

Rocky Mountain Regional Council

Meeting Notes, Oct 7, 2021 6:00 PM

Host: Holy Family Facilitator: Mike

Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer

Attendees:

Tom Moos

Kae Madden

Mike Weil

Alice Bradley

Michael Nicosia

Dennis Giblin

Don Sutton

Jack Wolfe

Roseann Amaral

Regular Business:

1. No Guests
2. September 2021 minutes approved
4. Personal connections: Warm Moments in September
5. Financial Report
6. Vicar of Ecumenical Engagement Report
 - A. Kae's Consecration video is now on youtube
 - B. Started google account with Email
 - C. CCC is in opposition to election issues 2f and to proposition 120
 - D. Vicar will testify at Aurora City Council meeting to testify on 10/11/21 for Mountain View United Church affordable housing plan and rezoning.
7. Bishop Kae's report
 - A. Kae also in opposition to two ballot issues
 - B. Kae supported in stating positions and making decisions between meetings. Kae will make every attempt to get feedback. Silence is Acquiescence. The Group was unified in its support for this position.
 - C. Clarification regarding ECC membership: If you are geographically in a diocese you cannot opt out of the diocese without opting out of the ECC as well.
 - D. All the Bishops have signed a covenant to say that we are working together.
 - E. Our constitution does not define the physical borders of our region, rather each diocese determines and negotiates based on "what is."
8. Report from ECC Leadership Council
 - A. Why words matter HOP seminar on 9/30
 - B. National Presiding Bishop Election committee
 - C. Concern raised about what Bishop Peter was saying on ECC Facebook page.
 - D. Survey from Caroline Sue. Please fill out by October 20th

Old or Continuing Business:

1. Continued discussion and follow up on transition to operating with Regional Bishop
 - A. Due to absences, we did not elect officers
 - B. Greg Yonkers volunteered to be Treasurer
 - C. Still need Chair of the Board
 - D. Also need Secretary to maintain minutes. Rosean Amaral stated interest. Our current standard of rotating meeting chairs and meeting secretary can continue
 - E. Regional name: Currently: Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion.
 - F. Regional constitution – We have approved
 - G. Status of 501 (c) (3) application: Jack will fill out the form.
 - H. We need to have Term limits
 - a. ½ the people have a one year term
 - b. ½ the people have a two year term
 - c. When does that begin
 - d. Who is willing to stay on the Regional Board.
 - I. We need to have an annual meeting
 - J. It was recommended we keep First Bank as our bank. Do we need more discussion?
 - a. who are the signators on the account
 - i. Bishop and officers?
 - K. End of the tax year is currently March 31st. Do we keep it this way?
 - L. Mailing address. Do we want it to be Kae's address, do we want it to be the treasure's address? Do we want it to be a P.O. Box. (How much would a P.O. Box cost?) Do we want a Legal address for the Government (currently Greg's address) and then have bank statements go to the treasure's address and other things go to Kae's address. Should we contact other diocese to see how they address this issue?
 - M. Jack will put together By Laws for the next meeting.
 - N. Letter of Call for Bishop. Kae will send her current Letter of Call with Church of the Beloved out as an example.
3. Paying off loan using EIDL grant money. (Tabled until November)
 - A. Consecration expenses
 1. \$600 for hotel expenses
 2. \$1200 for catering
 3. Jane ????
4. Lap Top for the Bishop. By consensus it was determined the Kae should purchase a lap top and storage flash drives for the office of Bishop.
5. Ordinations? Confirmations?

New Business:

1. By consensus we decided we can shred the paper ballots from the election.
2. Should the Vicar of Ecumenical Engagement be a voting Member of the region Council
 - A. It would take a constitutional amendment to give him a vote. It was unanimously agreed that Vicar Michael is an important voice in the region and is encouraged to participate in the consensus model. He will not be given a vote if an issue comes to vote.
3. What amount should the Stipend be for the use of Bethlehem Lutheran Church?

