

## NOTES

### Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting, December 3, 2020 6:30 PM

Host: Church of the Holy Family      Facilitator: Mike      Scribe: Kae

Council Members Present: Teri, Tom, Michael, Greg, Dennis, Rosean, Mike, Jack, Don

Guest: Anne

**Jane:** Jane joined us at the beginning of the meeting to announce that she and Rosean had discussed designating the clergy representative for Mary of Magdala and decided it will be Rosean. Jane thanked us for her experience and we blessed her and assured her that she is welcome anytime.

**Opening Prayer:** Mike

#### **Regular Business:**

1. Welcome any guests – Anne from CHF visiting to consider lay representative of CHF
2. Agenda approval/additions - approved
3. Approval of November 2020 notes – approved. Greg reiterated that the Sept. notes are still pending
4. Personal connections: We shared moments where we have encountered Christ in the Advent Season.
5. Financial Report (Greg) Approved. Two November payments are pending because they were delayed by the mail delivery.
6. Vicar's Report (Michael; see Appendix A)
7. ECC Leadership Council Update (Teri): Note: We would like to add this “report” as a standing item for each meeting’s agenda
  - a. ECC Constitution Committee: The Leadership Council identified a small group to serve on the constitution committee with George VS, Cynthia Drew, Rosemary V., and John I. from Colorado. Teri encouraged the council to urge the committee to start with work of Tom M’s clean-up. The LC majority is considering a narrow scope: that the amendment work would be confined to the Constitution (not statutes?), and not inviting additional input other than feedback received prior/during Synod and listening sessions. RMRC feedback is that the LC’s recommendation on the Amendments Committee violates the “Colorado Resolution”:
    - a) Having a committee of 1 leader (George) and only 3 members does NOT reflect the diversity of the Communion
    - b) The resolution specifically provides for amendments to the Constitution AND to the Statutes.

Discussion of Leadership Council role and how to honor the resolution that passed.

Transparency, inclusivity and unity are core values.

- b. Videos/Recordings for 2020 synod are still expected in time.
- c. Synod 2022 is set in St. Louis Oct 10-13. Delegates need to be present to vote.

## Old Business:

1. Update on the Bishop Call Process. (Dennis)
  - a. Six nominations for local bishop - four declined, one accepted and one is still discerning.
  - b. It's time to form the Regional Election Team.

Proposed *Regional Election Team* Description:

\* Determine and implement voting methodology so we are as inclusive as possible. \*  
For transparency, communicate with BCC and RMRC.

Considerations:

- \* Guide communities in inclusive methodologies (electronic, paper, etc.)
- \* Create ballots. (after third ballot: add choice: Not at this time)
- \* Ensure security of election.
- \* Provide guidelines on conducting the election at each community.
- \* Disseminate ballots to communities.
- \* Collect ballots.
- \* Count ballots.
- \* Communicate results to RMRC.

Need to put out an announcement to invite members for the Election Team, two members from each community (per Regional Draft Constitution). Note: Jane previously stated that she would serve for MoM.

**ACTION ITEM:** Greg and Dennis will write and send it to RMRC to distribute/publicize. Target date Dec. 10 for publication Dec 12/13.

2. Ordinations? Confirmations? Coordination of Bishop Travel? Sometime in the spring, the Pacific NW is ordaining a transitional deacon and Alice is welcome – all is pending.

## New Business:

1. Commissioning of Ecclesial Ministers: Michael sent out documents from Bishop Rafe regarding commissioning of Ecclesial Ministers (resonating with precedent in Episcopal tradition and Canadian Anglicans). Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> Bishop Rafe will remotely commission two ministers in the Mid-America region in order to respond to need in rural areas for baptism, marriage, anointing of the sick, preaching, distribution of communion, reconciliation. *Process clarification: In both cases, have met qualifications for ordination.* Purpose: To address the sacramental/pastoral needs of geographic areas without a priest available.

*Questions emerging from discussion:* Lots of discomfort....

How is this commissioning supported by the House of Bishops?

How does this affect/influence our theology of ordination?

How does this affect our order of deacons? Our deacons are standing in the gap as needed.

Bishop Francis is open to consider the necessity in each locale/circumstance. How does this apply to future remote communities in our region? Do we have need currently? The church supplies/fulfills – how do we care for the people of God?

2. Virtual Community Mission: Michael is querying responding to needs of those in isolation, looking for community, at a geographic distance via an intentional virtual mission community. Rich discussion including: What will the need be in the future? Hybrid future (i.e. LOC online retreat). Is there a model for online only? How are sacramental needs met – virtually or in person? Responding to felt pastoral need or preference? How is it the same or different than Mass for shut-ins or EWTN? How would all-virtual live out our Catholic Eucharistic orientation?
3. Caffeinated Church - postponed
4. Community updates and short term (Christmas) plans? - postponed

Closing Prayer

Next meetings: Jan. 7: LOC; Feb. 4: StP; Mar. 4: MoM, April 1: COB, May 6: HF

## Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 12 03 2020

### FORMATION/RECEPTION/CONTINUING ED

Participated in Bishop Francis's Old Catholic History and Theology Seminar and attended Rafe's forum on ordination guidelines.

