

**Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2025 6:00 PM via ZOOM**

Host: **COB** Facilitator: **Dennis** Scribe: **Alice**

Attending: +Kae, Don, Michael, Teri, Rosean, Tom, Greg, Denise, Anne, Alice, Liz

Excused: Greg, Jane

Guests: Kirsten Barnard

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!

Check In – feel free to say, if you want to, what is on your heart and mind so that we can lift each other up in prayer and with support. (See ground rules for sharing at bottom of agenda.)

Rosean briefly reviewed rules for checkin. Members shared thoughts and things going on in their lives.
It was decided that no notes be taken or reported during this sharing time today and at future meetings.

Regular Business (Notes in black bold. Action items in red)

Welcome Visitors: Kirsten Barard of St. P's considering serving as Lay Rep and Liz announced that she is stepping down to move to Florida

1. **Agenda approval/additions**
 - a. **Agenda approved**
 - b. **Review and approval of January minutes—approved**
2. **Financial report**—reviewed/accepted; significant details or action items if any:
 - a. **In Greg's absence Dennis reviewed Greg's Financial Report for January. There were no questions and Financial Report was accepted and approved. It was asked and discussed if we should roll over and continue to keep \$10K funds in the CD's when they expire?
Discussion held and consensus reached that the funds be rolled over into a short term CD (i.e. 6 months)**
3. **Bishop's report**—see Appendix A. Significant details and action items:
 - **Kae is in the process of reevaluating the amount of time spent to ensure her time is spent on key priorities.**

- Kae highlighted that Pablo will meet with the Leadership Team on Wednesday to explore an action plan moving forward with the visioning process.
 - Transparency re Leadership Council meetings, Council of Bishops, HOL and HOP meetings is underdiscussion. Kae is taking notes for the meetings of the Council of Bishops which she sends to Carolyn Sue to clean up but there is not process or plan to share them at this point. Leadership Council has no interest in taking and posting notes of their meetings. Michael noted that the CCC does not post their internal minutes of meetings.
 - OPB, HOP and HOL rotate posting and sending the ECC Newsletter monthly. Noted that ECC has a new members only FB Page. **Tom will send that out to everyone.**
4. **Vicar's report**—see Appendix B. Significant details and action items:
CCC incl. Kae signed a statement opposing the Administrations immigration policy.
Michael noted that he attended the Justice and Mercy Legal Center's webinar.
In regards to the CCC Easter Sunrise Service we agreed to reuse the slide from last year as it is.
 5. **Leadership Council Report- Nothing to report this time but we decided to leave this on the agenda in case Rosean has updates based on the HOP National Steering Committee. Tom will connect with Mary Lu Stenson to see if there are sharable items from the HOL National Steering Committee.**
 6. Community updates
 - a. **MoM** – Rosean shared that 301 Health Partners is engaging in immigration work and as part of that are looking at signage they may employ in this regard.
 Bishop Kae will preside at liturgy there on Feb 28. And they will be holding a Contemplative Prayer Event open to all, contact Rosean for detail.
 - b. **LOC**-They are having a potluck Feb 15 to visualize and plan for their 20th Anniversary celebration. LoC is also engaged in immigration advocacy efforts and Bethlehem Lutheran is taking the lead in these activities whereas LoC is taking the lead in LGBTQIA+ outreach as well as their new and growing work with Habitat for Humanity which is building affordable living homes right down the street from them.
 Teri thanked the group on behalf of LoC for the \$250 contribution to a memorial for Jack. With that money they were able to purchase a beautiful wooden xylophone since Jack so enjoyed music as a pathway to God.
 - c. **COB**- recently held their monthly potluck which was well attended. We are currently working on Lent planning and will be doing our annual “Ashes In the Park” where we go to the main city park in Northglenn between 11&1 on Ash Wed to distribute ashes. Since it's right across from the city admin building many city employees come over at their lunch hour. Also, Kae and Alice have participated in recent trainings on how to legally respond if ICE agents should attempt to search our premises for immigrants. We are working with our Parish Council and our host community Northglenn United Church of Christ on this issue.
 - d. **CHF**-Ann responded to questions about Rev. Jane's retirement. Other communities offered support.
 - e. **St.P**- Beginning to prepare for Don's retirement. Book club is finishing discussion of Trish Vanni's new book this Saturday. Trish will join them this Saturday.