- A. We agreed to pay a Stipend of \$1000. Will verify with Greg if we can afford it.
- 4. What amount should we pay for the office space?
 - A. \$200 dollars per Month
- 5. Looking for a new website administer locally

Closing Prayer

Next meetings: Nov 4: LOC; Dec 2: StP; Jan 6: MoM; Feb 3: CoB

Appendix A—Bishop-Elect Notes: September 2021 Kae

Transition

- Our recommendation to the council is that Michael be appointed as Vicar in the roles of Ecumenical Engagement: advocacy, interfaith relationships, ecumenical relationships including Colo. Council of Churches board, and communication/media.
- My primary focus is 1) Listening internally, building relationships, determining the felt-needs/priorities of the region; 2) getting to know the bishops through monthly calls and the annual retreat; 3) transitioning some responsibilities at Church of the Beloved; 4) learning about the bishop role and responsibilities from Michael and the other bishops;
 - ✓ and working with the council to plan the affirmation and consecration.

Listening and Relationship building

- Met with one clergy member
- Bethany Lutheran regarding meeting/office space
- Met with Sue Artt, Colorado United Church of Christ Conference Minister. Have appointment scheduled with Bishop Kym
- In contact with various clergy
- First clergy email communication with “news to share” on Oct. 5th...
- Missed several of the Friday morning pastor-ing gatherings. Hope to be back more frequently.

Consultation: Support for Teri. Working with Light of Christ lay leadership to schedule presidens Sept 25 – Oct 16.

Consecration

- **Planning, planning, planning.**
- **So wonderful!** So well done with the team members each handling their own part of the event: Teri, Michael, Jane, Rosean, Don, Alice, Karen, Marie, Kerrie, Bill and Mark, David and Tom, Yvonne, And the hospitality and transportation for the bishops was amazing, too.
- The Bethany team was great. You’d think we had event planning experience :)

- **Expenses**
 - Bethany Lutheran
 - ✓ A/V \$100 check to Laura Romig, \$150
 - ✓ A/V assist \$100
 - ✓ Reception: \$100 check to Shawn
 - Free-will Offering to church: my recommendation is \$1000
 - I recommend a gift card for Sarah - \$100?
 - Reasonable offering to Lutheran Center for extra printing? – I have not used the space more than an hour, so I think the \$200 covers the printing
 - Reimburse out of pocket costs from core team members

OPB and Council of Bishops

- Participated in the Council of Bishops call on Sept 13
- Planning for the retreat set-up, went up early for two days personal retreat
- The topics included in the bishop retreat gathering included:
 - Renewing our covenant together and expanding on what it means to work together for the benefit of the whole ECC.
 - Plans for the year ahead: working collaboratively with all the orders, improving communication and transparency regarding our work together, administrative stuff such as annual letters of faculties, by “being the change we seek” build positive experiences with bishops internally.

Colorado Council of Churches

- **Responded to oppose** PROPOSITION 120 PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION on multi-family and lodging properties (condos exempt); CCC Board opposes Prop 120. I based the decision on Together Colorado’s analysis and Catholic social teaching. Need a discussion with the Regional Council regarding my response-ability to do so.

Discernment/Ordinations

- Presbyteral ordinations set for Alice (Oct 10 at 2 p.m.) and Rosean (Oct. 24th at 2 p.m.) Yahoo and Alleluia. Planning, planning, planning.
 - For Alice’s ordination: liturgy planning, invitation and worship aid. Consulted with two liturgy resource contacts in the ECC. Preparing for Alice’s first Mass on Oct 16th.
 - For Rosean’s ordination: working with her on the liturgy. Planning to attend her first Mass on November 14th.
- Met with one member in discernment, responded to an inquiry

Pending/Parking Lot

Regional Calendar: perhaps it makes sense for the council to maintain a regional calendar so that all may see our regional commitments, bishop commitments, etc. Website? Thoughts?

Budget in development

Laptop??

Insurance

Office/Meeting Space: \$200/month DONATION, “normal” printing included – extra for program booklet

Office supplies/printing

Bishop retreat – biannual

Travel to synod 2022

Synod ECC 2022

Synod RMR

Contract wages/Stipend (1099 or Letter of Call) for bishop and vicar(s)

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 10 07 2021

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

+Kae’s consecration video currently resides at <https://youtu.be/fjFh5BDu1sw>

Vicar established regional Google account. Should we move forward with development of a new Regional website and/or YouTube channel?

Regional discernment re: legislative ballot measures in cooperation with Colorado Council of Churches: **VOTE NO on 2F**, Denver-wide campaign related to affordable housing. CCC Board opposing 2F; details below. **PROPOSITION 120** PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION on multi-family and lodging properties (condos exempt); CCC Board opposing Prop 120; see details below.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Refined bishop’s consecration liturgy, produced program and assisted with liturgical environment; continued social media coverage. Sent out COVID alerts to registrants after 2+ positives reported.