Discussed Mid-America Diocese's commissioning of extraordinary sacramental ministers with Region.

### REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Forwarded info to CHF re open call for Aurora History Museum exhibit on religious diversity.

Presided at MoM via Zoom 11/15, Pax Christi reunion 11/21\*, Dignity Denver 11/29.

Participated in weekly regional pastoral ministers Zoom gatherings.

Populated Regional Facebook page with member churches' posts.

Planned and led CHUM/WHI daily Zoom meditation, "Holding our Nation in Prayer #Election2020" extended to 11/14; only on Wednesdays until Inauguration.

\* former Pax Christi community members raised issue of more regular gatherings and the possibility of forming a solely **Virtual Community** to meet the needs of those geographically distant from a traditional ECC church; discussed possibility with regional clergy and beyond.

Considerations:

~ How to maintain relationship with regional and national ECC?

Mission of 1 of the 5 RMR churches? Of the RMRC? Of the future bishop's office?

~ Ministry or outreach would need to appeal to a non-geographically oriented community; possibilities might include Mary Magdala Society? Colorado Council of Churches?

~ My role? Chaplain vs Pastor? Stipend?

### OPB Call 11/19

SW—+Francis meeting with regional clergy and lay leaders

PNW—Constitution draft circulating for approval/ownership; discussion sessions on Pope's new encyclical; 3 ordinands at various stages of preparation.

### Mid-America—Commissioning of extraordinary sacramental ministers

- Due to traveling restrictions during the worsening pandemic and into the foreseeable future, Bishop Rafe is unable to ordain 2 of the women he has prepared for ministry in his diocese; one in particular belongs to a community with no priest.
- The Anglican Church of Canada and the Episcopal Church USA have the practice of commissioning deacons and lay members to administer certain sacraments (Baptism, Marriage, Reconciliation and Anointing the Sick, plus preaching and distribution of Communion) in cases of emergency when a priest is not available.
- Following their lead, +Rafe will remotely commission these women 12/13, and +Francis is open to discussing whether or not such a step is warranted in our Region.
- +Rafe sees liturgically solemnizing such commissioning as essentials; shared preliminary documentation and liturgical drafts.

General prayers—Dcn. Mir's wife has COVID19; +Francis' brother has pancreatic cancer, unable to visit during pandemic. Pandemic stress causing burnout for some clergy.

## COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Attended 11/18 quarterly CCC Judicators' meeting. Discussions included:

CCC agenda for 2021 – education partnerships re vaccinations; legislative gathering options; grants for racial justice and youth mental health initiatives

Shared denominational involvements around racial justice –

**Lutheran Synod:** raising questions re our culpability? what needs to change?

Initiatives included in budget funded through dedicated tithes; training offered to Synod Council; repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery

**Denver Presb:** Fearless Dialogues with Rev. Dr. Greg Ellison; Matthew 25 Initiative

**AmerBapt:** “Cross Walking” moving conversations of black and white churches to personal relationships; education good, relationship building running into difficulties

**EpiscopalDiocese:** Some parishes report, “We don’t have Black members.” Maybe you should be asking, “Why not?”

**Church of the Brethren:** suggested book, TROUBLE I’VE SEEN by Drew Hart

Urban/Rural Divide: frustrations all around; challenge to understand each other’s values and fears; “Shalom Teams” gathering to listen to each other’s stories

COVID-19 responses: **altarlive.com** new program making virtual live services more interactive;

stress of virtual worship is impacting some pastors, now considering early retirement (fears of shortage in the future)

## Board Meeting 11/24

FINANCIAL/FUNDRAISING UPDATE: only 32% of budgeted income; some grants haven’t come through; most non-profits not finding Colorado Gives Day worth the effort.

2021 BUDGET: income scaled back to 42% of 2020; expenses down to 18% of 2020.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES: RMSELCA Soul Food Lunch on Nov. 2;

Amplify Black Voices—Trinity UMC Event on Nov. 16; Judicatory Meeting on Nov. 18;

Recorded Prayer Video Used At RMCUCC Services on Nov. 22

2021 PROGRAM PLAN:

Ecumenical

1st Quarter: MLK, Jr. Day Weekend virtual Program on Race, Faithful Thursdays

2nd Quarter: Virtual Easter Sunrise Service at Red Rocks, Virtual Pentecost Service

3rd or 4th Quarters: Civility gatherings, virtual Youth Retreats focused on mental health,

Rural listening sessions

4th Quarter: Civility gatherings, Judicatory Retreat

Social Justice

1st Quarter: Voices for Justice, Faithful Thursdays, COVID-19 vigil Lamentation & Hope

2nd Quarters: Voices for Justice, Faithful Thursdays

3rd Quarter: Voices for Justice legislative group framing 2022 legislation

3rd and 4th Quarters: 2020 statewide rural listening sessions

On-going: Ecumenical church visits; Gov. Polis Clergy Council meetings; Quarterly judicatory meetings; Vaccination study and outreach, especially COVID-19