

Rocky Mountain Regional Council Notes for 01 03 2019

Attendees:

Kae Madden, Mike Weil, John Head, Teri Harroun, Jim DeMuth, Jack Wolfe, Dennis Giblin, Greg Yonker, Michael Nicosia, Jane Reina

Absent: Don Sutton

Facilitator: Jim DeMuth (MOM)

Scribe: Jane Reina (MOM)

Opening Prayer: Make Room for Emmanuel

Mid-meeting Prayer: Spontaneous prayer initiated by Greg.

Introduction: Jim reviews the night's agenda

1. Agenda for this month approved as presented by Jim
2. Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 2018 presented by Greg Yonker
 - 2A. Report distributed
 - 2B. Pins – 500 pins distributed; 100 given to each ECC community. Contacted Jennifer Reyes Lay and said to go through Tom Wilder to get notification out. Flyer submitted for distribution. Fr. Jim brought up confirmation of suggested donation of \$5 for pins: Confirmed as a donation. Proceeds to be shared between RMR and ECC. Donations to be turned into Greg.
3. Local bishop process update:
 - 3A. Dennis, Mike, Kae, and Terri prepared their thoughts. See handout from Kae detailing **What IS** and **Next Steps** (*Appendix B, below*)
 - 3B. Next Step: Local Church Communities:
Set a date for a local meeting including church council and other interested parishioners. Format tailored to each community's needs. Meeting must be before the March 2 Regional Leadership Meeting. At this meeting it is recommended that we
 - acknowledge the Episcopal vacancy;
 - celebrate our functional polity;
 - review 5 core ministries of the bishop's role;
 - discuss the development of two interdependent planning teams – Polity and Constitution Team together with Election Process TeamSolicit questions and concerns around these two teams and around what's missing
Request additional team members
4. Local parish members recommended to join the RMRC on **Saturday March 2** to participate in **"Continuing the Holy Conversation"**. **Place: Church of the Beloved at 8:30am-11:30am**
Bring breakfast snacks to share. Anyone can come from every ECC. Each church will present discussion and create document at end of meeting to be shared at the regional meeting. Letter

to be signed that is addressed to the ECC Leadership Council officially announcing the Episcopal Vacancy to be circulated before March 2 gathering.

5. Regional Meeting needs an agenda, a facilitator, and assignments (listed under Agenda Item #6 below).

Items Discussed

1. Purpose of Jan/Feb local community meeting (see Appendix B)
2. We agreed to look back at: What ideas grew from the local meetings? What is missing and what are concerns? **Structured so everyone has a voice.**
3. Michael: concerns before we come to the community.
 - 3A. Make it known to everyone that we are not making decisions without the third voice, the Bishop itself.
 - 3B. Where is the shared identity/mission/vision before we develop the polity and before the March meeting?
4. Ideas:
 - a. Mike – one of the things we have is 10 years of community therefore we do not have to develop who each community is compared to others who have been together for 1 or 2 years. We would want our bishop to help with our mission/vision/identity work.
 - b. Terri suggested that we take #2 under What IS and expand on that: We have collaboration within the leadership group and we are building on what we have here.
 - c. Kae: when you add #3 to #2 then we have a picture. Attempted to use language to 'sound of soul' rather than legalese.
 - d. Jack: In presenting to the local community, place your community within the whole.
 - e. Michael N. see asterisked paragraph to understand where we go and we will not be articulating what our shared identity is.
5. Kae: identify a spokesperson from your community to bring the outlying issues as well as the common good. Refer to the meeting as "Continuing the Holy Conversation" or "The Holy Conversation Continues..." (Michael N.).
6. Kae: local meetings: pages that follow are resources you might want to have "supplemental resources" listed in the Outline. Main purpose: where we are and where we are heading to be involved, and be involved on March 2. Discussion based on question of community sign letter at their local meeting or only by those who are present at the March 2 meeting.

DECISION: It was decided that we would have it only on March 2.

Kae will revise the outline and resend. (*Appendix B is the subsequently submitted revise.*)

Michael: Core of Bishop function to include nurturing aspect.
7. Kae: need a flyer or bulletin insert that explains what is happening.

Agenda item #6.

