

# Rocky Mountain Regional Council

## Board of Directors Meeting – November 2, 2023, 6:00 PM Zoom

**Host:** Church of the Beloved      **Facilitator:** Dennis Giblin      **Scribe:** Alice Bradley

**In attendance:** Kae, Alice, Dennis, Jane, Rosean, Tom, Liz, Don, Michael, Jack, Greg

**Absent:** Anne's away.

**Guests:** None

**Action items in red.**

**Agenda approved after a question about the order was resolved.**

### Old Business

- Greg will carry on as Treasurer, but we need to elect a new President/Chair since this position is required to be a community member delegate.  
Dennis was nominated and accepted the nomination of Board Chairman.  
Kae is the President as the local Ordinary.  
Rosean is the Secretary.  
Greg is the Treasurer.  
RMRC bylaws are posted on the regional website under foundational documents.
- Holy Synod 2024 Planning for Oct 11-14 YMCA of the Rockies.  
Leadership Council meeting is next week so there is nothing new since our last meeting. At this point, Teri is looking for coordinators for areas of responsibility rather than individuals that will help.
- ECC 101 presentation slides for regional Zoom call.  
Please make time in the next week to review and send feedback to Tom.  
**By Nov 10 each RMRC member is asked to send Tom feedback on the slides and what piece you think you or a community member could represent well.**

Identify team to do the presentation—Dennis, Jack, Tom, Michael, Alice (anyone else I didn't catch?)

Dennis suggested that Tom distinguish in the notes section of the slides between points that need to be made and the background info.

Kae will be at the presentation and welcome us but doesn't want to do it all.

A goal is to impart knowledge and inspire involvement in the communion and then that participants might consider serving as delegates.

Identify November date for ECC 101 Zoom presentation.

A practice session will be scheduled sometime the Week of the 12<sup>th</sup> for the presentation team.

The live Zoom presentation of ECC 101 will be held and recorded

November 29<sup>th</sup>-Wed at 6:30PM.

- Identify January deadline date for selection of delegates from our communities and add these dates to the Accountability Calendar.  
Goal is to have people in place or placeholders by January 20<sup>th</sup> in case we need to have a synodal vote re the Mid-America Region and we need to get busy on resolutions in hopes to have delegate meeting in February.
- Determine date for 2024 Regional Picnic: June 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM.
- Chrism Mass: Clarification-last meeting Rosean suggested to delay until 2025. Was consensus reached on this decision?  
Consensus: Just have a picnic and do the recommitment to ministry with the Bishop visits to each community and then leave the blessing of the oils to 2025.
- Response to Kae's draft Communication Plan sent Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>?  
Consensus to accept as written. Michael will post both this and Rosean's addition of Respectful Communication to the RMRC foundational documents.
- Did you receive Kae's 11/1/23 email with the subject line, "**correct RMRC distribution list and bishop highlights**"? Did you check that you are listed correctly on the regional email distribution list? It appears that the contacts from the email list Kae updated are correct.

## **New Business**

- Community Updates

**MoM**-tri community worship service. 180 people showed up. 2 baptisms during the service. Brats and beer and potato salad and mingling and jazzed about being together. Hope and light at the end of a long struggle.

Looking forward to Wed evening Advent service with all three churches. Fr. Len just completed a presentation on Universal Spirituality.

**CHF** Bishop Kae Commissioned Jane as new Pastor.

**St. Paul** has welcomed a new member. Jane's granddaughter!

**StP** con't..."After the Apple " book discussion group. Author brings such a different frame of reference to women in Hebrew scriptures. Don shared the experience of joy in the warmth of relationship with UCC host community.

Example of the wedding delaying St. Paul's service no problem. UCC pastor gave them a \$100 gift card to use on community gathering. Our messages online, our communications in newsletters have been helpful and represent so much work.

**LoC**- Fr. Teri and Rick Rogers went with host community on immersion trip to learn about immigrant issues. She and Pastor Katie will present to the community on the trip next weekend coming.

**CoB-** Alice will share info for Buddy's weekly Rosary on Zoom on Thursday night. We have a first communion celebration for 3 children at liturgy this Saturday.

