

Rocky Mountain Regional Council

Board of Directors Meeting – October 7, 2023

Meeting:10:00 AM-12:30 at Light of Christ

Present: Rosean, Jack, Greg, Michael, Dennis, Liz, Kae, Anne, Tom M.

Guests: Teri, Ruth

Not Present: Don (Blessing Animals) Christine (at Balloon Fiesta)

Church of the Beloved Facilitator: Dennis; Scribe: Alice

Regular Business

Welcome guests.

Agenda approval and additions. Kae--- add “communication plan” to new business, agenda approved.

Review and discussion of August minutes: August minutes approved, pending Kae’s review of some links therein.

Church Accountability Report: No updates

Bishop’s notes – the notes were sent out in advance so engaged questions only:

- Bishop Election Process in Mid-America diocese poses several issues:
 - Leadership Council discussing Bishop questions re review of process or review of person selected. Questions have moved from hypothetical to reality.
 - The constitution is good at forming and naming relationships and has nothing about ending relationships.
 - Part of our consensus process is the need to hear the minority opinions and affirm they matter too.
 - Person or process. Jack-process is overseen by the Leadership Council, so I think the LC approves who the person is.
 - Alice feels that the process should be what is approved.
 - Michael suggested the possibility of an outside entity reviewing Bishop Selection Process... Hearing process.
 - Jack -Need to Clarify approval process in 5.2 of the constitution.

Vicar’s report- notes sent out in advance, so engaged in clarification:

- Colorado Council of Churches
 - CCC invite members to partner for a clergy burnout workshop -Alice said “no”; too burned out but fine to put it out there. Clergy who want to can participate on their own.
 - **Volunteers to work on next Easter Sunrise Event contact Michael.**

- Request to livestream Presbyterian services on CCC website monthly. If we open that up, do our communities want to participate in livestreaming our services on our website?
- Questions on format? Frequency? Need more info before we can decide.
- Kae and Alice asked Michael if the Advanced Planning Group still available to do presentations like at MoM. Next step of the grant will be to train clergy for discussions and introducing communities to Advance Planning on the grant but they may be willing to conduct a presentation at the community level.
- **Photos for website needed- horizontal presentation.**
- **Michael and Dennis still need to meet about planning for some adjustments to the operations of the website.**

Leadership Council Report- Teri

- 20th Anniversary Celebration So much work and went well. 190 participants. Turned out really well.
- Should hear status of Lilly Grant soon.
- Had a Planning Meeting in Estes Park at YMCA at the Rockies re synod. Oct 11-14.
 - How to put together a communion service and or Sunday mass live streamed to the entire Communion.
 - Cost for participants: 2022 Phoenix registration \$350 and room paid on own. Estes registration looks like it will be \$300 and will need to get own room and do our own travel. Rooms cost \$150 weekend rate and \$109 on weekdays for folks who may wish to stay Mon/Tues...
 - Theme: "Passing the Torch" but more about the flame than the torch. Transitioning within the communion and how are we preparing the next generation.
 - Communities are asked to Decide on their delegates now/soon and get the info to your house leaders so they get on the communication lists early. Very important to watch for and read the newsletters which will be the main communication vehicle on preparing for the synod.
 - There is a Synod 2024 Facebook page up.
 - Start budgeting.
 - Resolutions need to get to the chancellor for any legislation by July 11, to the LC by Aug. 10th. LC puts out an "order of business" (agenda and formal legislation) by Aug. 12." The more hashing out about legislation we do before the synod, the more smoothly the synod will run.
 - Keynote presentation a friend of Pablo's-mystic.
 - Trish Vanni coordinating Tech stuff with a pro she knows. On-line and the tech for the room, mics and sound systems. No set up needed but we need to make sure it all works together.
 - Hospitality team will be big, a welcome table, will buy water bottles and push hydration. Fill and refill bottles.
 - Need a lot of help getting people to and from the airport. Airport shuttle is \$160 both ways DIA to Estes Park. Match times and cars. LoC has a 14 person van and could stage people from LoC. Need a volunteer who loves the idea of transportation.
 - The lodging, dining hall, meeting space are in different buildings that require walking that some might not be able to manage especially at altitude. Transport from venue to venue---rent golf carts? Luggage transport needs to be address.
 - Dining hall, lodge, transportation on site. Hospitality team as well.

