

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING Notes - May 3, 2018

Present: Teri and Jack (LOC), Kerrie and Jim (MoM), Kae and Jim (COB), John and Len (CHF) and Michael (Vicar), Anne Burnik (note-taker)

1. Opening Prayer: Kae
2. Agenda Approval: ok Fr. Scott will not be present at this meeting
3. Approval of April Notes: ok
4. Financial Report: The 3% vicar stipend increase has been implemented.
Mary of Magdala will send in one check for their annual pledge in June and then make any adjustments in December. Light of Christ sent some payments that are not reflected in the financial report and have not been cashed, so Teri will follow up with Lara.
5. Vicar's Report: Attached at conclusion of notes as Appendix
Hope to establish a Deacons Association including new candidates following Synod.
Re: St. Paul on June 2nd – Catholic/Lutheran shared Eucharist – Book recommended by +Francis
Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist that highlights communities. Len recommends a Presence book that has a focus on Ecumenical identity and Catholic identity.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Local Bishop

Following discussion that included the need to be both bold and clear, the fact that many parish members have probably not read the constitution that implies growth into “dioceses,” the consideration that a parish may not want to go forward with calling a local bishop and threaten leaving the ECC, and that the process could emphasize the synodal process that leads up to a slate of candidates, it was agreed that the preliminary ballot question is: **I support moving forward with the process of calling a local bishop in 2019.**

Here is a summary of the discussion regarding what we are taking to our leadership councils this month:

First, **what constitutes affirmation?** Two-thirds of the members voting in affirmation in a community is a community in favor. If four out of five of our communities affirm, we would move forward. Each community needs to discuss the spirit of consensus – that our community would be willing to “live with” the decision of the four communities collectively.

Second, all communities **offer all members an opportunity to vote on the weekend of Sept. 8-9,** including providing a way for “remote” voting. Each community will engage in education preceding the

vote, offering both pros and cons, utilizing as a basis the common document prepared by the regional team.

Third, the ballot question: I **support** moving forward with the process to call a local bishop in 2019.

or I **do not support** moving forward with the process to call a local bishop in 2019.

Fourth, the **“fine print” or covenant conditions**, the foundation on which the votes stand (this language may or may not be on the ballot itself?)

The process of moving forward to call a local bishop will include the following agreements:

- Prayer: steeped in prayer, held in prayer, begin and middle and end in prayer
- The votes of each community will be received the same weekend, prior to synod, so that delegates may attend the synod with the region’s clear direction.
- The process of calling a local bishop will be researched, developed and presented for affirmation by a regional group (TBD), synodal in composition, with lay and clergy representatives from each community as well as our vicar and +Francis or +Denise, the 3-legged stool in action.
- The history of forming “households or regions” across the ECC and the current movements will be studied.
- Nominations for or discussion of candidates is not permitted until the process is developed and affirmed.

It was further agreed that **the region move forward community by community with prayer and education ending with the above question and a vote by Sept. 8 or 9 before Synod in the Fall.**

Action Item: Each community will address: Is 2/3’s of 4/5’s okay? Bring up any other issues that need to be cleared up before the June meeting regarding timeline/process. Identify any areas within our current materials that need clarification and send in advance of the June meeting so they can be resolved. Compensation of a local bishop needs clarification.

OLD BUSINESS

7. A. Delegate Phone conferences regarding Constitution Revision: Kae recommended that the RMRC recognize the delegates’ ability/responsibility to organize themselves and not have RMRC in the middle. Another call needs to be scheduled to address the final revisions: II and IX. **Kae will initiate the next call if another delegate does not initiate – responses due before the end of May**

B. Welcome to St. Paul, June 2nd at 5:00 p.m. with reception following. If +Denise is coming just for St. Paul, St. Paul has it covered as far as expense. If there is a clergy gathering or other region-wide “business” then perhaps the region can share in the expense.

C. No strong feelings either way regarding a Chrism Mass. Vicar Michael will send out a questionnaire to see if there is an interest in a clergy meeting while +Denise is here.

Recommendation for a gift for +Denise. Teri said she would shop for the gift though she will not be able to be present on June 2nd.

D. Rapid Response request tabled

E and F. Aux. Bishop compensation – A letter will be sent by Jack to members of the RMRC to be forwarded to the lay delegates in order to formally request that this be addressed in the HOL at Synod.

G. Pridefest update – tabled. Michael shared a flier regarding a festival in Thornton at which he will have a booth with his art.

8. Said good-bye with prayers to Fr. Len since this is his last meeting with the group before he and Nancy move to northern New Mexico mid-month.

9. Closing prayer at 8:30

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 7TH CHF hosting at COB.,

Future meeting schedule: July LOC, August MoM, Sept SP? , Oct COB

Appendix A—VicarReport for RMRC 5/3/2018

FORMATION/RECEPTION

Attended final Diakonate 101; new seminar to begin after hiatus; refer candidates to +Rafe.

