

Board of Directors

Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

Meeting Agenda, June 1, 2023, 6PM, via ZOOM

Host: Church of the Holy Family; Facilitador: Christine Casillas; Scribe: Anne Grant

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!

Attendees:

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)
Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)
LOC: Chuck Howard, Jack Wolfe
CoHF: Christine Casillas, Anne Grant
COB: Alice Bradley, Dennis Giblin
StP: Don Sutton, Liz Begalla
MOM: Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos

Meeting started at 6:06 pm

Regular Business:

1. Welcome any guests
Welcomed Dennis back to the BOD.

2. Agenda approvals/additions
 - June agenda – PrideFest – just need update. Delete #2 new business, no longer relevant.
 - June agenda approved by motion and second.

3. Review and approval of May minutes
 - May minutes approved with edits – version sent by Kae prior to meeting.
 - Change to ECC Ukraine statement – OBE – no longer relevant.
 - May minutes approved by motion and second.

4. Financial Report
 - June Financial Report submitted by Greg Yonker. Greg worked hard to get the reporting of income and expenses caught up from previous months.

- Regional Synod – donations exceeded expenses.
- Discrepancy between Synod expenses in Profit and Loss statement and expenses listed on previous page in report.
- CCC Annual Dues – in future, write 2 checks – one for \$1/member and one for annual contribution to CCC BOD (\$300) – Michael serves on BOD.
- Liz will follow up with Greg to resolve finance questions raised during the BOD meeting.

5. Bishop Notes

- Bishop Kemper School of Theology – Bishops Frank and Pablo will teach classes for ECC students as a substitute for certain classes. Class titles in Kae’s notes. Has to be approved by Bishop Kemper (BK).
- Ordination Standards – will there be changes proposed to the ECC Statutes? Probably not, as goal is to provide MDiv equivalent for ECC students at BK. Alternative educational model (i.e. BK) – does this alternate education potentially pose problem down the road for graduate to be a bishop candidate? Would extra education be needed to fill the role of bishop? Exceptions/accommodations/etc would be reviewed by the Council of Bishops/Presiding Bishops.
- Bishops’ Working Retreat in May went well. Notes in Kae’s Bishop Notes.
- How should the ECC set up an “accountability structure” for different efforts/programs? Dennis suggested using the Finance Committee as a model.
- Bishop Frank is still active and involved with the National Council of Churches.
- Kae will be on vacation during the third week in June.

6. Vicar Report (sent in separate e-mail)

- Good experience with 301 Faith Partner’s covenant celebration.
- PrideFest – still need staffing help for ECC booth. Michael is the POC for volunteers.
- 21 June – Pride Service at First Unitarian Society of Denver.
- RMR Website – Pride events have been added.
- Would like to add write up about 301 Faith Partner’s covenant blessing to the website.
- Suggest that we update section about ECC-Lutheran partnership.
- Rosean will work on a write up and Tom has photos.
- Independent Catholics Brain Trust on Liturgies – will be looking for liturgical contributions. Still deciding on whether to set up web presence or publication. Balance of creativity and tradition. Some thoughts on developing a “common liturgy” for Independent Catholics for when they gather as a group.

7. Leadership Council Report - No Leadership Council report – have not met in June yet.

8. Personal Connections – Share something that is on your “bucket list.”

Old Business:

1. Any comments on Regional Synod survey/feedback forms?
 - Thank you cards were sent for the donations of food, etc.
 - Highlight some suggestions that will be helpful in planning the next Regional Synod.
 - Very thankful and grateful for all of the planning that went into the Synod.
 - Still need to get “the wall” transcribed.

- Suggestions for shared regional prayers, book clubs, etc. Resources for prayers and books. Will help with tying regional communities together.
 - Kae will reach out to the Planning Team to talk about next steps.
2. Financial Issues:
- a. Shall we put some of our reserve in a CD?
 - Suggestion to put \$10K in a CD since BOD usually needs about \$5K for day-to-day operating expenses. Funds in CD would be liquid – accessible if needed; would just lose interest.
 - Maybe set up 2 CDs to offset each other, so funds are accessible at different times.
 - Dennis will do some research on potential banks to set up CDs.
 - Jack will send LOC information to Dennis to review. LOC also put some of their funds into CDs.
 - RMR BOD is registered with the state of Colorado as a non-profit. Should be filing annual non-profit tax return.
 - b. Michael’s reimbursement request. - Already approved and reimbursed by Greg.
 - c. Is Kae an “at will” employee or a contract worker, need for parity between Kae’s letter of call and constitution in this matter.
 - Jack checked into this with Loveland Consulting Firm (clergy support.com); works with churches/pastors.
 - Problem is with the Constitution, which states that Kae is an employee “at will.” Means that Kae can quit or be fired “at will.” Constitution also states that Kae cannot be fired without cause.
 - RMB BOD could pass a resolution to temporarily resolve issue by hiring Kae as a contractor.
 - Constitution may need to be amended at next Regional Synod.
 - Kae can look into how clergy are compensated.
 - Jack can put together resolution for July meeting to temporarily resolve/clarify situation until next Regional Synod.
3. Collaboration with Colorado Public Radio
- Chuck reached out to CPR. CPR had interest in working with ECC, but did not have specifics of how to do that. Chuck sent letter with information about ECC. No real progress to date.
 - ECC would become “sponsors” for CPR.
 - Jack suggested reaching out to radio stations in Boulder and Fort Collins.
4. Pridefest 2023 –invitation after Pride – hand out the invitation to participants? Liturgy?
- Decided that individual communities will be doing their versions of Affirmation Liturgies in connection with Pridefest.
5. 2024 Synod planning
- Contract with YMCA of the Rockies has been signed.
 - 11 -14 October 2024
 - Chuck will speak to Teri and get back to BOD next month.

