

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL  
MEETING NOTES - February 1, 2018

Kae Madden chaired the meeting in Teri Harroun's absence and led the group in prayer to open the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Those present were:

John Head - Church of the Holy Family  
Kae Madden - Church of the Beloved  
Len Schreiner- Church of the Holy Family  
Jim Burnik - Church of the Beloved  
Michael Nicosia - Vicar and Pax Christi  
Jack Wolfe - Light of Christ, who recorded these notes

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kae called attention to the agenda, and asked for additions. Jim Burnik asked for a report on community participation at events like Denver PrideFest, and Jack Wolfe asked for a discussion on thoughts or policies about talking politics during homilies.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Kae called attention to the minutes of the RMRC January 4, 2018 meeting, taken by Len, and which were previously distributed. These were approved by a consensus of those present.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kae called attention to the most recent financial report which was previously distributed. It was noted that the report included an expense of \$70.00 for printing ECC pamphlets, and estimated future payment of Colorado Council of Churches dues. Michael noted that the communities should update their membership numbers in order to confirm the amount of the payment.

Lara needs community pledges to the RMRC, including pledges for Colorado Council of Churches, as soon as possible. Current pledges reported are: LOC - pending; COB - \$1,500; CHF - \$2,496.00 which is 2% of the 5% owed to ECC, so this may change if ECC covenant is enforced; MOM - \$2,100

Michael has advised St. Paul of the tithing rules if they decide to join the ECC.

VICAR'S REPORT

Michael reminded the communities that the ECC annual Community Update form is due to the ECC administration by February 12th.

Michael called attention to his report, which was previously distributed. He asked whether anyone had signed up for the Active Shooter Instructional Course scheduled for February 6th. He noted that he had one ticket available if anyone attempts to sign up but is told that registration is full.

ELCA Bishop Gonia and ECC Bishop Krebs will meet in Colorado in July with involved pastors and community representatives to clarify and envision levels of collaboration and unity on the local level that may be a testing ground for wider denominational communion in the future. In the meantime, joint services are okay, but concelebration can cause problems. The concern is that the communities should not do anything that gives the impression to outsiders that we can do whatever we want to. Colorado will be the testing ground for whatever is decided. Bishop Gonia is also the Bishop for Arizona Lutheran parishes, so whatever ends up working here will probably also become the rule for the ECC community that shares space with an ELCA parish in Arizona.

The Colorado Council of Churches is starting a signature drive to put a measure on the November ballot to resolve Colorado constitutional issues and expand the tax base in order to get more funds for education.

ECC leadership needs the names of delegates for the upcoming Synod. They are also looking for requests for information tables. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the meeting that one table for the RMRC might be a good idea, showing how the Region is different.

The ECC in California is reacting to the selection process for the Auxiliary Bishop. They believe the ECC should not have sidestepped the constitution with the way Denise was affirmed, and that she should not be ordained Bishop without polling or affirmation by the ENTIRE Synod representation.

The deadline for getting articles into the RMRC quarterly newsletter is Feb 2nd.

## REPORTS BY COMMUNITIES

Pax Christi held a recent membership meeting where it was determined to join with St. Paul for all of Lent, as they were already planning to join with them for the Easter Triduum, and as a test drive for merger. The last service at the current United Church of Christ location will be February 11th.

Light of Christ. They have published the announcement for Fr. Teri's on-line Lenten Retreat. They ended up 2017 in the black, financially. They have one new, young representative for the House of Laity.

Church of Holy Family. They are moving on calling a pastor, and are sending a letter to RMRC communities asking if anyone knows of someone that might be interested. They are probably also going to actively look for a new location.

Church of Beloved. Their Advent project was very successful; the money raised was much higher than expected. They are stable, and are moving from a pastor centered community to a lay leadership centered community. They participated in the "Point in Time" homeless count.

Rev. Denise Roberts-Graham made the local newspapers concerning her startup of a new community in Pennsylvania.

## OLD BUSINESS

ECC Pledges. Office of Presiding Bishop has advised us that it is expecting the full 5% tithe, unless a community is given special dispensation; it is not willing to split the 5% with the Region; and it may affect a community's ability to participate at Synod.

Compensation for Auxiliary Bishop. Michael advised the group that he had not received any feedback from other involved regions concerning a proposed letter to the HOL to include compensation for the Auxiliary Bishop in the budget to be proposed at Synod.

Ordination gift for Bishop Denise. There were no ideas for a gift, other than it should not be Teri's responsibility. Let's all keep thinking and be open to inspiration.