- Need a Liturgy and Music team.
- John Duffy Burke will help us with the Parade of Parishes again.
- Teri needs a CO-based Sacristan. “A charge nurse person” to be on site up at Estes. A person who gathers and sorts and boxes it up and gets it up there. All the chalices, patens, purificators, etc. for liturgies and prayer services.
- There will be a way to come just for the day and participate without spending the night.
- Kae asked about coordination. Teri needs to figure out what teams and who is on them. Teri is the contact person right now, but Team leaders will be appointed.
- People must take seriously that we are at altitude. One person who is a nurse who will be on site. Chapstick and sunscreen in the welcome bag.
- Labyrinth on site.
- Food allergies...buffet style. Do have gluten free but for people allergic may need to do something different.
- Communities need to identify delegates by January.

Notes inserted below in blue were sent to Alice after the meeting from Fr. Teri

Holy Synod 2024

Oct 11-14

YMCA of the Rockies

Registration fee yet to be determined, but probably somewhere around \$300

Theme: Passing the Torch (focus on torch, transitions)

Sunday Mass will be live streamed for all the ECC

Trying to have most of Synod shared online as well. But will not be a financial incentive to stay home. Will still pay the full registration fee.

What can you do now to help?

Make sure your communities are determining who your delegates are. Let LC know.

Watch all ECC newsletters

Join the Synod 2024 Facebook page

Plan finances for your community.

Legislation/Resolutions to chancellor by July 11.

To LC by August 10.

LC to prepare Order of Business and release by August 12.

Teams we need help with (contact me, teriharroun@gmail.com)

technology (both online, and in the rooms)

hospitality. welcome table. answer questions. snacks. nursing team.

transportation to/from airport

transportation around YMCA

liturgy team

music team

parade of parishes (John Duffy-Burke)

liturgical items (like a sacristan for the Synod)

We will be meeting monthly, and will invite team leads to join us where applicable.

Financial report and Greg Yonker status

- See financial report sent by Greg.
- Greg purchased a non-profit tool finance management from Tech soup for \$75 and Kae suggested Greg reimburse himself for that expense and group agreed.
- Update from Roseann re Greg's status as Treasurer. Greg is ready to come back as Treasurer- not as a St. Paul's rep. Hooray!
- Greg ex-officio member of the board.
- Liz is going to stay official St. Paul lay rep.
- **Action:** We need to elect a new President/Chair since this position is required to be a community member delegate.

New Business

Review and discussion of ECC 101 presentation slides for regional Zoom presentation – Kae

Kae. We take out the video from Frank to reduce the size and resend to update this slide presentation. Michael and Kae have done some updating but we need to review.

Dennis wants all communities to use the same slide presentation, so we educate consistently across the region.

ACTION: Add to Accountability Calendar dates for presentation and selection of delegates.

Advantages and disadvantages of pp vs booklet vs both.

Don't need the booklet. Record Zoom presentation and make the Zoom recording available after to those who couldn't make the live Zoom.

Synod Delegates set by January. Each community does that their own way.

ACTION: Need a working team to get it and shape and work on the ECC 101 presentation. Tom, Dennis, Kae, willing to be on this team. Maybe Amy? Need to have the ECC 101 ready by November. Aim for presenting to communities in Nov. because December is lost. And then we need to do a doodle poll, for what works.

MoM-Wed night is best. Maybe Sat. night after mass.

Kae Planning for Chrism Mass and/or regional picnic in 2024 (see accountability diagram) – Planning for Chrism Mass and/or regional picnic in 2024 (see accountability diagram) Easter is March 31st. Not in April. June date for best weather... Rosean prefer Chrism mass done in context of Regional Synod in 2025. Prefer picnic with Mass but we can add Chrism mass if we need it...Sunday afternoon. Possible date in June might be June 9th. Remember MoM mass at 12:30 so maybe picnic and Mass at 3:00 PM.