6. Update on Greg Y's status as a director
 - Greg is hopeful that he will be back to BOD in 6 months.
 - Should we vote on a waiver for Greg until he can return?
 - BOD is okay with continuing to have Greg take care of the finances, even though he is not attending the meetings. Would like to have Treasurer Report at least 2 days before the meeting; would allow for questions to be asked and submitted to Greg ahead of time.
 - Motion to keep Greg as Treasurer until November with stipulation that treasurer's report be submitted two days before meetings and Greg is available to answer questions. Seconded and passed.
7. Minutes for March meeting have not been approved yet.
 - Don and Liz will incorporate requested changes and then ask for approval via email.

New Business:

1. Discussion about regional participation in ministry to at risk children/families
 - BOD members need to present to each community to ask if there is "buy in." Are RMR communities on board and willing to serve?
 - Beautiful Redemption is not established north of Denver yet; need commitment from local communities. Need "critical mass" of volunteers to address needs of the communities.
2. How to highlight the breadth and work of Ecumenical Engagement beyond the RMRC?
3. Community Updates
 - LOC:** Celebrated 18th anniversary on Pentecost; Every month on 11th at 11:00, ring bell at church in support of environmental issues.
 - MoM:** Three bishops from three communities (Episcopal, Lutheran, ECC) together at MoM -- celebrated partnership, had dinner, bishops gave presentation on partnership, and anointing of ministries and blessing.
 - St. Paul:** StP community planning to review George VanStamwitz's presentation from the ECC Synod to learn more about why ECC is different. First of monthly presentations on church topics. Will be celebrating liturgy with UCC on Pride weekend.
 - 5th Anniversary as ECC Community and 20th Anniversary as a Faith Community coming up in the next month.
 - COHF:** Family Promise rotation during 1st week in July (making dinner, driving van, overnights), picnic planned for 20 August, and potluck planned for after Mass on 11 June.
 - COB:** Re-establishing monthly potluck on second weekend; Retirement celebration for Deacon Buddy, who is retiring after 20 years.
4. Closing Prayer: Christine
5. Next Meeting Host Communities: July 6 LoC; Aug 3 STP; Sep 7 MoM; Oct 7(Sat) in-Person Mtg, COB location TBN

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in May 2023

by Bishop Kae Madden

Personal: Greg and I plan to take a week of vacation June 15-22.

Listening and Relationship building

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

Planning to share a meal, dialogue with and bless the 301 Faith Partners and Covenant at Mary of Magdala with the Episcopal and Lutheran bishops on May 31st.

Administration

Spoke with Greg Y about the monthly budget format and budget for 2023-24. He assured me that he could provide ongoing “bookkeeping” services as he regains his health. The issues that I identified for the board meeting include debit cards for Michael and I, the 2023-24 budget approval, resolving my employment status (contract or employee) and moving our reserves to an interest-bearing account.

Advocacy/Presence/Consultation

Coordinated with Michael for him to attend the Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence luncheon June 1st as vicar and Alice will attend as Church of the Beloved’s clergy rep. Colorado Ceasefire has a speaker's group who provide informational sessions about firearm safe storage and the ERPO (**Extreme Risk Protection Order**) legislation. The information about ERPO is so important as most people don't understand what it is about and what one has to do to get an ERPO for a family member or friend.

Participated in the AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) action on May 25th regarding issues at the border: *Build a Longer Table not a Higher Wall*. Made signs and then stood with others gathered at Broadway and Alameda in the pouring rain :) It felt good to be there.

Clergy support:

Deacon Buddy Fricke is retiring after 20 years of service. We will celebrate with him at Mass at Church of the Beloved on June 24th and afterward share cake and punch.

Praying with many...

Liturgies/Sacraments

Celebrated the sacrament of confirmation at MoM on May 7. Such an honor.

Formation

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike and Christy

Continuing work on forming a local Education Team to accompany our candidates’ learning and to determine MDiv Equivalency and what classes need to be substituted and/or added for Bishop Kemper School of Ministry. Scott and Teri are part of the team. Some progress :)

The bishops addressed this item specifically during our working retreat. Pablo and Frank will teach Liberation Theology, the History of Old Catholicism, and the streams of theology of the early church including Old Catholicism as substitutes for Anglican/Episcopal classes for the 2023-24 term.