1. Who writes the letter?
2. Mike: Need by February Leadership meeting. Terri gave Mike the letter template. **ACTION ITEM**
3. Commissioning of the teams on March 2:

Do we bless the teams so that we can ritualize the steps and teams. One of us needs to be on each team or more than one. During the 2 ½ hour meeting we take breaks and pray. We can

appoint a chaplain who will call for pauses and celebratory prayer throughout. So we need a facilitator and chaplain.

4. Kae asks that a report on needs or summary from each local community be brought to the Feb RMRC meeting. **ACTION ITEM**
5. Structure of the March 2 Meeting:
Opening prayer: TBD
Ritual of signing the letter: M. Nicosia
draft: Mike (forgot which Mike)
6. Michael N to develop rituals around song "This is holy ground." Each community to bring 1 quart of earth from their site **ACTION ITEM**, to be mixed together and disseminated as part of ritual commissioning of team volunteers and sending forth.
Closing team: TBD
7. Kae will send points to have a flyer by the Feb. 7th meeting for us to use at our community meeting. **ACTION ITEM**
8. We are a steering committee after the March meeting. We send the letter to the ECC leadership council.
9. Jack and Jane will work on the timeline **draft** for the process of electing a local bishop. **ACTION ITEM**

Fr. Jim thanks the committee for putting the Outline and the March meeting materials together.

Vicar Report (*see Appendix A, below*)

Heads up for clergy: Bishop Rafe really sees a need for continuing education Ultrajectine on the Utrecht tradition, history and theology. He will be suggesting reading for clergy and those moving forward.

Caution: The Southwest has an active constitution community and have been working on it for years and still do not have buyin by all the community.

Fr. Jim recognized the work of the Vicar.

Community Reports

1. St. Paul – coffee maker and other kitchen essentials donated to Street Reach. Published a new church brochure.
2. Light of Christ – 3 significant deaths since Thanksgiving so community came together. Retreat on Jan. 12. An OUT Boulder to support the LGBTQ community including UCC, Methodists and ECC as support for LGBTQ. Boulder County is the first, this week, to recognize same sex marriage and Boulder will be recognized.
3. Church of the Holy Family – ordination of Mother Cynthia was on Dec. 18. Last Mass at old church on Dec. 25. Dec. 29 moved to the Savior Lutheran Church. First Mass was celebrated on the Feast of the Holy Family. Significant death of Pat Garrity, funeral Jan. 11. Cynthia's father is dying and ask for prayers for her. Deacon Mike's sabbatical starts Jan. 19.

John: Energy and respect for the process that has gone on so long and a sense of positivity and we will get this done: so much unity and positivity at Mother Cynthia's First Mass. We should do more joint ECC regional masses to connect the churches.

Kae: Presider discussion concerning different presidors across churches. The purpose is to get priests to be exposed to the people and the people exposed to the other ECC priests. Priests have a commitment to pastor the larger ECC community. Jack recommends that we change to seeing a priest that we haven't seen regularly as part of the presider switch. We will preach on the readings of the week.

4. Church of the Beloved: UCC is offering someone the pastor position and will need to foster a new relationship. Glitch: a few weeks ago, there was no presider and they had a communion service that was determined by the community. We have a Thursday Communion service led by community members alternating with Mass. It's been great to watch the community come together. More energy as a result of sacramental needs.
5. MOM: Christmas mass on Christmas day for the first time. We had probably more guests than parishioners. We did miss our Christmas Eve Mass. Planning a joint liturgy with all three congregations on Jan. 17 with joint choirs and MOM planning the liturgy. Sermon to be given by guest Episcopalian priest, Pastor Garret.
6. Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month: Feb 7 SP; Mar 7 COB; April 4 HF; May 2 LOC.

Closing prayer.

Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 01 03 2019

FORMATION/RECEPTION

12/9 participated in Cynthia's ordination rite as MC and in prostration ritual; able to introduce ordination candidates to PB.

12/19 Conferred with +Rafe re academic requirements for presbyteral ordination. He suggested more education and continuing ed. on Old Catholic's Ultrajectine tradition and theology; independent study reading list to come.

REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Celebrated Mass at StP 12/15 and 12/25, MoM 12/16, Dignity/Denver 12/23.

