailed process, got a lot of info and education and outcomes for the community.

She will come and talk about the process and how it might be utilized in the region.

Could we use the COVID grant money for this purpose? It seems a bigger issue than COB. It would benefit the whole region. Chuck thinks what was learned would be extremely useful for a wider ECC audience. At a transition point between phase one and phase two.

Alice and Teri will discuss what can be shared.

Michael said he could really use the marketing consultant's expertise on SEOs (Search Engine Optimization) for the website. Would take him scores of hours to add them to each page, entry and photo.

Jane reminded us that that Bishop Pablo had requested a publication plan, four of us volunteered: Christine Casillas, Mother Rosean, Jane, and Fr. Len.

Subsequently, Christine moved to Las Cruces and no longer ECC, Mother Rosean was no longer able to attend.

Fr. Len and Jane declined to continue because the work could not be done by two people.

Nonetheless, it remains important that we have a messaging platforms and schedule, which can be part of a marketing plan.

Don voiced how important it is that we have someone who is objective create the messaging and platforms because we are too subjective to come up with what a non-ECC informed reader wants to know.

A lively discussion ensued - detailed about how best to utilize what has already been learned and how it can be shared and whether the consultant might best be engaged at a broader level.  
Alice is concerned about using what someone else commissioned and paid for.  
Chuck will learn the details and see what can be shared and how we might best collaborate.

Maybe we should create a committee to meet with Aaron and see where this goes.  
Michael especially likes Aaron doing the implementation since it is so time consuming. Chuck says Aaron had flexibility.

How best move forward? Liz asks Chuck... he would prefer people who are detail oriented so all facets and aspects are considered.

Alice: should we invited Aaron and Teri to this Council to discuss and explain.

Messaging and Marketing are included but different?

Liz thinks we should move on this, especially if we wish to use CPR.  
Chuck says they needed to develop messaging first their focus ended being on website.

Alice will work on scheduling. Group feels worthwhile to move process forward  
These Minutes can be a resource for the meetings.

## **2. Financial commitment to the region**

Send regional tithe commitment to the region (Greg) and the national within the next two weeks, based on income and projection. Also the Colorado Council of Churches: \$1 per person and \$60 vicar donation per church.

## **3. Clergy continuing education**

Kae- what has been decided in the past? Constitution/ by laws....  
Michael recovered the draft document from ECC on continuing education- it calls for 10 hours per year

Uncertain about what constituted what was education? No book reading, must be interactive...  
Boundary training counts.  
Clergy- please respond if you have any memory.

## **COMMUNITY UPDATES**

**LOC** During Lent to create a lending library on Black history available to parishioners  
Also a movie on Black experience in Boulder with a speaker...

**CHF** Prayer Service in honor of the Presentation and another in March for St Joseph Joan Crawford is doing the homily and doing some African American Spirituals.

**MoM** Mother Roseanne Lenten Taizé and Soup Suppers  
Tom Moos Black History Month social justice reflections on lesser known, hidden figures in the civil rights movement.

**COB** 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on February 10<sup>th</sup>  
Inviting folks who have been involved with the community during that time...

**StP** Has revised and updated constitution

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

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

by Bishop Kae Madden

### **Personal:**

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

#### **Administration**

I think ten ECC local clergy enrolled in the Lutheran-based local course held on Zoom starting Jan 18. Also provided information about the “safe gatherings” option (Donna Massey 888.241.8258) and [Churches – MinistrySafe](#). I have postponed the Church of the Beloved will host an in-person “code of ethics training” for all lay and clergy leaders of the CoB community until we can compare it to the sessions we are attending now.

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

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity prayer service on Jan 19<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you, Michael, for taking the lead, developing the invitation and fine-tuning the prayer service. Other team members include Rosean, Bill and Tom. I was personally very moved by our prayer together and so grateful for the smooth Zoom interaction and the beautiful music. Thank you to all involved in each community and with our ecumenical partners.

#### **Clergy support:**

Praying with many...  
Clergy meetings and phone calls  
Weekly Friday gatherings

#### **Community support:**

#### **Liturgies/Sacraments**

**Planning for COB’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration** – including Fr. Scott, a letter from Bishop Peter, the UCC pastor at the time of our founding, etc. Alleluia.