Welcoming St. Paul. A joyful celebration with Bishop Francis when they are here in July was suggested, perhaps in conjunction with incardination of Fr. Don. It was suggested that perhaps St. Paul would be a good large location for such celebration.

## NEW BUSINESS

ECC Constitution Amendments. It was the consensus of the meeting that a unified response to the amendments by the Region would be good, and so a telephone conference of Synod delegates is being planned for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 26th concerning the first set of amendments offered. It was hoped that all communities would have their delegates for Synod chosen by then, and that each community would start the call with a unified statement of the community on the amendments.

David Dunn. David is planning to take a leave of absence.

Social Action. The communities should advise the Region of the social action programs they will be participating in. Since LOC and MOM participate in local PrideFest programs in their town, the Denver communities will be the ones to participate in Denver PrideFest, and perhaps they can form a common participation to save expense. Michael will check with St. Paul about their participation.

Political Homilies. Whether or not depends on the community and its presider. We should focus on values not on politics. We should be willing to deal with the issues

of the day without pointing fingers. Unity of the community is more important than any issue, but we should be able to offer opportunities that arise for people to do independent things.

### LOCAL BISHOP BROCHURE.

Michael called attention to the latest draft that he had sent out. It was suggested that things a bishop does should be prioritized. The priests of the Region will discuss this when they meet on the 10th. Since Michael will be leaving for Portland, all comments should get to him no later than the 19th. He will then prepare the final form for distribution to the communities and discussions there during the Easter Season. It was suggested that the next draft, to come out soon, should be given to one or two people to test whether it will fulfill its purpose.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled for March 1st, to be hosted by Mary of Magadala. With following meeting to be hosted by PC, COB, HF and LOC.

### BLESSINGS

Kae led us in blessings for those in need.

### ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

## Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 2/1/2018

### REGIONAL AFFAIRS

1/7/18 Forwarded Fr. Prasad's interest in **CHF pastor position** to Bonnie, and informed her that contact info on ECC website job announcement out of date.

**GUN SAFETY SEMINAR FOR FAITH LEADERS** - shared info 1/12/18 on **Making Prevention A Reality**:

*Dear Colorado and Wyoming House of Worship Leaders:*

*You are cordially invited to attend the FBI Denver Division Active Shooter instructional course to be held at Johnson & Wales University on February 6th, 2018 from 1:00pm – 5:00pm. Training will be led by FBI Denver Special Agent Jonny Grusing, Crisis Management Coordinator Special Agent Brian Schmitt, and Victim Specialist Alicia Wagner.*

*WHAT: Making Prevention A Reality: Identifying, Assessing, and Managing the Threat of Targeted Attacks: Instructional Course for House of Worship Leaders*

*WHEN: Tuesday, February 6th, 2018; 1:00pm – 5:00pm*

*WHERE: Johnson & Wales University, Academic Building Auditorium,  
7150 Montview Blvd., Denver, Colorado 80220*

*COST: Free WHO: Colorado and Wyoming House of Worship Leaders*

*During this training, the FBI will provide instruction on active shooter threat assessment and management, or how to identify, assess, and manage the risk of future planned violence. Behavioral Analyst Grusing will outline strategies for religious leaders to recognize intended violence, risk factors and warning signs, mitigating planned attacks, and other viable approaches to reducing targeted violence. Special Agent Schmitt will teach you what you need to know and do during an active shooter situation. Victim Specialist Wagner will cover topics such as the identification of predictable challenges and practical solutions in active shooter situations, planning and execution of victim/family management, and federal resources and capabilities.*

*Please e-mail FBI DN Public Affairs Specialist Deborah Sherman  
[dksherman@fbi.gov](mailto:dksherman@fbi.gov)*

*by January 31, 2018 to RSVP for the course. Please include your name, title, and House of Worship. Due to space limitations, attendance is limited to **two** representatives per each House of Worship. Please RSVP as soon as possible to secure attendance.*

*See the attached campus map for parking information. Please use the parking lot at the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> & Quebec. If you do choose to park on the street, be aware that some spaces are one hour maximum and Denver Police patrol the areas.*

*We hope to see you February 6th, 2018.*

Calvin Shivers, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Denver Division

**Regional Clergy Gathering** scheduled for 2/10 at COB to discuss if/why they need a local bishop; also set dates for periodic gatherings.

1/18/18 relayed **bishop ordination liturgy resources** to +Francis

1/22/18 made sure all communities received **1<sup>st</sup> articles from Constitution Commission** for review.

1/25/18 submitted suggested revises to committee on ***Why a local bishop?*** (see **Appendix B**)

1/28/18 circulated news of **Sheila's fall** to regional clergy and +Francis: 1/23 broke her collar bone; under observation for a probable concussion, though she remains her feisty, others-have-it-worse-than-I-do self.