Forwarded ReSource at Iliff update on 12/21

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES—

12/10 CCC Communications meeting ~ disseminated +Francis's Advent video message

12/18 CCC Judicators Luncheon

~ published photos on social media highlighting ECC's ecumenical collaborations

12/19 CCC Board Mtg

Resources related to **Ethical Eating** public policy statement:

~ "Eating Animals" film

~ "Meat Matrix" broadcast <http://outsideinradio.org/shows/ep-p6jbm>

~ Learned of the Pet and Women Safety Act (PAWS) passed in 2017/18; addresses the fact that many victims of domestic abuse don't leave their abusers out of concern for their pets and the fact that few shelters accommodate them. Sad but true: US legislation and advocacy started with the prevention of cruelty to animals years before any consideration of women's and children's welfare.

12/19 attended Gov. Hickenlooper's **signing of Amendment A** at State Capitol, removing inmate exemption to slavery ban in State Constitution.

BISHOPS/VICARS CALL 12/19

Pacific Northwest

~ former Regional Council now Diocesan Council, had second meeting; Constitutional challenges incl. forming a legal entity encompassing 3 States (suggested Lutheran and Methodist models)

~ 1st local Synod planned for April 2020

~ focusing on social ministries, incl. Holy Spirit fundraiser for refugees in Greece; Fr. David at Good Shepherd 1 week/month, rest of time working with Tacoma homeless

East Coast

~ technically 3 regions developing relationships through conference calls, updated contact lists of national delegates

~ social ministries incl. Angel Tree program; Mary Magdalene hosting full week with Family Promise

~ +Francis attended Church of the Healing Shepherd's 1st Anniversary

~ East Rochester possible Synod 2020 hosts

Southwest

~ Constitution Committee proceeding; not 100% buy-in of the member communities at this point

ADVOCACY

Regularly posted on **Instagram**, **Twitter** and **regional Facebook page** at www.facebook.com/Coloradoecc/

Missed **Progressive Congregations'** meeting on Prop 111 and **CFCU's annual Candle Light Vigil** on 12/12 due to mother's illness.

Was one of the speakers at **Aurora - Mom's Demand Action memorial of Sandy Hook** on 12/14

Guest panelist at **T'ruah Human Rights Shabbat** on 12/15 at B'nai Havurah in Denver

~ discussed the Cycle of Shifting Sentiment that often both powers and impedes progress in protecting and advancing human rights and consider how we all, as individuals and as a community, might help to break this dangerous cycle.

Attended Denver's annual **Memorial Vigil for the Homeless** 12/21 with StP Co-Pastors and 8 parishioners; Vicar's photo appeared on front page of Colorado Public Radio site identifying ECC!

Appendix B— Outline for Jan/Feb Local community meetings and March regional meeting - revised 1/4/2019

PURPOSES/AGENDA OF OUR JAN/FEB LOCAL COMMUNITY MEETING:

Each community will uniquely design their local meetings accomplishing the following shared outcomes.

WHAT IS:

1. **Celebrate and name what we've accomplished ("We are Here")— and affirm our current status in the process of electing a local bishop: *Through the regional vote we have the charge to announce the Episcopal Vacancy*** (Note the checkpoint built in with the Leadership Council. All present at the March 2 regional meeting will be invited to sign the letter along with the members of the Rocky Mountain Regional Council.)
2. **Acknowledge and Celebrate our current established functional polity in the RMRC:** Our communication. Our collaboration and shared leadership. Our track record. Our independence within our support of one another. What we already have in place. Acknowledgment of our unity and our diversity. Our shared vision, identity, and mission, the "soul" of the region. (see RMRC Charge/Practice in resource list)
3. **Review the Core 5 ministries** that have emerged as initial scope of bishop's role. Our bishop will:
 - "Sing" of our local unity, build up the local church, inspire, nourish, listen for and proclaim the voice of the Spirit moving among us, be the hub of the wheel;
 - Care for and shepherd our clergy and members (support, problem solve, mediate, guide,)
 - Be Presence in Sacrament – ordinations, confirmations, chrisM Mass, regional prayer and liturgy, etc.
 - Serve on and contribute our unique regional voice to the ECC Episcopal Council.
 - Give the ECC a face and presence in local ecumenical and interfaith relations

NEXT STEPS:

4. **To present and invite input regarding the Next Steps:**
We are moving forward with ***Two interdependent planning teams:***
 - ❖ ***Polity and Constitution Team:*** To develop a framework for our written polity/constitution for the Rocky Mountain REGION based on our shared vision, mission and identity;
 - ❖ ***Election Process Team:*** To develop the timeline and path of the vocational call and election in 2019, beginning with our letter to the ECC Leadership Team announcing our Episcopal Vacancy. (This letter will be available for perusal prior to our Mar 2 gathering.)