Communication Plan Kae-

The reason for considering drafting a regional communication plan is that communication was sent out re: Jane's installation as pastor of the CHF through the ECC distribution *before* the local communities were informed. Kae and CHF had a blind spot in which the communication plan wasn't discussed.

Communication Plan Proposal Basics: Kae:

Commitment to each other, if something crucial is happening in your communities that we communicate with the Region before nationally.

Then we communicate beyond our community if needed after.

Family style of concentric circles from point of origin out to region, out beyond in that order.

Background/Context of Jane's call to serve as pastor of CHF:

Jane moved to Denver and began serving as a guest presider at CHF. Over time, she grew closer to the community and Jane organically became more involved and conversation began about Jane serving part-time. There was no structured call process but a long-term "dating process" where they grew in relationship with each other. CHF prepared a write up of Jane's pastoral responsibilities. She will preside once/month and they will still rotate presiders among Fr. Len, Fr. Jim, etc. Church of the HF voted and she is now pastor...about 20 hours a month, roughly 5 hours a week. This will allow Deacon Mike to focus on seminary and preparations for his presbyteral ordination.

Kae apologized to all who may have been negatively affected by hearing this news from the OPB rather than us..

Community Updates:

St Paul. Blessing of Animals today. Working on community constitution update. Educational series starting up last Saturday - Diana Flahive will review their relationship with CHUM. Sat. after morning meditation do a book discussion. Last one. **Living Buddah, Living Christ** (verb) parallels between Buddhism and Christianity all the same God. Next book, **After the Apple** by Rosenblat.

Rosean- Fr. Len is giving a presentation about Interspirituality, on zoom, all invited. Rosean re-evaluating pastor responsibilities.

LoC- Bishop visit- very successful and very appreciated. Bishop among us. Kae sat in congregation and community blessed her, beautiful music. Fr. Teri is participating in a really good Immigration Immersion Project. El Paso, TX. The van is loaded with many things including 182 bottles of ketchup for the food baskets.

CoB-Feast Day no pictures, Blessing of Animals, Rice and Beans packaging project on Saturday for food banks. Gift anonymous of \$1000 for the project.

Holy Family- Family Promise rotation work with Christ the Savior Lutheran and providing Dinner for this organization to help folks through the winter and to sustain the organization. New Pastor and 25th anniversary on Oct 15. Our next regional council meeting rotation would have CHF hosting on Nov 7. Jane will be the clergy person and will participate next month.

Anne can't be at meeting next month. Kae asked if it would be better to switch the meeting leadership since Jane is just starting and Ann not able to come next month-therefore...**Church of the Beloved will lead in Nov. and then continue usual rotation resuming with CHF leading in December.**

Kae asked, "Can we flip New and Old Business on the Upcoming Agendas so that those who need to leave early will participate in the new items and leave the "routine items" to the end?"

Group consensus reached to flip the order to New Business first.

Alice led the closing prayer.

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in September 2023

by Bishop Kae Madden

Personal

Listening and Relationship building

Participate as available in weekly regional clergy prayer/sharing on Friday mornings.

Administration

MMS fund-raising dinner at Pablo's home – It went well and we had reps from all the communities. The consensus was that we would do additional education about the qualities of MMS and distribute updates that we may receive from Art Bavoso annually. Also consider a youth project application if anyone has ideas. Any feedback from your representatives?

Advocacy/Presence/Consultation

Colorado Council of Churches asked the judicatory to consider two Colorado bills: Propositions HH and ii. We discussed them briefly last month. After further research, I am not in support of HH based on its effect on non-property owners and renters, however my peers voted in support.

Participated in an Ecumenical Service at Contemplative Outreach led by a Rabbi Jamie Arnold and Laura Berman. Len S is offering his Interspirituality retreat through the Center Sat. Nov 4 from 10-12 noon. I am in conversation about offering an "Ecumenical Service" if it won't "disturb" the RC regulars.

Clergy support:

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

Community support:

Sept 30: Light of Christ community visit

Need to schedule the “annual bishop visit” with each community – what do you imagine that entails for your community?