ECC

Council of Bishops

- Monthly meeting on May 8th.
 - Quarterly OPB, Bishops and Vicar call on May 24th. It was great to hear from Henry on the East and Delores in the SW.
 - Mid-America working on their process for election of a bishop. Guidelines for the Selection of A Bishop were sent to them belatedly. Council of Bishops responded to an inquiry from the nominations committee reinforcing the value of subsidiarity and the council of bishops' role once they have determined nominees.
 - Continuing to work on ordination and incardination standards and the requirement to submit same to the Council of Bishops prior to approval.
 - Follow up on the amendment regarding the role of deacons. +Pablo will convene a discussion. The lived experience of deacons in the RMR is different than the role of deacons as envisioned in the ECC.
 - Continued conversations with St. Matthew's and +Peter
 - Agenda for Bishops' Working Retreat – May 15-20 at Mother Cabrini Shrine
1. Pray Together.

Ask: what is the underlying value?? as we discuss issues/responses/ plans

2. BKSM supplemental Schedule
3. Ecclesiology:
 - + What do we have in common/divergence
 - + origin documents
 - + distinctives
 - + Christology
4. Build relationships/unity
5. Respect for Life - statement
6. Move toward bi-lingual in our interactions and communications
7. Website: Flu on "Archive" thumb drive
 - (said thumb drive physically in the hands of Carolyn Sue and ?
 - now backed up on One Drive of OPB computer) LC – compensation to update website
7. Review our Bishop's covenant/update
8. Interjurisdictional relationships/statements
9. Commissions/committees
 - F/U on "safe church" training – Frank, Marissa and Jessica
10. responses to local/national inquiries/ actions

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.

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 06 01 2023

submitted 5/31/2023 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

Denver PrideFest Booth staffing needs:

Saturday, June 24: 11a-7p (set up 8:30a)

Sunday, June 25: 10a-6p

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

6/1 will attend CFCU clergy luncheon with Fr. Don and Rev. Alice.

5/31 Attended 301 Faith Partner's covenant celebration.

Touched base with Pastor Brian Henderson of 1stBaptDenver, preliminary planning for Denver's Interfaith Pride Service on Wed. 6/21 at 1st Unitarian Society of Denver.

Added regional Pride events to website.

Collected and forwarded an ordination candidate's history and progress to Kae.

Emails with ACP-Café Advisory Board Meeting to schedule next meetings and in-person gathering to get input on the pilot application due in the Fall.

Queried CCC ED Adrian Miller about possible presentation to Board and/or Judicators by Steve Ringelspaugh about Beautiful Redemption. Presentation done in Nov2021, but may revisit it.

5/8+22 Participated in Independent Catholics Brain Trust on Liturgics. Hope to develop a collection of our diverse liturgies as a resource, so that presiders can best tailor worship to their unique community and empower the prayer of the people.

Presided at MoM 4/14 and 21.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – Board Meeting May 24, 2023, 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT: ED Adrian Miller (Campbell Chapel AME), Chair Rev. Stan Adamson (Plains & Peaks Presbytery, retired), Rev. Roland Halpern (COvoters4animals), Wesley Moncrief, Rev. Gretchen Sausville (DenvPres), Rev. John Case (MCC), recording secretary Fr. Michael Nicosia (ECC)

CALL TO ORDER/ GATHERING THOUGHTS/UPDATES

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL

- Paying off Sunrise expenses and Adrian's salary catch up; still in the black with cushion
- QuickBooks adaptations moving in right direction

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- Congregational Land Survey grant from CO Health Foundation moving forward with \$30K toward Adrian's participation/\$40k to hire advocacy lead/\$30K administrative costs
- CCC roles: engaging congregations and legislative advocacy

MONCRIEF ADVOCACY UPDATE

- Voices of Justice wrap-up newsletter coming out

BOARD RECRUITMENT UPDATE

- Possible ECUSA-CO rep Rev. Gary Brower

PRESENTATION BY THISSPACE FOR POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

- <https://thisspace.io/>
- GUESTS: COO Dan Rydeen and CEO Ian Storrar ian@thisspace.io with Pastor Henry Kim rev.henrykim@gmail.com (sharing his congregation's use of the resource)
- help leverage and steward church spaces for primarily temporary real estate –use
- parallels Airbnb with faith community sensibilities
- spaces offered to non-profits (can access local and national networks), but applicant qualifications determined by owners
- can assume property management logistics, providing consistency if staff/leadership changes
- expanding from California
- insurance require of renters
- only cost of service is % of rental fees; possible discounts for CCC Member Hosts and Congregants (which would discourage congregations going with service on their own) and % to CCC
- new, unreleased version of the app: <https://thisspace.org/> Feel free to play around.
- Board concern: CCC partnership would include promotional role

NEXT MEETINGS:

- June/July/August hiatus with option to convene for urgent business
- Possible retreat at end of August
- Next meeting September 27, 2023

Meeting adjourned 9:17 a.m.