

MINUTES of the May 5, 2022 Meeting of the Board of Directors Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

May 5, 2022

Host: St Paul Catholic Community Church ECC

Facilitator: Don Sutton Notes: Greg Yonker

Present on Zoom 6:00 p.m.:

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

Anne Grant – Holy Family

Bishop Kae Madden

Michael Nicosia – Vicar of Ecumenical Engagement

Don opened with a prayer

Agenda approvals/editions

Question whether donations for Bishop Peter’s fundraiser were sufficient to receive the \$1,000 match. We determined that funds were sufficient for the match.

Jack asked if we had a statement ready to go related to the graffiti vandalism at RC Sacred Heart of Mary Church. It would be edited and posted

Review and Approve April Notes – Approved

Financial Report – Greg advised that no report was available due to computer connectivity problems. IOU

Bishop Notes and Vicar Report

The Bishop notes were included as a PDF with the meeting documents email (see Appendix A).

Bishop Kae noted that May 11, was the one-year anniversary of her being elected Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Region. The date was confirmed by Dennis Giblin.

The Vicar report was included as a PDF with the meeting documents email (see Appendix B).

Michael noted he would need coverage for the May 25th Colorado Council of Churches Director’s meeting. Promoting Advance Directives.

Leadership Council Report: No one was present to provide a report. Hoping to have more information for our June meeting.

Old Business:

Website-Domain Name – Michael suggested a new name: Rocky Mountain Ecumenical Catholics.org, which was approved by consensus.

Denver PrideFest – Question on using LOC insurance or rider. Rachel noted that this was approved, and Tim from LOC arranged for the document to be sent directly to PrideFest. Anne Grant reported that CHF's Rosary Guild will give out rosaries at PrideFest.

Regional Picnic – Planning for July 10th. Discussion on location options and format. Mass? Celebrate "Us" and no Mass during the picnic. Select one person from each community to work on the planning.

Synod Oct 9-12 in St Louis – \$300 per person. Carpool questions not yet resolved. Hold Fr. Paul in prayer during this time.

Legislation: ECC Deacons, Behavior/Consequences HOP working on bylaws to address these issues. Plans to present these to HOL and COB prior to Synod.

Community Updates

General discussion of concerns regarding the post-pandemic church. Ministries lack volunteers. Membership numbers are smaller than before. Each community shared some thoughts about how distribution of communion was being handled. Concerns about safety now and in the future, living with the pandemic. Toll on mental health of members and clergy.

Time for silent prayer for Ukraine...

Don closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:36 p.m.

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in April 2022 +Kae

General notes ongoing: Gratitude for Michael as Vicar in the roles of Ecumenical Engagement: advocacy, interfaith relationships, ecumenical relationships including Colo. Council of Churches board, and communication/media and especially for arranging for our participation in the Red Rocks Sunrise Easter service.

Breaking News: It will be one year on May 11 since the region elected a bishop! My primary initial focus has been 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. I still feel as though I have only just begun – much to learn and discover.

I hope we make good progress at our meeting in planning our July regional gathering – finally to recognize and celebrate the work of the committees and Michael’s tenure as vicar, as well as spending time with one another.

Met with Michael on April 27th.

Attended the vigil at the Aurora Detention Center on May 2 regarding essential workers, freeing those detained. I also attended the virtual town hall meeting with Senators Hickenlooper and Bennett on 3/14/22.

Through Together Colorado signed support for:

HB 22-1131 supporting services, not prosecution, for children 12 and under

HB 22-1287 regarding stability of mobile home park tenants

HB 22-1244: Public Protections From Toxic Air Contaminants.

Listening and Relationship building

Question: Whose banner do I have that was loaned for the consecration???? Pax Christi’s?

Lots of phone calls and emails

Anointed Jim deMuth prior to surgery

Communicating prayer requests and news among the region’s clergy via email.

Discernment and ordination

Ongoing conversations with Mike W and a candidate from Church of the Beloved.