Consultation with CHF

Liturgies/Sacraments**Formation**

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

ECC

Sept 19th anniversary celebration

Council of Bishops

- Meetings on Sept 11 and 25 . Continued discussion regarding “what if a community opts to leave a diocese – are they out of the ECC, become part of the proto-diocese? What is the intended purpose of forming dioceses? History of early church. How does our constitution reflect our experience? What exactly do the delegates “affirm” in regard to a bishop elect at synod: The person? Or the process?
- Continuing to work on ordination and incardination standards and the requirement to submit same to the Council of Bishops prior to approval.
- Continued conversations with St. Matthew’s and +Peter, Mid-America election.

With the Leadership Council: pending

Pending: Continued work on members to form the Standing Hearing Committee (Appeals board) regarding constitutionality – I am unaware of anyone volunteering from the HOP or HOL and perhaps someone has.

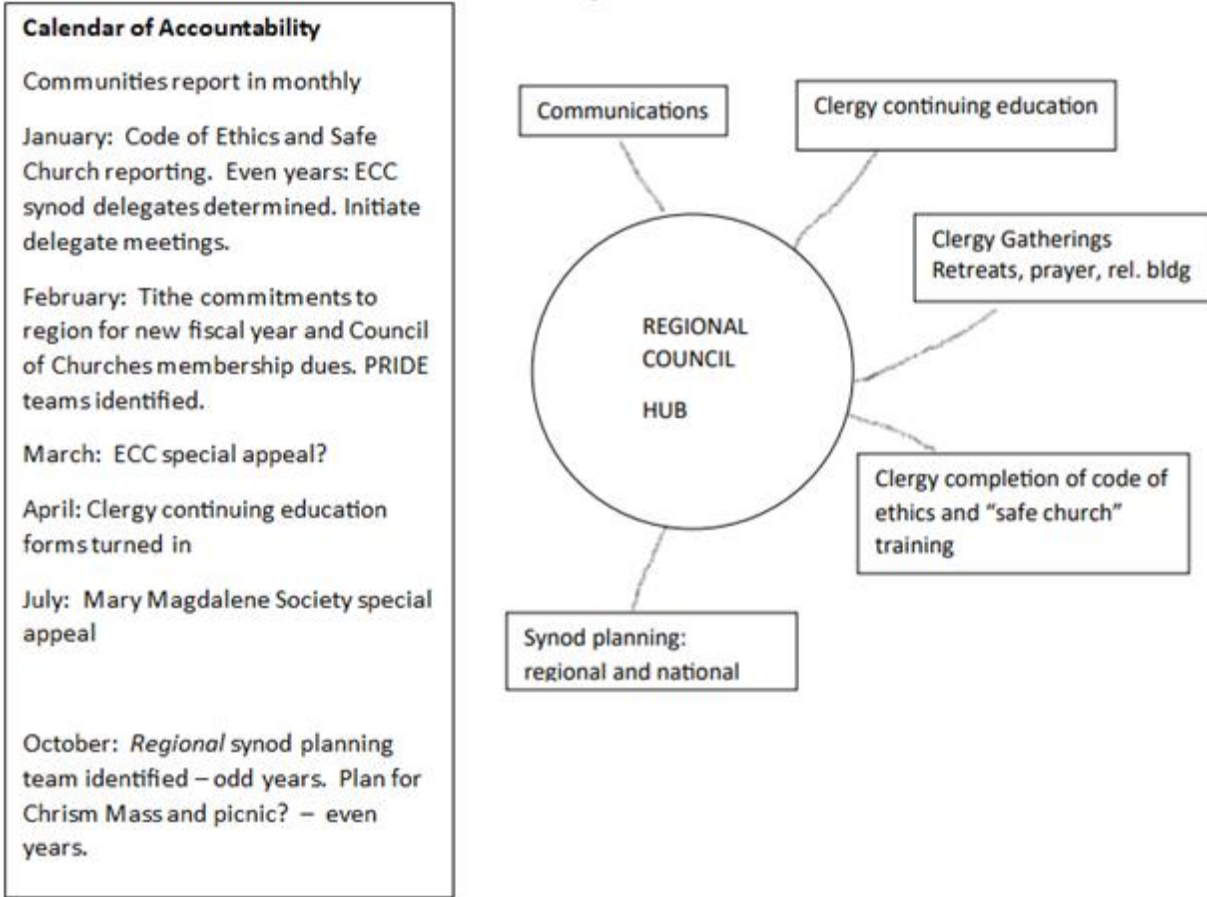
Pending: Continued work regarding education standards for ordination

Pending: Review of the approval process for ordination of clergy

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

Please note: Last month I did not respond to Michael about a presentation from the Colorado State Demographer on current trends in Colorado? I agree with Michael that it might help with future planning.

