

RMRC Meeting notes 04 12 2018 Action steps in red.

Present: Michael Nicosia (chair), Jim DeMuth, Len Schreiner, Kae Madden, Teri Harroun, Kerrie Anderson and Jack Wolfe (notes). **Excused:** Jim Burnik and John Head

Michael opened with a reflection on Holocaust Remembrance Day and the readings for next Sunday

Agenda amendments: Kae asked that a discussion of keeping Fr. Scott "in the loop" be added to the agenda.

The notes of the March meeting were accepted. Michael asked that we **remember to incorporate comments/corrections from those in attendance into the final document to be posted**. He indicated that he could incorporate the Vicar's report so that there would be only one document to post.

Finance Report: There was a discussion on where income for CCC pledges appeared. **Kae will follow up with Lara to make CCC dues contributions and expense separate line items, and also to correct the 2018 headings.**

Teri will confirm with Lara that the Vicar's housing stipend should have increased for April.

Vicar's Report: Michael called attention to the attachments to his report for information: (1) **ONE** is simply reminding people that they are still here (there are 24,000 members in Colorado) and that \$1.00 from everyone can make huge changes in the world; (2) **Vote For Our Lives** will be gathering on the eve of the Columbine remembrance; and (3) **The People's Resolution** re: Immigration issues.

Bishop/Vicar Call

(1) The theme for the September **Synod** will be "Nothing Can Separate Us", and it appears that there will be connections to border issues.

(2) The **ECC Facebook** page is a closed page, but independent priests and bishops are still able to post messages, and that is creating confusion; ECC is working on this.

(3) Bishop Francis is willing to make a **video** of the talk he gave at Nov's leadership gathering, and **Michael will ask that this be available to us in May.**

Teri reported that there is no news on the **Youth Mission Trip**. It is scheduled for the 3rd week in June 17-24, and since LOC's planned participants cannot make that week, she has found a site for the LOC group to mission in the 2nd week of June, and will open it up to regional participation.

Michael asked whether the ECC should make a statement on **income inequality**; the Lutherans are putting one together. It was suggested that perhaps ECC could sign onto the Lutheran statement when it gets to the legislation and lobbying stage. Should this be brought up at Synod? It was pointed out that it might be difficult for the ECC to promote such a statement to the world when inequality exists internally with ECC staff. (Michael's subsequent thought: chicken/egg issue – how can we expect our folks to give more without addressing systemic social issue keeping them from being able to?)

Community Reports

Pax Christi is likely to disperse rather than be integrated into St. Paul. It was suggested that we find a way to bring Pax Christi to a blessed ending rather than just allowing them to just fade away.

St. Paul is progressing toward entry into ECC. They have a constitution; still have a joint parish council with their Lutheran brethren, but they are working on that. It was agreed that we should invite St. Paul to attend the next RMRC meeting as guests.

Holy Family is having a Muslim sheik as a guest speaker after Mass this week. Security: their current location has a panic alarm. They are looking at several welcoming communities for a new location for after the first of the year. The Call Committee is excited about a candidate that they just interviewed (female Lutheran? minister w RC upbringing), and that they also have another interesting candidate (of CORPUS) yet to be interviewed.

Mary of Magdala polled its members about joint Easter Triduum services, but the majority wanted separate services. This is possibly a reaction to all the services that their partner communities were hosting - tensions around this need to be worked out; also at issue is differing understandings of the Real Presence. They will hold

a Vision Workshop on April 29 to discuss where they are as a community and where they see themselves in three years, leading up to their Annual Meeting the following week. There will be a joint African Liturgy with Trinity Lutheran and St. Paul's Episcopal to be hosted by Trinity on Trinity Sunday.

Church of the Beloved is looking forward to seeing how they relate to their UCC hosts when their hosts finally get a new pastor - both liturgically and for social justice, which has not been an issue. Security: they have decided not to lock their front door during services, since it is in full view of the sanctuary, but they will be locking the back door.

Light of Christ has been doing a lot of joint things with Bethlehem Lutheran: St. Pat's day dinner to raise money for joint mission trip going to Houston this year. Wednesday evening soup suppers and Vespers during Lent; Triduum services; Labyrinth Walk on Good Friday, which got good press in the local newspaper. They had three elementary school children baptized at Easter Vigil, and they all helped with the service. They had twenty new non-members show up at Easter Sunday Mass. Security: they are working with Bethlehem Lutheran, but since there are so many glass doors into the building, they have decided not to lock any doors. They have a parish council member, Les Smith, dying with hospice. Teri was able to Meet Lutheran Bishop Jim and attend his service when he visited Bethlehem Lutheran.