Old/Recurring Business

1. Follow up on Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service on Tues, Jan 21. The good, the bad, and the ugly-**General consensus that this was a very valuable experience. Hopes expressed**

- for doing something of this sort annually. Kudos to Tom for his excellent organization of all the many technological pieces and the communication that helped everyone prepare for the event and Teri for serving as Zoom Host and coordinator. Noted was the participation of many from beyond our region, the event was so timely in terms of the lack of unity experience now in our country, and that the event was so in line with the core element of who we are as Ecumenical Catholics and that Adrian's presence as Director of the CCC was appreciated.
2. Regional Synod 2025 Planning Team – any feedback from each community's leadership team on what might be needed (or wanted) in a retreat-based synod.
LOC- want to have some hands-on justice project as we did at the last regional synod with the Car Bags we created for people to distribute.
COB has identified someone who will serve on the planning committee.
Kae asked that by next month we need to decide on a date and place for the picnic. She also mentioned that prior to the regional synod we need to review the regional constitution for potential changes/adjustments especially related requirements/process of selection of Bishop.
 3. Michael's Relocation (place holder)
Michael's relocation is on hold until Marc finds work.
 4. Continuing Education for Clergy update.
 - a. Any progress on fulfilling Safe Spaces obligations? **HOP is getting recommendations for approved sources for use in Safe Church training.**
 - b. Conversation between Kae/Rosean/Scott - anything to share? **See Kae's notes under "Administration" in Appendix A. Bishop's Notes**
 5. Regional Assessments of Bishop/Vicar/RMRC
Each community will send out the ~~on the~~ Regional Mid-term Assessment to it's leaders and compile and send a report to the Regional Council on their community's responses prior to the March meeting.

New Business

1. Retirement of Jane Reina as pastor of Church of the Holy Family
Ann and Kae shared that Jane announced she would be retiring as Pastor of Holy Family and that the Holy Family Parish Leadership has discerned and decided they will work toward disbanding their ECC Community by the end of the year. Discussion was held about ways other communities may support Holy Family and it's value to the region as our original ECC community. Discussions will continue as the year proceeds.
2. Discuss and create 2025 budget – All
 - a. Each community provides tithing estimate - **Yes**
 - b. Each community provides headcount for CCC donation- **Yes**
 - c. Will we call a new vicar if/when Michael leaves? **TBA**
 - d. Do we budget for a housing stipend, just in case- **Yes**

- e. Do we budget for Juniper Formation's conference? **No. But it is hoped that representatives from each community will register and attend this time—if interest once program is published.**
- f. Denver Pride Booth application **See # 5 below**
- g. Other items to consider?
It was decided to budget \$1000 in funds for sponsorships.
- h. **Kae will connect with Greg about presenting a draft budget at the March meeting.**
- 3. Discuss and develop a process for requests for sponsorships. **TABLED due to time.**
- 4. Election of our next bishop- **TABLED due to time.**
- 5. Regional participation without Michael at Denver PrideFest Jun 28-29, 2025 - Discussion **TABLED due to time. However, it was agreed we want to participate and communities will request volunteers.**

UPDATE: on 2/24/25 COB's Anawim Ministry agreed to submit application and coordinate our regional presence at this event

- 6. Liz taking leave of us to relocate to WP (Winter Park), Florida. 😊 **Many thoughts of gratitude and good wishes to Liz on her new life venture.**

Closing Prayer - Dennis

Lead Rotation of 2025 RMRC Meetings: Mar 6—CoHF; Apr 3— LOC; May 1—STP; Jun 5—MoM; Jul 3—COB; Aug 7 CoHF; Sep 4—LOC; Oct 2—STP; Nov 6—MoM; Dec 4—COB

Lead Rotation of 2026 RMRC Meetings: Jan 1 (move to Jan 8?)--CoHF; Feb 5--LOC

Remember, when you host to send out the agenda, have a facilitator and scribe, bring opening and closing prayer, bring Consensus Document, and send notes in a timely fashion.