1/24/18 spoke with Jim Farris of CA who called to share **regional concerns about ordaining an Aux Bishop** without Synod affirmation (was the process followed in CA for +Armando and in WA for +Tom. Told him I accepted OPB's rationale; many in CA reacting negatively; encouraged open dialog about their grievances.

1/30/18 converted Jan mtg notes to pdf and forwarded it to webmaster

## **FORMATION/RECEPTION**

1/16 (and 30?)/18 Diakonate 101 seminar winding down, very productive; haven't heard if proposed informative seminar at Synod was accepted by the planning committee

1/22/18 clarified more of deacon application process for Jim B

## **COLLABORATIONS**

LUTHERAN DIALOGUES 11/29/17—12/11/17—1/8/18 ECC/

+Francis, ELCA Bishop Jim Gonia and I will be **coordinating a meeting in July of those ECC and Lutheran regional communities that share space**, to clarify and envision levels

of collaboration and unity on the local level that may be a testing ground for wider denominational communion in the future. The ELCA Director for Ecumenical Relations may also attend.

1/25/18 Interfaith Alliance's *Healing the Divide* discussions on gender and sexuality at Denver Seminary.

1/31 **Rabbi/Pastors gathering** – discussion on USA recognition of Jerusalem as capital of Israel

**CCC** 1/24/18 CCC Board Meeting

- Gov. Hickenlooper's Clergy Council – Refugee Hiring Initiative  
~ supported by most of the CCC member churches
- NCC's DC March on 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MLK Assassination  
~ CCC unable to organize bussing participants to DC, but will support local solidarity observances
- Easter Sunrise Service Update: Community Choir open to all, under the direction of Jubilate  
<http://www.cochurches.org/ongoing-events/easter-sunrise-service-at-red-rocks/musical-guests/>
- Great presentation by Lisa Weil of Greater Education Colorado on proposed school funding ballot initiatives. State schools drastically underfunded because of the Gallagher Amendment and TABOR; plan is to change constitution to give legislators ability (and a mandate) to increase taxes for differing levels of household income ...**STAY TUNED for critical campaign for collecting signatures!**

## ADVOCACY

1/17/18 forwarded **DC lobbying opportunity** via CCC:

ÁĒĒĒ Jared Noetzel [mailto:jared.noetzel@one.org] ČĚĚĚĚ Wed, January 10, 2018  
9:26 AM  
ĈĚĚĚ Adrian Miller  
ĈĚĚĚĚĚĚ DC in February

*Hi Adrian, Hope this note finds you well rested on the other side of the New Year. I'm writing with a bit of an oddly timed request. We've just recently learned that Sen. Gardner is expected to continue to grow in his responsibilities in the Senate – meaning he will have a more prominent role in decisions around foreign assistance and extreme poverty. Additionally, ONE hosts an annual advocacy conference call the Power Summit here in*

*Washington where we have a select number of seats for pastors and faith leaders. However, we don't have any one to represent Colorado on our list to be here February 25th through 28th.*

*I'm wondering if you might know who within the state might be interested in joining us here in DC to learn more about ONE and the work we do while also spending some time on Capitol Hill speaking their elected officials. Since this is a bit last minute we do have some limited funds to help cover travel and practically all costs are covered once our participants are here, including lodging and most meals. I'm also reaching out to a few other contacts in the state, and would be happy to get in touch with whomever you might recommend.*

*Thanks in advance for any help you might provide,*

*Jared Noetzel |Lead – Faith Strategy & Engagement|O: +1 202-495-2763|M: +1 571-970-8123*

*Join us at [ONE.ORG/Faith](http://ONE.ORG/Faith), 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite 400, Washington, DC 20004.*

*[@jarednoetzel](https://www.facebook.com/ONE) | [Facebook.com/ONE](http://Facebook.com/ONE)*

1/18/18 Asked to play a flute meditation, I set the mood for last week's interfaith ritual “**Gathering of Lamentation, Longing and Hope for the 2018 Legislative Session.**” Special thanks to the Colorado Council of Churches, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, the Capitol Hill United Ministries, and our hosts at First Baptist Church of Denver, who joined in this communal action witnessing to our values as people of faith and active citizens.

1/23/18 Attended Interfaith Alliance - **Progressive Congregation Network**'s seminar.