#### **Formation**

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike and Christy. Conversations continue with another presbyterate candidate.

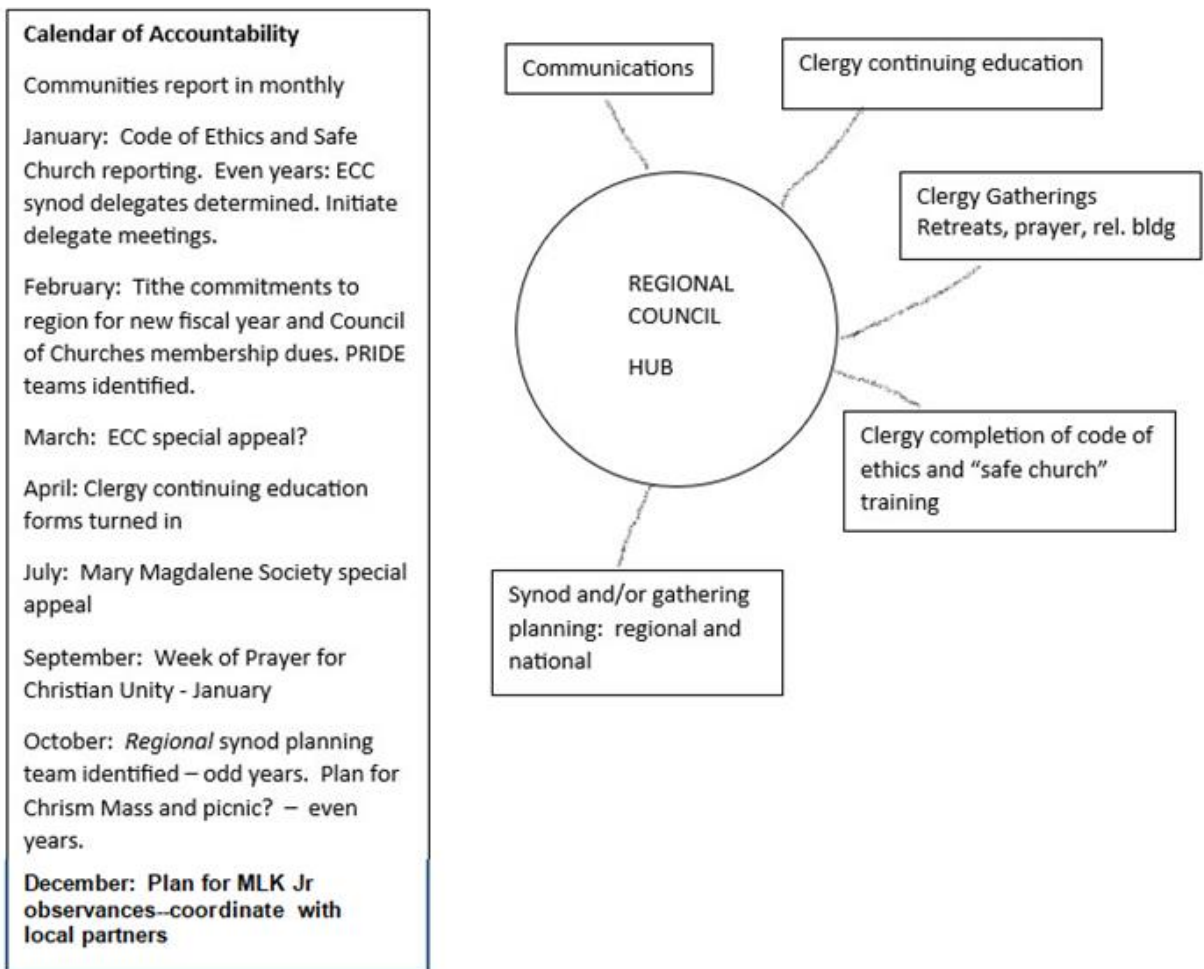
**ECC**

**Council of Bishops**

- Received the letter of withdrawal from MidAmerica and Bishop-elect Dewayne with disappointment, dismay, discouragement. With Pablo out of the country, facilitated communications as best I could.
- Meetings on Jan 8, MUCH time with phone calls and prayer.