The **ground rules** for our sharing are:

- that we are entering Sacred Space,
- that each person speaks from one's own heart and experience, one at a time,
- that no one speaks twice until everyone has the opportunity to speak,
- that there is no cross-talk nor commenting on any one else's sharing,
- that we hold each other in compassion, welcoming and expressing many
- different points of view,
- and that we hold the whole...together....in God's immense Love.

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in January 2025

Bishop Notes: Activity in January 2025 +Kae

Personal: Due to a variety of circumstances, I am still not functioning at my usual capacity.

Listening and Relationship building:

Administration

Ongoing: Rosean and Scott and I met to discuss Clergy Ethics/Safety Training and Continuing Education. I brought up the topics at the Council of Bishops meeting this week. There currently is no consensus on recommendations for Safe Church training and the rigorousness of continuing education requirements. Fr. Scott recommends that the continuing education for clergy working in communities be determined mutually and monitored by the leadership council of the community. The leadership councils also hold responsibility for the Safe Church requirements with accountability to the bishop.

Advocacy/Presence/Consultation:

- Consultation and support for Church of the Holy Family in their transition with the retirement of Rev. Jane. Present on January 12th for community meeting. Consultation with engaged clergy. Assisted with communication plan.
- Attended the CCC “Know Your Rights” webinar on Jan. 28. I look forward to conversations with our regional communities in terms of church responsibilities and rights.

Clergy support:

Praying with many... Met with Fr. Stan on January 6th to bless his journey home. Hope to see him back for Easter.

Clergy meetings and phone calls

Weekly Friday clergy gatherings:

Community support:

Liturgies/Sacraments

*** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan 18 -25. Thank you to all for your participation in prayer together.** Thanks especially to Tom for zoom slides and management, Teri for hospitality, Jane for planning team.

Ordination:

Formation

Continuing discernment with Jim. Dory has begun discernment for the permanent diaconate at Mary of Magdala

Mike's discernment team will continue as support. Support of Christy as she completes her third year of study. Both Mike and Christy will graduate on May 17th – Hooray! (Due to his circumstances, Mike will have 4 classes remaining and then receive his certificate of presbyteral ministry.)