**RESOURCE for testifying before Colorado State Legislature** – Interfaith Alliance survey at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pSk7mzbk4cWW3RzkHf9ubV\\_xanWIJ8h1rOnXHsX8Hxc/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pSk7mzbk4cWW3RzkHf9ubV_xanWIJ8h1rOnXHsX8Hxc/viewform?edit_requested=true)

**COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING** Strategies and Resources:

- Investment Clubs  
~ <http://thecoop.coop/>  
~ CO Coop Investment Club <http://www.facebook.com/events/1448430971945556/>
- Revolving Loans  
~ Boston Ujima Project <http://www.ujimaboston.com/>  
~ CEDS <http://cedsfinance.org/>



- Public Banking ~ Rocky Mountain Public Banking Institute <http://bankingoncolorado.org/>
- Support Cooperatives ~ <http://coloradocoops.info/directory/>
- Support Locally-Owned Small Business ~ create a community directory and share it with others!
- Promote Worker Ownership ~ <http://www.rmeoc.org>
- Build Community
  - ~ start a community garden <http://www.revision.coop/>
  - ~ host walking meetings <http://walk2connect.com/>
- Encourage Institutions to hire locally, provide on-the-job training, offer apprenticeships, and procure materials and services locally

1/25/18 **CFCU against gun violence** seminar on State Legislature and upcoming bills. Even though pro-gun bills are often voted down by the House, encouraged to not be lax. Bump Stock Ban sent to kill committee---shame them!

## BISHOPS/VICARS CALL

1/17/18 missed Bishop/Vicar Call; highlights from draft of minutes follow:

- I. Auxiliary Bishop Consecration
  - a. Rev. Denise Donato will be consecrated a bishop on Friday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at Mary Magdalene Church in Rochester, NY. If people want to attend there is limited housing available through the parish.
  - b. Bishop Francis, Bishop Rafe, and Bishop Peter will be present at the co-consecrators.
  - c. Rev. Denise is coming to St. Louis next week to spend some time in preparation for her new role with Bishop Francis.
  - d. Rev. Sue Ringler will also be in attendance. Rev. Rosa reported four people including herself will be attending from Holy Spirit. Rev. Kedda and others from the Pacific NW unfortunately will not be able to attend but are keeping her in their prayers.
- II. Constitutional Commission
  - a. HOL and HOP received 1<sup>st</sup> segments of the revised Constitution being released periodically up to Synod. As received, delegates are asked to take them back to their communities and **send in their feedback to the Constitutional Commission** for any additional revisions.
  - b. Articles 2 & 9 require more significant changes, so those will be presented last as amendments.
  - c. The hope is that the delegates who are receiving and reviewing this information are the same delegates who will be attending the Synod.
    - i. Vicars will follow up with their regions to **make sure that each community has chosen their Synod delegates**. Rev. Sue offered to draft a short e-mail that others can send out.
- III. **Community information surveys/updates**
  - a. Sent to all HOL and HOP delegates at the end of this week. This will be an annual update going out every January in the future. It includes basic contact information and tithe and delegate information.
  - b. There was discussion about if we need to ask for parish council information as well. Most people on the call felt the delegates can be the points of contact and they could pass on any information that needed to go out.
  - c. 2018 Synod update: All of the workshops and keynote speakers have been decided. Website to be updated by the end of February. **No one has sent in a request for tables yet so please think of great projects or initiatives of your communities and share that information with a table at Synod. Send all ideas/requests to Jennifer.**
- IV. Regional Check Ins

- a. Bishop Francis will be visiting a community in discernment in Louisville, KY this coming weekend to share about the ECC and visit their priests.
- b. East Coast
  - i. Had their second regional conference call last week. There is a lot of enthusiasm to have a retreat during Lent in Pennsylvania either at or near All Souls. Communities are sharing more on Facebook. Everyone had a great Christmas celebration. Rev. Rosa has asked each community to put up a wall of information from the East Coast in a public place in their church space. This is really helping to build community in the region.
- c. Mid-America Diocese
  - i. Bishop Rafe is looking at continuing education for clergy, and reaching out to parish councils to have an R&D commission in the Diocese. They would like to do more research to get a better picture of the diocese in order to set concrete goals for the coming year. There are monthly conference calls happening to help move these agenda items forward. He also recommended a book that clergy in the diocese have been reading together called, "Celebrating Church" by Matthias Ploeger (sp?)
  - ii. Bishop Rafe offered to share a short document on how to develop a diocesan culture with all of the Vicars. Some are practical matters and some are more general.
- d. Pacific NW
  - i. Took a break in December and will be joining back together for a regional conference call next week.

V. Annual Appeal

- a. Vicars asked for how much had been donated from the Thanksgiving appeal. Jennifer reported that received to date is around \$4,500. She will follow up with individual vicars to let them know which communities from their region contributed.

1/29/18 RMR updates sent to Bishops and Vicars