- Set RMRC Dates for 2024 and identify 2 in-person meetings and locations:  
**Dec 7- LoC; Jan 4- CHF; Feb 1.-STP; March 7- MoM; April 11 - COB; May 2-CHF; June 6-LOC; July 6 in person....STP at COB; Aug 1-MoM, Sept 5-COB; Oct 5-CHF-in person at LoC; Nov 7-LOC; Dec 5-STP**

**Clarification: For the in-person meeting in July, COB will host, StP will facilitate and scribe. For the in-person meeting in October, Light of Christ will host and CHF will facilitate and scribe.**

- Dennis- Does the Region have Directors and Officers insurance?  
If not, should we look into getting that?  
Kae suggested that first Dennis bring us back more info from Marybel as to why we might need Directors and Officers insurance and bring to the next meeting. Greg will also get information from Church Mutual. The question was also raised for us to consider with that next time do we need liability insurance?

Consider regional activities (and perhaps CCC) for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan 18-25.  
Theme: Luke 10:27 You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbor as yourself.  
[WPCU-2024-English-pamphlet-Final.pdf \(ctbi.org.uk\)](http://ctbi.org.uk/WPCU-2024-English-pamphlet-Final.pdf)

**Invite our host communities and have a Zoom prayer service for Christian Unity...**

**Action item: talk to your host community about what days of the week might work best and set date at December meeting.**

## **Regular Business**

- Review and approval of October minutes – Jim moves to accept, Liz seconds.  
Financial report –  
Looks good. Tech Soup -we can't join because we don't have a 501 3 C. Advantages of 5013C- we could join tech soup. we could fund raise, purchases are tax exempt we don't purchase much, Jack-what is our charitable purpose? It would save about \$300 per year for quick books, we could join Tech Soup. Greg thinks it would be a good use of the government grant money we received.

**Consensus was for Greg to move forward with the 5013-C application.**

- Calendar of Accountability-Nothing listed for November.  
Kae asked if we want to do something collectively for Safety/Ethics Training scheduled for January. Several communities would like assistance with this. COB is looking into it -Maryann for PC and other communities would like help with this.
- Bishop's notes (see Appendix A)
- Vicar's report (see Appendix B)

Advance Care Planning initiative—doing preliminary work to move into the next phase to educate faith community leaders to talk about advance care planning with your communities. A cohort of participants is being formed. **Let Michael know if your community would like to participate.**

Justice for Black Coloradoans initiative. Access to post grad education for minority communities and they will ask the CCC for endorsements. -read that section of Michaels notes and see if we want to endorse as a region.

- Leadership Council Report  
None because meeting is not until after this meeting.

**Closing Prayer**—Alice

## **Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in October 2023**

by Bishop Kae Madden

**Personal:** Taking some vacation days before Advent begins...

### **Listening and Relationship building**

#### **Administration**

Spent considerable time on the ECC 101 presentation (edited by Michael previously) and partnered with Tom M. who invested LOTS of time...

#### **Advocacy/Presence/Consultation**

#### **Clergy support:**

Praying with many...

Clergy meetings and phone calls

Weekly Friday gatherings

As Michael referenced, met with Scott Jenkins to discuss a resolution for retired clergy to be represented at synod

#### **Community support:**

Meeting with LoC's parish council on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> on zoom

#### **Liturgies/Sacraments**

Commissioned Jane as pastor of CHF on Oct 14<sup>th</sup> : )