**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 02 01 2024

submitted 1/30/2024 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

### KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS in red

#### REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Sent Rev. Denise Ann Roberts funeral liturgies at her request.

Worked on planning committee; finalized and circulated program, and participated in 1/19 service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Website: Added new community photos submitted by +Kae and Tom;

Posted recordings of Unity Service and ECC 101 Seminar on homepage.

Attended celebrations at 1stBaptDenver: 1/7 farewell liturgy for Pastor Brian Henderson;

1/14 ordination of Rev. T. Scott Pegues.

Attended Inclusive Catholics Coffee Hour 1/11. Diplomatically fielded questions from Jamie Matthias re MidAmerica schism, noting that an official statement would be forthcoming.

Attended TogetherCO's blessing of State Capitol 1/12. Collaborated with Scott Jenkins on proposal forming the Retired Clergy Association of the ECC (RCA-ECC).

1/15 marched in MLK Jr Parade with StP/RMR-ECC/CCC sign. Met former Jesuit who showed interest in ECC.

1/17 fell and bruised my ribs (still feeling the effects, limiting activities).

Fielded questions about proposed Retired Clergy Assoc; still waiting to form advisory consultation group; hope is to present application for Specialized Ministry status to SYNOD 2024.

Issue of liability of retired clergy who occasionally minister was clarified by Episcopal Diocese HR person: covered under their own private insurance. She stresses importance of the group having HOP representation. 2/1 revised draft considering input thus far.

Attending Ethics and Boundaries training through ELCA.

Attended 1/20 installation of Rabbi Katie Mizrahi at B'nai Havurah and was invited to bless her with the rabbis.

1/21 emailed organizers about our interest in 6/22-23 Denver PrideFest—details yet to be published.

Attended 1/22 ECC Chaplains Zoom gathering.

Presided at StP 1/20, Mom and Dignity 1/21, CHF 1/28.

Participated with Fr. Teri in MoM Liturgy Committee discussions about inclusive language addressing God and liturgical language around the reality of Eucharist celebrated virtually in our homes.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts.

**Up-coming calendar:** 2/3 Adrian Miller's induction into the Blacks of Colorado Hall of Fame (Zoom attendance encouraged ; link on Coloradoecc Facebook page.)

Registered for World Council of Churches' 2/8 Webinar on the Council of Nicaea.

#### COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – Board Meeting January 24, 2024

Michael and John installed as Board Chair and Treasurer respectively

Welcomed Sinai Bebo—Voices For Justice ADVOCACY COORDINATOR

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Didn't get Lily Grant for Black History Library exhibit

Anschutz Grant for our outreach to rural communities denied, considered too religious

[Subsequent to meeting, CCC/UCHealth got 2nd grant to pursue next phase of CAFÉ-ACP project focused on training faith leaders]

#### MLK, JR. WEEKEND UPDATES

Michael marched in Parade with ECC/CCC sign

Next year Board will coordinate CCC participants

Adrian attended CO Black Round Table as CCC rep honoring new Iliff president

#### EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE UPDATE

Invited Prof Rev. George (Tink) Tinker; noted that he doesn't approve of empty land acknowledgements or playing the Native flute in public settings.

May reinvoke Blood Brothers [accepted]; also considering Tailor-Made Band.

#### ADVOCACY UPDATE

focus of legislator and executive speeches was on decorum and civility in public debates

#### MINISTERING TO PUBLIC SERVANTS

Number of retirements over lack of civility

When servants encountered, ask them how we can best support them, leading with expressions of gratitude

Lobbying the Press to acknowledge when legislators do positive things (rather than just reporting on negative

Submit editorials of support

Episcopal Diocese is sponsoring "revolution of love" project based on Valarie Kaur's SEE NO STRANGER. More info to come.

#### CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM PROGRAM WITH ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Tues. Feb 20 evening, hybrid or fully virtual. More info to come—promote in congregations.

MIGRANT ASSISTANCE no one coordinating faith community response (providing shelter and donation of needed items); grass roots work, government response lacks coordination.

Jennifer Piper shared possible funding source for establishing a point person.

#### OFFICE MOVE

UCC building sale fell through, still want to sell by mid-March; CCC office may move to Central Christian Church (old office)

Next meeting: Feb 28

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