Brainstorming model of administration of the region....



Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 10 07 2023

submitted 10/4/2023 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

- **CCC appeal for volunteer coordinators for 2024 EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE.**
- **Opportunity for CCC to host a virtual program with the Massachusetts Council of Churches on clergy burnout. Should we? When?**
- **CCC considering request from a Presbyterian congregation to livestream Sunday services on CCC website. If it's opened to other communities on a rotating basis, would any of our communities like to participate?**

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Updated Website promoting regional and national events and populated photo gallery.

Updated ECC 101 PowerPoint from our 2017 Road Show and asked for Council review.

9/16 attended luncheon with ACP-Café advisory board .

Presided at Mom 9/17.

9/19 attended ECC 20th Anniversary virtual celebration, and posted texts of various contributors on FB.

Monthly ECC Chaplains meeting cancelled.

9/20+27 participated in *The 1619 Project* webinar of the ECC Truth & Reconciliation Commission with Fr. Stan and Fr. Don. (Note: participants find audio book more engaging than book or min-series.)
9/28 participated in ACP-Café advisory board discussion about teaching unit curriculum.
Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.
Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – Board Meeting September 27, 2023

BOARD RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Rev. Terri Hobart now representing the Episcopal Diocese of CO.
Rev. Mark Hutton of Milliken Presb near Greeley was a guest, considering replacing Rev. Stan Adamson (Plains & Peaks Presbytery) on the Board in January.
Adrian is in conversation with American Baptists; possible AmerBapt progressive off-shoot; Disciples of Christ; ELCA; UCC; UMC (current split may delay participation)

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL

Continuing issues with QuickBooks, so no Balance Sheet. Among other omissions, our ECC contributions are missing but Adrian confirms that they were deposited.
Easter Sunrise expenses and income balanced.
Lean expenses; some grants and discounts ceased, but general financial state same as last year.
If we had more funds, aspiration would be to hire organizational part-time help, particularly if Iliff Interns cease to be available.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

CO Healthcare Foundation grant for church property use for affordable housing – have to be invited and haven't been; moving on.
UCH Med School Advance Care Planning initiative over, but pursuing second grant to continue project.
Exploring museum grant from Lilly Foundation re: Black Faith Life in Boulder.
Letter of Intent to Anschutz Foundation sent re: coordinating relationship-building with rural churches.

CONVENANTING CONGREGATION POSSIBILITY

LDS hasn't affiliated over CCC advocacy work which in their view disrupts status quo.
Community of Christ has requested membership; progressive off-shoot of LDS, incl. LGBTQ-positive).
United Faith Christian Fellowship bishop reached out; conservative in theology (male-only clergy) but seeking to do more ecumenical work; Affiliate Partnership may be good first step.
Discussion was raised about consensus model on public policy statements and possible need to update positions; conversations with judicators begun.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Judicators support Prop HH using TABOR refunds to reduce property taxes, and Prop II using excess pot taxes collected rather than refunding to manufacturers/dealers.

[Bishop Kae and members of our RMR Board have expressed reservations re: Prop HH – won't block CCC's advocacy, but will leave decision to support or not to individuals.]

THISSPACE UPDATE

8 communities attended Lunch & Learn; none have signed up to application yet; looking for initial cohort of 8 facilities. Concern that thisspace % of rental fees is high, particularly for long-term rental partnerships; not a locked-in commitment limiting self-renting, or through other platforms, e.g., Gangster for film production.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – appeal for volunteer coordinators; promote fundraising through COGivesDay.

NEXT MEETINGS: Oct 25; Nov 29 (budget proposed); Dec 13 (budget approval; officer determination)