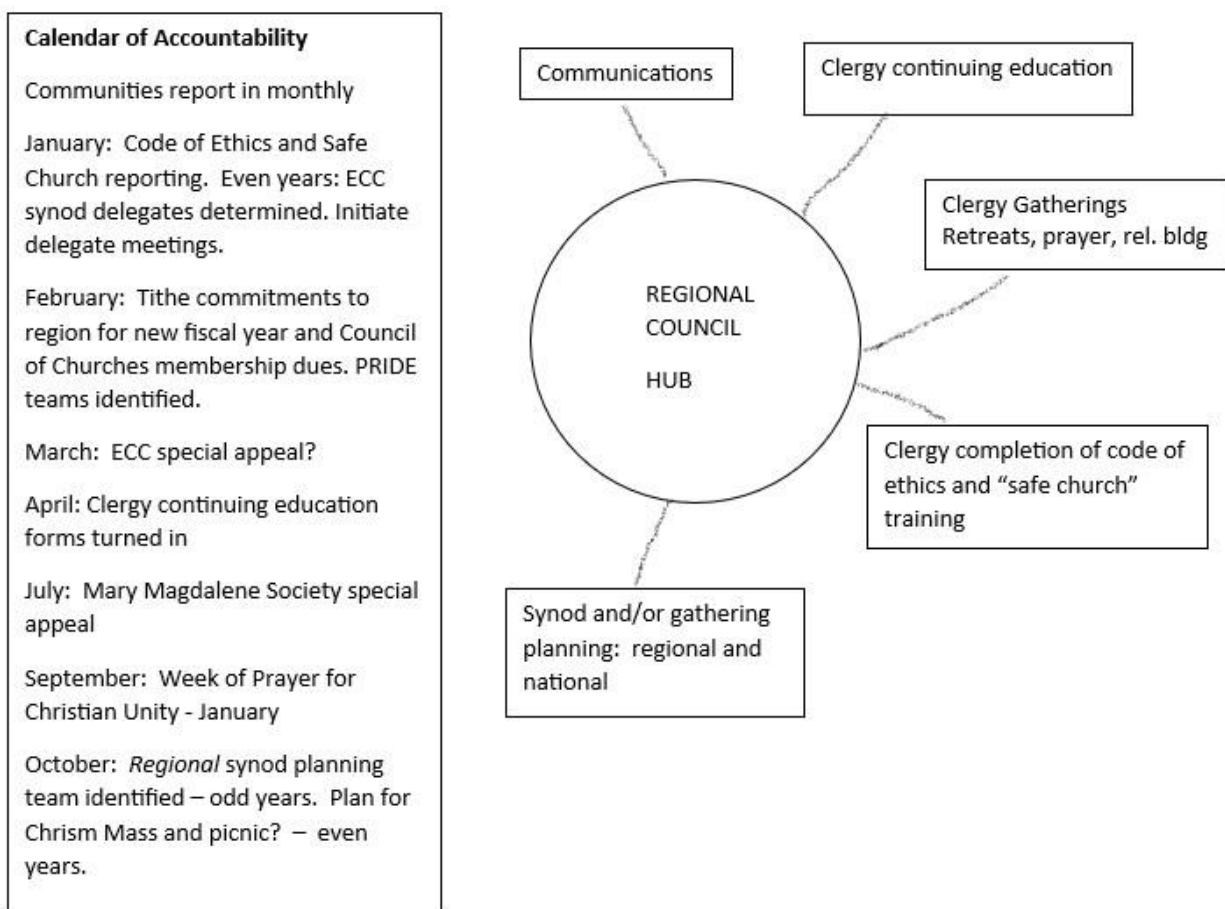
ECC

Council of Bishops

- Meetings: Calls on Jan 20, Jan 27, Feb 3. Topics: opportunities for leadership for non-ECC clergy/laity; Ecumenical relationships; Safe Church and Continuing Ed for clergy; “new” private FB page; preaching and teaching in a diverse political climate; Transparency of notes of leadership groups – HOP, HOL, COB, LC; Pablo will meet with the Leadership Team on Wednesday to explore an action plan moving forward with the visioning process.

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 06 2025

submitted 2/4/2025 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

NOTE: CCC and Judicators published statement challenging immigration policies on 2/3/25

Posted on CCC website; link shared on our Regional ECC Facebook page (and StP's, HOP's, new ECC group)

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Attended HOP Zoom gathering 1/25.

Attended Extraordinary Catholic! Coffee Hour, processing new Presidential Administration.

Attended Karen Fur's consecration as a bishop in the Catholic Church of America in Kingman AZ (on Zoom).

Attended monthly ECC Chaplains meeting; invited several others from around the country.

Missed monthly Ecumenical Study Group due to niece's wedding (*visited Denise Roberts!*); reviewed video and submitted input.

Attended JAMLAC's webinar "Exploring Immigration in Our Community: Bridging Understanding" and **circulated resources to RMRC.**

Attended PODJT meeting on 2/3 through Facebook group of progressive activists around the country; people are scared, preparing for the worst; tried to defuse calls for armed revolution with focus on resistance through advocacy and truth-telling; appreciated that churches getting involved.

Attended Fr. Stan's non-churched faith sharing group.

Participated in Regional Pastors' Friday prayers.

Presided at StP 1/4, 11; Dignity 1/5; and MoM 1/19; CHF 1/26 (composed prayer for their transitions).

Up-coming:

Participating in ACLU's webinar on 2/4.

Attending 50 Marches at the Capitol on 2/5.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting January 23, 2025

Terry Bowen considering representing UCC on board.

GATHERING THOUGHTS: I shared homily points about raising awareness in apocalyptic times. Awareness is key. Courage is key. Hope lies in Community.

Need renewed commitment from Judicators to funding, rapid response and empowerment to act, as articulated by the Board rather than top down (particularly when they don't have consensus).