#### **Formation**

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

## ECC

### Council of Bishops

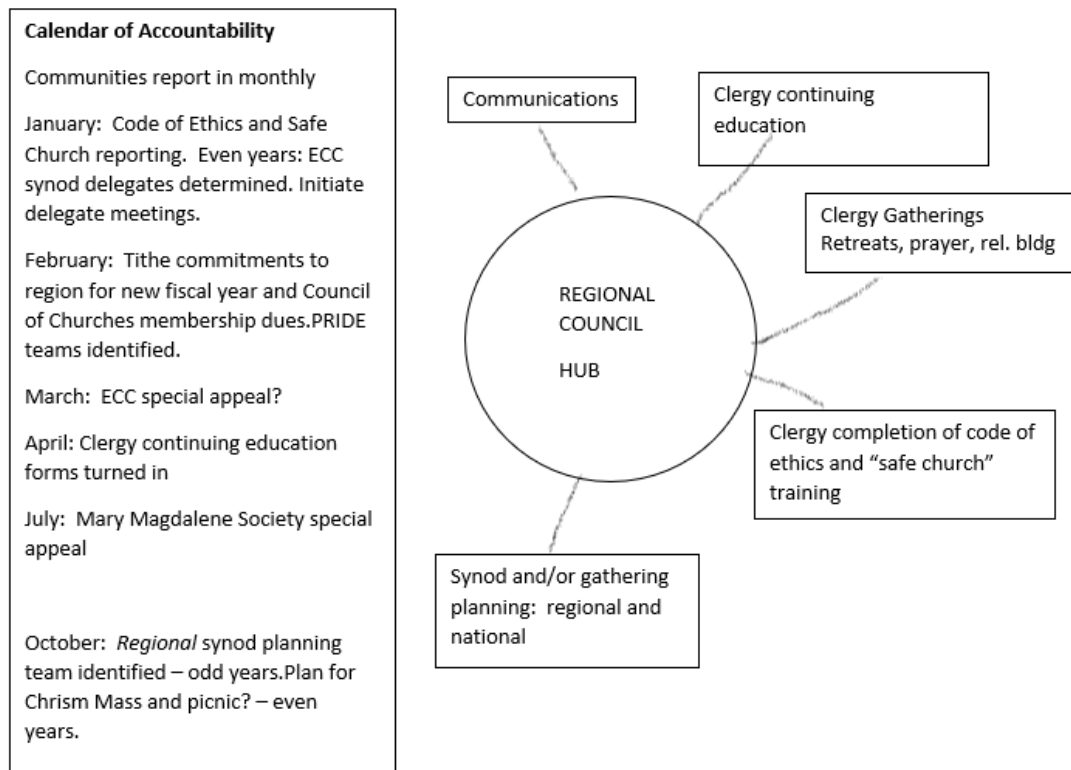
- Meeting on Oct 9. *Continued discussion* regarding “what if a community opts to leave a diocese – are they out of the ECC, become part of the proto-diocese? What is the intended purpose of forming dioceses? History of early church. How does our constitution reflect our experience? What exactly do the delegates “affirm” in regard to a bishop elect at synod: The person? Or the process?
- Worked with the Council of Bishops on the Prayer for Transformation (re: Holy Land). Consulting on the ECC ceasefire statement released today.
- Continued conversations with St. Matthew’s and +Peter, Mid-America election,

With the Leadership Council: pending

Pending: COB Standing Hearing Committee (Appeals board) regarding constitutionality

Pending: Continued work regarding education standards for ordination

**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 11 02 2023

submitted 10/31/2023 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

**KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS in red**

## REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

### Updated Website giving members access to Regional Documents and Forum (hopefully).

- 10/9 attended Jewish CO's Vigil for Peace in Israel at Temple Emmanuel representing CCC and our Region; shared articles and my takeaways with Region; tried to get representation at Boulder's 10/11Vigil but no one was available.
  - 10/10 attended webinar on Board Leadership best practices (unfortunately focused on corporate healthcare models with little application to our consensus model of shared leadership).
  - 10/11 composed Prayer for Peace in the Holy and posted it on Regional site per Kae's request.
  - 10/11 participated in The Center on Colfax's sharing of Coming Out Stories on National Coming Out Day. Note: most in attendance (20-75yrs) no longer attend churches of their upbringing due to harm caused and have given up on organized religion. Still, they appreciated my presence and person story of reconciling faith/ identity and my finding an oasis in the ECC. Assured them that there are safe oases of support out there, including their circles of friends and The Center.
  - 10/15 gave Jane a blessing before her CHF installation.
  - 10/18+25 participated in Len's Interspirituality seminar.
  - 10/21 attended HOP gathering re: All Saints/Souls observances.
  - 10/23 attended ECC Chaplains' Group; adding members; proposing re-application as an ECC Specialized Ministry Group with reps to SYNOD.
  - 10/24 networking with Inclusive Catholics on Zoom.
  - 10/26 participated ACP-Café advisory board meeting.
  - 10/27 agreed to work with Scott Jenkins to form an ECC Retired Clergy Specialized Ministry.
  - 10/30 circulated Interfaith Alliance's Interfaith Community Pledge to work for peace by creating safe spaces for those impacted by violence and hate, and promoting respectful interfaith dialogue.
- Presided at Mom 10/15 and Dignity 10/29.  
Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.  
Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts.

## COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – Board Meeting October 25, 2023

PRESENT: ED Adrian Miller (Campbell Chapel AME), Chair Rev. Stan Adamson (Plains & Peaks Presbytery, retired), Rev. Rhonda Padilla (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Roland Halpern (COvoters4animals) , Rev. John Case (MCC), Rev. Terri Hobart (ECUSA-CO), recording secretary Fr. Michael Nicosia (ECC)

EXCUSED: Rev. Mark Hutton (incoming member, Plains & Peaks Pres)

ABSENT: Rev. Gretchen Sausville or Rev. Dee Cooper (DenvPres)

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

CO Healthcare Foundation grant for church property use for affordable housing – ghosting us; moving on.

Adrian presented at first installation of Black Faith Life in Boulder; find out in early January if museum grant from Lilly Foundation comes through for travelling exhibit. CCC's role: to form Advisory Council.

UCH Med School Advance Care Planning initiative continues work though funding over; will pursue second grant to continue project in the new year. **Adrian reaching out to pastors to form a cohort for education events.** Team available to revisit communities involved in initial listening sessions to further education.

Letter of Intent to Anschutz Foundation sent re: coordinating relationship-building with rural churches (stretch as Foundation usually doesn't fund religious projects, but may be interested in urban/rural aspect) – send possible rural churches to Adrian by end-of-year.

Registered for Giving Tuesday.

#### CONVENANTING CONGREGATION POSSIBILITY

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Longmont may apply for membership.

United Faith Christian Fellowship (bishop reached out; conservative in theology but seeking to do more ecumenical work); Affiliate Partnership may be good first step. Haven't engaged them yet.

Still on radar: Community of Christ (progressive off-shoot of).

#### CHIC - Collaborative Healing Initiative Within Communities <https://chicdenver.org>

Sade' Cooper, Ken Weil, Catherine Casey presented Justice for Black Coloradans initiative.

Vision: enable all Black Americans pursue post-secondary education.

Journey toward educational reparations halted due to SCOTUS action against Affirmative Action.

Justice for Black Coloradans provides education scholarships and is engaged in State legislative push, looking into harms caused by inaccessibility; also looking into collaborations with local governments.

Aware of parallels with Indigenous communities; hope to change systems to make it equitable for all.

Rhonda: could be break through to enable other groups.

**ASK of CCC: building coalition, looking for endorsement** (corporately and individually at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6ivRNggbaU1Sojv4Zl1-DGxg1KhjKsDnVBzDp9LEKY2q3g/viewform> ) and actively engage in lobbying.

Board of Directors gave preliminary approval; will send Judicators link to review proposal, awaiting final language of proposed legislation.

#### ADVOCACY UPDATE

Iliff Intern interested in coordinating Voices For Justice. Hope to increase salary by pursuing grant. Hope to recruit more volunteers to testify on issues of concern.

#### Migrant Assistance

Increased population particularly in Denver; not a lot of \$ from Feds; Denver Human Services doing a herculean job, but neighboring municipalities not collaborating; asking for people/churches to provide temporary housing (3,000+ migrants need couple of weeks on rotating basis) and/or providing transportation to processing center.

Social Media ask coming.

Liability Insurance usually covers hosts; unpaid volunteers immune.

Public resistance to be expected in some neighborhoods.

CCC and individual denominations could help coordinate churches that have space with those that have volunteers.

Mayor Johnston's Housing Initiative Taskforce (Terri)

Faith community support through prayer, advocacy, resources; communicate real, serious reasons for sweeps continuing for health and safety even if housing options unavailable. Terri will send Board information for churches to disseminate.

Lakewood also over capacity; affordable housing up against zoning restrictions; push problem back to Denver. (California developing zoning work-around; may be model to pursue in CO)

#### BOARD RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Welcome Rev. Rhonda and Rev. Mark!

Adrian is in conversation with American Baptists; possible AmerBapt progressive off-shoot; UCC; ELCA and UMC (bishops currently on Greece/Turkey tour)

Rhonda has connection with Messianic Jewish community.

JUDICATORY RETREAT later this year; review of public policy statements and values on agenda.

NEXT MEETINGS: Nov 29 (budget proposed); Dec. 13 (budget approval and officer determination)