Disseminated Alice’s ordination invitation and program, and Rosean’s invitation.

QR codes created for the region timed-out. Was able to restore StP, created a new personal business account, and forwarded instructions to communities on how they could create their own free accounts (or request RMRC fund upgrade to StP account that would cover all the codes for \$12.99/month).

Created Regional Google account (RockyMountainECC@gmail.com) in anticipation of expanding on-line presence.

Bethany Lutheran relayed following link to view 9/19 Consecration video which can be posted on our website and media pages and in our bulletins Link in action item above); will research uploading it to our own YouTube channel when active.

Shared with +Kae my impressions of a woman discerning ordination (from previous parish interactions and Vicar conversations).

Forwarded a prospective member’s questions about ECC’s expanded understanding of marriage to +Kae.

Attended Independent Catholic Coffee Chat 9/21.

Attended ECC Chaplain Association meeting 9/27.

Continued convos with HOP Liturgy Resource Committee prepping for Zoom seminar series:

- October 9, 2021 *Why Words Matter* - Words we should eliminate/interrogate when we use the bible in order to undo anti-Semitism, homophobia and oppression of women. Fr. Don Pachuta, Presenter. Bring a bible to the presentation. Trish Vanni, facilitator of Q&A

- November 13, 2021 *Receiving the Prayer of the "Church"* - How ECC presiders might relate to the Sacramentary of the RC Church and liturgical resources of other jurisdictions (Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada, German Old Catholic Sacramentary, et al). Fr. Michael Nicosia, Presenter. Facilitator TBD
- January 8, 2022 *Expanding our Understanding and Sensitivity to Inclusive language in our Prayer* - How do we recognize and "language" the complexities of gender in our prayer, liturgy, and professional interactions so that all people feel welcome and seen? Where should we have points of increased openness or sensitivity? What questions should we be asking ourselves as we better equip to embrace the fluidity of gender expression that is being recognized in other professional domains?

Participated in ECC Ecumenism Seminar 9/29.

Participated in Independent Catholic hive on Unity and Independence 10/4.

Registered as a Zoom participant for *Saints in Sin City*, Interjurisdictional Gathering of Old/Independent Catholic Clergy & Laity in Las Vegas 11/4 – 11/6.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting 9/22

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE FUNDRAISING: \$270 in cash was collected at Bp. Kae's consecration and given to Adrian; no way of knowing how much has/will be contributed directly to CCC.

VACCINATION STUDY EVENTS targeted to African American congregations; 2 events to date successful turnout but most attendees vaccinated, few voices of the concerned/hesitant; moving toward events at worship services to have broader audience; most questions practically based vs theological.

CASTE BOOK STUDY PILOT thru Re-Imagine book studies pairing Black and White churches, one pairing to date due to Black Church weary of White denial and skepticism about White follow through; modification: AME Campbell hosting open 8-week weekly study.

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING OUTREACH GRANT: more details to come. CCC role would be to get congregations to host conversations.

ADVOCACY:

Social Justice Fellow for 2021-22—Haley Anderson introduced to the Board; coordinates Voices of Justice team, hopefully developing proactive legislation; digital advocacy; to co-host CASTE seminars.

Aurora City Council Oct 11 and 25 hearings re **Safe Parking battle** at Mountain View United Church; as Aurora resident Michael may give CCC testimony on 11th.

Discussions about F2 and Prop 112:

TOGETHER COLORADO Deputy Director Meghan Carrier working on zoning ballot initiative with Health Colorado: **VOTE NO on 2F**, a Denver-wide campaign related to affordable housing. **We are opposing the ballot initiative 2F**, which would limit the number of unrelated adults who can legally live together to just two and put zoning limitations on congregant living and residential care facilities for the elderly, unhoused, and returning citizens, making it even harder for those in need to access necessary services. This measure would hurt intergenerational families, low-income adults, unmarried couples, students, and ANYONE seeking to share housing costs (more info on the campaign visit www.togethercolorado.org/elections).

Board voted to endorse this initiative to defeat 2F; will consult Judicators about CCC endorsement.

PROPOSITION 120 PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION on multi-family and lodging properties (condos exempt); would severely reduce school funding and other essential government services. Will be very popular being further erosion of concern for the common good.

Board voted to oppose this legislation; will consult Judicators about CCC endorsement.