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL

FUNDRAISING

Colorado Gives Day--\$1000

Augustana Lutheran--\$10,000 request

Denver Presbytery timing of contribution enables Easter program funding

ELECT 2025 OFFICERS (no nominees to date)

Chair—Michael until move

Vice Chair—Roland continuing

Treasurer—open
Secretary—open

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran, American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains
Other judicators as participants
C2 Mass Choir
Michael working on new graphic (submitted two drafts)
Need to consider if we need a new ECC slide or not. (See last year's, below)

WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY UPDATE: Adrian thought it was a good service and enjoyed it

VOICES FOR JUSTICE UPDATE

need coverage for Poverty issues.
Rev. Marsha Myer leading team as a volunteer.
we'll be championing "Yes in my backyard"

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WEBINAR ON TUES. JAN. 28TH

Answering questions of *churches* ministering to the immigrant community
E.g., church should designate as a "non-public space" so ICE needs a signed warrant; if they do come in, occupants have no obligation to speak unless they are specifically named in the warrant.

ABSALOM JONES SATURDAY—FEB. 8TH AT 10 A.M.

collaboration of AME Churches and ECUSA
at Episcopal Church of the Holy Redeemer (Bishop Kim preaching)

NEXT MEETING—FEBRUARY 27, 2025 AT 9 A.M.

Closing: Most generous, loving God, the gospel of liberation and peace comes alive through our ministries of care and our advocacy on behalf of those in need. Prosper the work of our hands and amplify our prophetic challenge, that your saving word may be fulfilled in our hearing.
We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

+++

Ecumenical Catholic Communion

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION



open, thinking, healing, affirming
& welcoming Catholic communities,
where all are welcome
at Christ's table.

DENVER NORTHGLENN LONGMONT FORT COLLINS

www.ColoradoECC.org  [@ColoradoECC](https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoECC)

Appendix C—RMRC Adopted Practice of Consensus Decision Making

Final May 2, 2019

Overall: The council definitely prefers face to face meetings rather than email discussion or conference calls. Zoom visual technology may help but if at all possible, we need to meet in person. Meetings begin and end with prayer.

1) Our general practice during meetings will be to slow down and engage each person around the table, listening, asking or responding to clarifying questions and engaging with Love, respect, emotional strength and intelligence, commitment to the common good and foregoing personal agendas.

2) Facilitators will ask if there are any opposing views on every decision and wait for a response, and also to call on those not vocal during issue discussions. If the facilitator prefers, s/he may ask for a volunteer to take the role of assuring that we are hearing from all voices during the meeting.

Members may request to abstain from a particular decision if there are unusual circumstances such as a conflict of interest.

If the group is divided, we will: Yield. Stop. Pray. Listen. Try to identify how a problem emerged, if it is local or regional, and the source of resistance by going around the table. Honor no crosstalk as each person responds uninterrupted. After hearing from everyone, if there is not clear consensus, use the 5-finger model:

1. *I love it. I insist on it. I can't live without it.*
2. *I prefer it. I like it. But I can live without it. And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.*
3. *I am neutral on the question. I have no preference. And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.*
4. *I prefer not to do it/support it. I don't like it. But I can live with it. And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.*
5. *I hate it. I insist against it. I can't live with it. I veto it.*

3) Repeat :) We cannot move forward if 1s or 5s are present. We listen again and amend.

4) If consensus cannot be reached, hit the pause button and postpone the decision until the next meeting. At the next meeting, if we still can't reach consensus we may resort to voting as we continue to listen to the minority voices (see below). If consensus is blocked and no new consensus can be reached, the group may stay with whatever the previous decision was on the subject, or does nothing if that is applicable.

5) Major philosophical or moral questions that will come up with each affinity group will have to be worked through as the group forms and re-forms with each new member.

Difficulties in reaching consensus: If a decision has been reached, or is on the verge of being reached that you cannot support, there are several ways to express your objections:

- Non-support ("I don't see the need for this, but I'll go along.")
- Reservations ("I think this may be a mistake but I can live with it.")
- Standing aside ("I personally can't do this, but I won't stop others from doing it. ")
- Blocking ("I cannot support this or allow the group to support this. It is immoral." If a final decision violates someone's fundamental moral values they are obligated to block consensus.)
- Withdrawing from the group. Obviously, if many people express non-support or reservations or stand aside or leave the group, it may not be a viable decision even if no one directly blocks it. This is what is known as a "lukewarm" consensus and it is just as desirable as a lukewarm beer or a lukewarm bath.

***The facilitator of the meeting is responsible to bring a copy of this document to the meeting.