Invite specific input to both teams **asking two primary questions:**

- What ideas and concerns do you have for these teams?
 - What is missing right now in the region that we need to consider in this developmental stage?
5. **Invitation to**
 - **join one of the teams** if you are interested, emphasizing the need for all voices for diverse input
 - and to **participate in the March 2nd regional gathering of Holy Conversation** at Church of the Beloved. Gathering at 8:30 a.m., bring a breakfast snack to share, prayer, dialogue, relationship building. Concluding at 11: 30 a.m.

Each community will record the input received and create a document to share at the Mar 2nd mtg.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES we may want to have available

Canon 67 The Office, Role and Selection of Regional Bishops. (Amended 10-26-2007)

67.1 In the following Canons, any reference to action required of the regional bishop, or authority belonging to the regional bishop, will, in the absence of an elected regional bishop, be understood to refer to the Presiding Bishop of the Communion. Any reference to a region is understood to include groups of churches, faith communities and/or common ministries that are not necessarily geographic in nature.

67.2 A candidate for the regional episcopacy need not be an ordained priest at the time of election, but shall be an ordained priest at the time of consecration as bishop.

67.3 Whenever a number of faith communities of the ECC begin to discern the need for the closer, more immediate spiritual leadership of a bishop, that assembly of communities is encouraged to gather together. These communities will further discern and prayerfully deliberate their needs and desires. The prior approval of the ECC Synod or of the Presiding Bishop is not required for a group of communities to engage in these initial steps.

67.4 If the assembly determines that the spiritual and ecclesial leadership a bishop will best serve the spiritual needs of the People of God, it will notify the Leadership Council of their Request for Recognition of an Episcopal Vacancy. Respecting the principle of subsidiarity. The Leadership Council should promptly attend to this Request, and will counsel and assist the petitioning assembly. The Leadership Council may for good reason withhold approval of the Request, in which case the petitioning assembly will be asked to wait at least one year before renewing its request.

67.5 The churches seeking a new bishop will carefully discern, nominate, screen, interview, and in due time will elect from among worthy candidates the person they choose to serve them as their bishop. While the initial selection processes of screening and interviewing will ordinarily be deputed to the HOP and HOL leaders of the affected churches (or to a special group they may appoint), the actual election must afford every individual of the affected churches the opportunity to cast a conscientious vote in favor or against the election of particular candidates.

67.6 Confirmation by the ECC Synod by majority vote is necessary for final approval of the election of the candidate for episcopacy. The ECC Leadership Council may not substitute for the ECC Synod in this decision.

67.7 If the next Synod of the Communion is more than one year distant from the date of the affected communities' election, the Leadership Council should develop a means of communication with the whole Communion to announce the choice made by the affected communities and to solicit affirmations or negations from all the voting members of the ECC Synod. A reasonable, modest and efficient period of time should be allowed for this. If the next ECC Synod is within one year's time, the process for confirmation of the election will be deferred until the scheduled ECC Synod.

67.8 The decision of the ECC Synod is final. If the candidate is denied, he or she may not be re-presented to the ECC Synod for a period of three years.

67.9 Upon confirmation of a Regional Bishop, the churches that have formed the new Region shall establish a form of governance that evidences a Regional Synodal polity that includes both Laity and Clergy and is representative of the diversity of the Communities in that Region.

67.10 A bishop's term of office, when serving a Region, is to be six years, renewable by official re-election by the people of the region and subject to confirmation by the ECC Synod. A bishop's tenure in office will not exceed two consecutive terms. A bishop may be reelected to a Regional Episcopal office following a period out of office for at least two years.

67.11 The communities in the region are responsible for the financial needs of the Regional Bishop in addition to their national financial responsibilities.