Participants excited to begin forming an ECC Deacons Association

Met with diaconal candidate and his pastor.

Clarified remaining prerequisites for **St. Paul Catholic Community's reception**.

Open to Chrism Mass but conscious of Sat. night clergy conflicts; offer to host separate Chrism Mass early Sunday afternoon (St. Paul Lutheran canceling Sunday service to share in Saturday's celebration). **Regional discussion re preferences needed.**

Spoke with +Denise about her visit: she's available the whole weekend (June 1-4) if there are pastoral needs in the region and is open to meeting with regional clergy.

Fr. Don's Evaluating Team confirmed. Files sent.

REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS

St. Paul Catholic Community invited to contribute feedback on proposed **ELCA document , "Analysis of Patriarchy and Sexism."** Gave them link to ECC Synod 2016 *Circle of Voices Rising* as resource.

Invited **Fr. Scott** to submit an article about the Celtic Way for our regional newsletter.

Attended Abrahamic Initiative's **Communities in Conversation**—sharing revolved around personal and communal rituals; final meeting before summer break is May 24, Interfaith Ramadan Fast-Breaking Celebration (**pdf**)

Forwarded “**a local bishop?**” document and resources to webmaster (Thank you, Bill!), now at www.coloradoecc.org on Council News page.

Received clarification from East Coast Regional Vicar re **Auxiliary Bishop Compensation**. Rev. Rosa is more of the opinion that a bishop’s compensation is the responsibility of the region/diocese he/she serves and should not be included in the OPB budget; open to learning more proposed details.

Denver PrideFest—missed deadline for registering for a Lutheran/ECC booth; on waiting list.

Fwd: Interfaith Alliance’s advocacy to curb **predatory lending** to rapid response network and regional clergy.

CCC April 25, 2018 CCC Board Meeting

Joining Common Cause, the Board approved CCC support for **Colorado redistricting measures** through independent citizen commissions (**pdf** Common Cause redistricting)

Support for Faith Leader **Letter to Abolish Constitutional Slavery** (**pdf**), particularly hoping to curtail abuses of for-profit prisons.

Agreed to invite rep of **Colorado Faith Communities United** to End Gun Violence to offer a presentation to the Board; acknowledge all Judicators not on same page, so CCC can only be a conduit for information.

Agreed to invite **A Little Help** to give a presentation to the Board on expanding services to homebound seniors; now in six counties, staffed by volunteers, financed through private grants and ind. philanthropy; challenged to develop teams in Aurora; hopefully state-wide in 7 years.

Easter Sunrise Service—due to cold weather, collections down; deficit of \$955.24 after expenses

Short-term financial plan adopted (June-Sept 2018), cutting hours of Exec. Director to 10hrs/wk, focus on fundraising efforts

No May Board Meeting; June 8 retreat to revision/plan

ADVOCACY

April 19th Student-led **VoteForOurLives** rally in Robert F. Clement Park, Littleton CO

~ ECC Vicar participated with other faith leaders including, ELCA Bishop Gonia, UMC Bishop Oliveto, UCC Rev. Sue Artt, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist leaders. Honored to support students of Columbine High, Parkland FL, Pittsburgh PA, et al.

BISHOPS/VICARS CALL April 18, 2018

Youth Mission, June 17-24. Individuals responsible for transportation, other costs covered; housed at several locations; firm confirmation by end of April.

Regional Updates

East Coast

~ 4th or 5th conference call, included MA, NY, PA, FL; retreat next year.

~Healing Shepherd—20 at Easter Mass, lots of media coverage

~Mary Magdalene—prayer capsule in new steeple

Pacific NW

~ focusing on wanting to elect a bishop; announcing vacancy and developing timeline for election; looking for confirmation at Synod 2018!

MidAmerica

~ conference call re “diakonal communities”;
“inclusive accountability commission” to be established in each local community.

Southwest

~ meetings re becoming a diocese tabled due to Synod prep; MarchForOurLives; solidarity actions with Muslims after vandalism; solidarity actions with AZ teachers.

RMR

ECC/LUTHERAN GATHERING July 19th

ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod Center, 7375 Samuel Dr, Denver, CO 80221

Issue of Eucharistic understanding raised:

Brought up Mary of Magdala parishioners’ concerns about shared liturgies with diverse understandings of the Real Presence; **+Francis recommends reading Lutheran/Roman Catholic Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist** (see www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-147.cfm; Michael ordered a copy); he also cited the Old Catholic understanding which believes in the Real Presence but not narrowly defined, never having recognized the dogma of transubstantiation.



constitutional slavery 5-2018.pdf



Common Cause redistricting 5-2018.pdf



fast-breaking 5-2018.pdf