Formation: In a recent Council of Bishops meeting, we identified one approved educational resource: Bishop Kemper School in Kansas. The school offers programs for presbyteral, diaconal and lay ministry. There are Catholic-specific requirements that will need to be added to their curriculum such as Vatican II, liturgy, Old Catholic history, etc. We will be establishing a regional formation team to work with candidates to individualize formation plans. I listened to the recording of the recent HOP gathering regarding continuing education and formation.

Liturgies

Celebrating with St. Paul has been rescheduled for June 25th, their 21st anniversary of forming the community.

April 16th: Church of the Beloved’s Easter Vigil service attended by a handful from the region.

April 17th: Participation in the Red Rocks CCC Sunrise Service :)

ECC

Plan to participate in the zoom Town Hall regarding liturgy on April 6th – the topic is the Liturgy of the Eucharist. I missed the one in March on the Liturgy of the Word.

CoB

Participated in the OPB call on April 20th with the vicars, and an extra COB meeting on May 2nd. The COB is meeting with the Leadership Council intentionally right now to improve

communication, determine a path for questions of conduct or constitutionality, alternatives to MDiv in formation of priests, and more clearly articulated roles, responsibilities and collaboration of the HOP, HOL and CoB. The next meeting with the LC is pending. Drafted a “norms of engagement” guideline for our CoB and will offer it to the Communion as our covenant as to how we will relate to one another. Also working on our CoB bylaws :) With Holy Week in the middle of April and recovery time afterward, meetings were delayed. We will be publishing our updated “Colorado Covenant” in the next ECC Report.

Synod: Do we want to consider car-pooling to St. Louis? How many delegates will we have? I don't know yet but expect that there will be 2-3 days prior or after the synod for our annual bishop gathering. We do not know the cost of synod yet. Oct. 9th-12th. The synod begins on Sunday afternoon so communities will need to make arrangements for liturgies so that delegates can arrive in time.

Consultation: regarding confirmation materials and classes throughout the region; continued interaction with CHF in discerning their leadership model of church

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 05 05 2022

submitted 5/4/2022 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

2022 Denver PrideFest Booth:

LOC looking into insurance rider designating Denver PrideFest as additional insured party.

If unable to, we can purchase coverage through venue for \$75.

Colorado Council of Churches:

Due to my Portugal trip, I won't be attending the May 25th Board Meeting, 8-9am via Zoom.

Would anyone like to sit in?

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CFCU Rapid Response, and CCC posts.

Participated in Aurora Gun Buyback 4/9.

Participated in #RedRocksEaster with Bishop Kae 4/17; meeting Rev. Lance Swearingin, pastor of Conifer

Community Church and Sunrise Service worship band leader, to discuss ecumenical engagement 5/10.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Presided at StP on 4/30; Dignity on 5/1.

Attended virtual demo to review possible online platform for liturgical resources 4/21.

Participated monthly ECC Chaplains meeting 4/25.

Met with +Kae 4/27; fielded questions about Chaplaincy board certification 5/3.

Participated monthly OPB Ecumenical Seminar 4/27.

Attended HOP Clergy Formation Forum 4/30.

Research and preliminary communications with Bemax Group re website development, 1.5 hours.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting 4/27

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE DE-BRIEF

- ATTENDANCE: 8K in person; 920 FB; 3500 livestreams; delayed CCC website streaming (available there until next year) 32K visits during Holy Week!
- FINANCIALS: at service and thru media links <\$25K of \$30K goal, but contributions still coming in

ADVOCACY UPDATE

- VOICES FOR JUSTICE moving forward; good job! wrap-up report after session ends May 11; no closing ceremony; May is Haley's last month, gratitudes planned.
- GREAT EDUCATION COLORADO BALLOT INITIATIVE #63 hasn't had much judicatory interest

CASTE BOOK STUDY PILOT WORKING GROUP UPDATE: major initiatives in racial dinner-dialogues and voter registration. No traction from ministers of color on joint services.

VACCINATION initiative wrapping up; ADVANCE DIRECTIVE program ramping up in June.

MULTIFAITH LEADER FORUM TRIP TO MONTGOMERY PILOT: 20 clergy going with docent Adrian.