Bishop Brochure Update: A thought was to send it out to community members as four weekly pieces over four consecutive Sundays, but agreed to publish entirety with it being up to individual communities how to disseminate. We need to discern what each individual community needs and work with that. Having the Bishop Francis video will be central to communications with the communities. The question was asked: what does moving forward mean—developing polity or calling a bishop? To help decide whether it's TIME for us to move forward to consider a local bishop (with all that is entailed in that process), LOC is promoting the idea that all members in the region get to vote on their readiness on the same Sunday, perhaps with means to provide absentee ballots by e-mail or otherwise, and each community will decide for themselves who gets to vote. **What percentage of membership needed to move forward needs further discussion.** (Kae: might we consider that each community needs a majority vote for the region to move forward or is it a collective majority? or a majority of communities, i.e.? It IS in our RMRC mission to guide the local bishop process.) **Priority one for May agenda.**

Michael will clean up the document as it stands and send it out to the Council. Len suggested that he had a brief document that he put together years ago comparing RC and ECC bishop models, and **Len would send that.**

Rapid Response: **Michael asked that some system be set up for rapid responses to him from the communities** (e.g., leadership councils polled by Zoom conferences, email streams, et al) when he needs input on a subject, e.g. CCC requests. He is looking for the sense of each community, and "we don't have a position" is also good input to him. It was suggested that Bishop Francis's position may be as important or more important input – What input does he seek before signing on to NCC statements?

Chrim Mass? There were expressions of support as well as non-expressions on whether we should try to have one when a bishop is in town this summer. People did not want to take focus away from St. Paul when they are welcomed into the ECC, but it was also thought that the Chrim Mass might be a good addition to that service—possibly on June 3 (*correction: now looking at June 2*).

ECC Constitution Teleconferences: They have been good in that all get the understanding that there is considerable unity on the same issues. **Attendees will circulate their comments** on the call, in writing, to the others after the call. It was felt that there is probably no need for a call on Articles XI-XII, but most likely at least a call might be needed when the two new articles are circulated - with circulation scheduled for June.

Keeping Fr. Scott in the Loop

Maybe there needs to be a "retired pastors' group. It was felt that a retired pastor does not need to be affiliated with a community after retirement, if connected on a regional or broader level (not ideal per +Francis). **Kae will invite Scott to the May RMRC Meeting to update us on the Celtic Way; also invitation to write something for newsletter.**

Newsletter deadline: May 4

Michael closed the meeting with a prayer. The **next meeting will be May 3**, hosted by Church of the Beloved.

Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 4/12/2018

FORMATION/RECEPTION

Missed a month's worth of Diakonate 101 due to caregiving responsibilities.

Arranged meetings with diaconal candidate and his pastor.

Confirmed St. Paul yet to select Catholic Council separate from joint Luth/Cath Council for future ECC business.

COLLABORATIONS

ECC +Francis and ELCA +Jim sent out invitations to our communities that share space for conversational gathering; Doodle poll included to narrow down date.

3/21 Rabbi/Pastors gathering – discussion on Lent led to topic of forgiveness in our traditions; Christians see it as a prerequisite for healing of relationship and personal well-being, while Jews see it as something earned by the reformed life of the offender.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES March 28, 2018 CCC Board Meeting

NCC's DC March on 50th Anniversary of MLK Assassination

~ Only solidarity march in Colorado Springs ~ Greater Denver Ministry Alliance will be focusing on Poor People's March TBA

Easter Sunrise Service: <http://netcastvideo.com/players/netcast5/player.html>

Great presentation by Rev. Stan Adamson (Presby. USA) on ONE lobbying in DC

~ see emailed pdf Faith and ONE ~ <http://one.org/faith>

Approved co-signing Proposed Faith-Based Statement on Sexual Harassment at the State Capitol (pdf)

April 20th will mark the 19th anniversary of the Columbine shooting. Student-led action on April 19 in Robert F. Clement Park, Littleton CO – CCC can't endorse due to lack of unanimity, but individual denominations/churches can advertise and support.

ELCA Income Inequality "memorial" (pdf) seeking judicatory approval for co-author to sign as member of CCC. Encouraging other denominations to join in studying/addressing the issue.

ADVOCACY ~ Attended March For Our Lives in Denver.

~ Attended presentation on becoming a sanctuary church at St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith; see The People's Resolution: Creating a Path Forward on Immigration (pdf). St. Paul in discernment; probably will sponsor other sanctuary spaces, acknowledging long process to become one themselves.

BISHOPS/VICARS CALL March 21, 2018

Polled participation in NCC #END2Racism march on Washington (see posts on ECC Facebook).

SYNOD 2018 "Nothing Can Separate Us"

~Sept 17-20 at Double Tree by Hilton, Phoenix-Tempe; registration now open at <https://eccsynod.com/>

~Jenn looking for leaders/participants for closing service (clergy and lay)

ECC Facebook closed group – looking into managing site so that independent Catholic members aren't posting as if they are ECC

Flipboard – "One table, many gifts" <https://flipboard.com/@johnanthonyusa/one-table%2C-many-gifts-6dennepbz> currently includes anything tangentially related to progressive Catholicism; was initially envisioned as a repository of ECC news articles; needs refining.

Regional reports:

Mid America ~held diocesan clergy retreat and Chrism Mass ~agreement moving toward reception of St. Stanislaus, though recent ordination by non-ECC independent bishop without OPB knowledge is troublesome

RMR ~Asked +Francis about video describing ECC bishops echoing presentation made at regional leadership gathering; sending him Len's notes as a memory-jogger so he can work on it. Timeline?

~Reminded other regions of CHF pastor search.