67.12 In the event of an Episcopal vacancy arising from death, resignation, retirement or removal from office of a bishop, the same selection process described above shall be engaged. However, in such a case provision should be made for continuing the regular affairs of the Region. The affected Region, in consultation with the ECC Leadership Council, may itself appoint an interim spiritual leader for the jurisdiction, to serve for the period of vacancy. Such consultation is imperative.

67.13 The bishop enjoys the power of appointment for special needs of the jurisdiction not already provided for in its Constitution or Canons. These appointments are at the pleasure of the bishop in consultation with the regional leadership council, and terminate when the bishop's office concludes.

67.14 Every bishop in good standing and holding elected Episcopal office within the Communion shall be a voting member of the Episcopal Council. All bishops in the ECC not holding elected office shall be non-voting members of the Episcopal Council.

67.15 An ECC bishop not currently in an elected Episcopal office may serve the Communion in other ways, including in any pastoral capacity at the invitation of any Region or the Communion itself.

67.16 It belongs to the Synod to decide upon the jurisdiction of a bishop from another communion or jurisdiction being received into the ECC. The question of a newly received bishop having Episcopal office within the ECC is separate and distinct from the matter of reception into the Communion of a jurisdiction, and must be addressed independently by the required Constitutional process.

RMRC charge/practice:

Given: The Rocky Mountain Region has a framework with the big building blocks in place for our polity in the region:

- 5 established ECC communities:
CHF (2002?), COB (2004), LOC (2005), MoM (2011), St. Paul (2018)
- Effective regional council, est. 2008, synodal in nature, a polity in practice in relationship with our appointed vicar, demonstrating unity, strong communication, collaboration, and support of our diversity and independence.
 - **COMPELLING VISION OF THE RMRC:** A strong faith-filled communion of diverse communities within the Rocky Mountain Region of the ECC. adopted September 2013
 - **MISSION:** The Mission of the RMRC is to listen and respond to the Spirit's leading and action in the diverse communities of our region, facilitate collaboration, foster growth in faith and love, and extend the radical hospitality of the ECC to one and all.
 - **FUNCTIONS/SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY:**
 - **Relationships:** Facilitating relationships among the regional member communities, via dialogue, shared prayer, retreats, annual summits, social outreach, and educational events.
 - **Communications:** Sustaining ongoing communications among region communities by all available means; Collaborating on efforts to educate about and increase visibility of the ECC to the public at large.
 - **Administration:** Administering the region's resources and finances, i.e. Vicar stipend, travel expenses, etc. Coordinating dialogue about the growth, leadership and effective operation of the region. Facilitating ongoing dialogue and discernment regarding the call of a regional bishop when timely and appropriate.
 - adopted September 2013

- A history of gathering and working together
 - Delegate gatherings and communications prior to synods to discuss, inspire and educate one another
 - Leadership gatherings to share best practices
 - Exploring the possibility of electing a local bishop
 - Praying together – para-liturgies, chrism Masses,
 - Regional youth retreats and experiences

- A cohesive, functional, grounded, spiritually sound communion of communities

Canon 64

64.1 A candidate for ordination to the Episcopal Office must fulfill the guidelines as set forth in the bylaws of the Constitution of the ECC.

64.2 The call of a bishop, as the servant of Christ and the People of God in a particular place, is to continue the Apostolic ministry of the Church entrusted to us by the women and men who followed Jesus. Episcopal ministry is centered in a faith community’s commission to teach, lead, and sanctify. The bishop represents the people that he or she was elected to serve. The bishop serves as a unique symbol of unity in the diversity of the Church as the Body of Christ. (Amended 10-27-2007)

Results of our Research:

- Pacific NW went forward electing a bishop, and later will develop polity.
- The SW is developing the polity, and then will look at electing a bishop.
- Mid-America spent a couple years working on their constitution and building relationships.
- Because of our unique strength, we are ready to move forward with these two teams in tandem, building on what is strong and breathing in a new way together.

PURPOSES/AGENDA OF THE MARCH REGIONAL GATHERING

—Continuing our regional Holy Conversation:

1. To pray together in relationship with one another as we continue the process to call our local bishop
2. To share summaries of what emerged in each local conversation, identify and affirm our common ground and outlying input, develop our understanding of where we are, and our next steps
3. To offer anyone the opportunity to join one of the teams and commission the teams.
4. To sign the region’s letter addressed to the ECC Leadership Council announcing an Episcopal Vacancy