

# Rocky Mountain Regional Council

## Meeting Notes, March 25, 2021

Host: Church of the Beloved      Facilitator: Dennis      Scribe: Kae

Attending: Greg, Dennis, Michael, Kae, Mike, Jack, Teri, Rosean, Don, Anne, Tom

6:30PM Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer

Holy One,  
Enlivening Spirit,  
In the wilderness of new,  
root the Body of Christ  
fully into our "Yes,"  
blooming in Your Holy Season.  
Together.

### REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. **Welcome any guests.** Question posed by Michael: How do we publicize our RMRC meetings in our communities? Via Bulletin, leadership council, etc. **ACTION ITEM:** work on keeping our members informed.
2. **Agenda approval/additions.** Approved
3. **March 2021 notes for approval** – Approved as updated
4. **Personal connections:** sharing among members
5. **Financial Report:** CCC dues/contributions all received – payable in April - approved
6. **Vicar's Report:** (see Appendix A) Faithful Tuesdays topic: Discussion of reflecting upon Agricultural bill now and for future topics raise the issue of mental health resources  
Question: Any ECC pastoral statement forthcoming regarding the Boulder shooting? None known.
7. **Report from ECC Leadership Council:** Teri: Constitution amendments continue. Synod recordings still in process. ECC Report quarterly – should have one coming out soon. MMS had 6 applications – evaluating and announce scholarships by end of the month for both tuition and youth projects. Gathering documentation for electing a new presiding bishop in 2022 – establishing timeline/protocols. Checking in/follow up on HOP/HOL/synod-established working groups.
8. **Community Updates**
  - LOC: Holy Thurs. ritual hand-washing materials sent out, adoration outside; Easter Vigil outside drive-in; Acknowledge the broken-hearts regarding the Boulder shootings by follow-up and by checking on people;
  - COB – in addition to regular Holy Week liturgies, we are celebrating a collective memorial Mass for those who have lost family/friends over the last year without an opportunity to gather ritually
  - CHF: First meeting of new PLT Parish Leadership Team! in process of looking at the language used during Mass – re-crafting prayers of the Mass, will celebrate a baptism on Easter.
  - StP: initiating a process stirring the common vision of the community of faith including physical space (Catholic and Lutheran), education regarding ECC (using Declaration on the Way), Good Friday Stations at noon and 7 p.m. Easter jointly with a baptism. Working on a covenant among the two communities. A/V improvements continue.
  - MoM: Holy Thurs using pictures of members washing feet in a video. Good Friday Stations outside 12-2 with self-guided hand-colored posters and in the evening Seven Last Words-

combined communities; Sunday sunrise service plus pancake breakfast to go; Clergy of three churches are meeting monthly to continue growth in relationship. Rosean sent out a letter to many papers and had an op-ed printed in the Loveland paper in response to the Roman Catholic position offering compassion and support of same-sex unions.

**OLD OR CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

1. Decision after review of **“Caffeinated Church.”** Annual (5) \$100 or Annual (1) \$60. Move this matter to “placeholder for future meetings”.
2. **Calling a local Bishop.** Update from call team and election team. Timeline? What's next?
  - Ballots will go out on April 7; Return of ballots: firm deadline of April 23 at 11:59 p.m.
  - RMRC certifies the election. Direction requested from the election team regarding:
    - Data desired on votes received? numbers or percentages – Both.
    - How reported? via email to RMRC members. Each community will report within a determined time with all the votes going into one fishbowl of totality. Importance of holding confidentiality of the election team regarding each community’s votes.
    - If we do not elect on the first ballot, then what do we announce? Full transparency regarding numbers of votes reported to our members to aid in discernment.
    - If we do not elect on the first ballot, subsequent ballots will not include 3<sup>rd</sup> choice of “no bishop at this time.”
    - In our case, if a candidate withdraws, we still must have another ballot (with Yes/No options) to assure 66%+ affirmation.
    - Discernment and prayer service hosted by the Bishop Call Team: Sunday April 11 at 1 p.m. on zoom, recorded and link will be distributed for watching later
3. Budget for Bishop Consecration, Local Synod 2021-2022? postponed
4. Ordinations? Confirmations? Coordination of Bishop Travel? postponed
5. Any news from the ECC Constitution Amendments Committee? postponed
6. Development of 2022 Fiscal Year Budget (begins April 1, 2021). adopted, may be amended in the future as circumstances change

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**PARKING LOT** *(new subset for agenda items to be addressed at future meetings)*

1. Caffeinated Church membership (delayed until after election)

Closing Prayer – offered together

Next meetings: May 6: HF; June 3: LOC; Jul 1:StP; Aug 5: MoM; Sep 2: COB; Oct 7: HF; Nov 4: LOC; Dec 2: StP

*Remember, when you host to send out the agenda, have a facilitator and scribe, bring opening and closing prayer, bring Consensus Document (Appendix B, below), and send notes in a timely fashion.*

## Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 03 25 2021

### REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Composed script for ECC's Faithful Thursdays Moment and ran draft by Council for comment.  
Bishop Francis had mentioned wanting to write an ELCA/ECC document paralleling Lutheran/Roman Catholic *Document On the Way*. He hasn't started and is open to Fr. Don and me writing a first draft.  
Attempting to schedule first HOP Liturgy Resource working group meeting. (Working jointly with OPB's Liturgical Advisory Commission is ON HOLD until we clarify our mission.)  
Participated in regional refinement of amendments to ECC Constitution; met with Amendment Committee to share rationales for various proposed amendments.  
Populated Regional Facebook page with member churches' posts and Council of Bishops' statement on Vatican refusal to bless "sin," and responses to the Boulder shooting. Also created and published related memes.  
Circulated event announcements from interfaith and inter-denomination partners.  
Participated in weekly regional pastoral ministers Zoom gatherings.  
Presided at hybrid Masses with StP 3/6 and Dignity 3/7; via Zoom with MoM 3/21.

### OPB CALL 3/17/21

Discussions around Vatican pronouncement, CoB response:

- LGBTIQ2+ acronym and how we best be inclusive.
- Marriage as indissoluble – goal; commitment; stability; divorce acknowledges marriage attempted.
- "for the whole of life" – i.e., all aspects of their life together.

RE Virtual Communities:

- favor maintaining relationship with those joining virtual liturgies rather than starting a solely virtual community.
- desire to develop 3 plans of varying tech-capabilities for hybrid liturgies, including ways to visually/audibly include both physical and virtual participants.
- need to address sacramental needs of virtual members, possibly establishing relationship with kindred churches in their geographic area to serve in emergencies.

Bishop consecration expense clarification:

Region covers travel for required 3 bishops; others who wish to participate covered by OPB.

### COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (CCC) Board Meeting 3/24/21

frustrations around BOULDER SHOOTING:

- ~ if it had been a Black man...
- ~ advocacy hands tied re no consensus (rural church members who are pro 2nd Amendment)
- ~ objectification of women as source of temptation to be eliminated (Atlanta shooting)
- ~ reviewed local faith-based vigils

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE UPDATE

- ~ 100% women leaders with one choir exception

## FAITHFUL THURSDAYS

- ~ 3/4 Adrian Miller of CCC kicked off Moments. <https://youtu.be/CeHiLPumtWQ>
- ~ 3/11 Peter Severson of Lutheran Advocacy ministry CO re HB21-1121 renters' protections including delaying evictions <https://youtu.be/VMWRFkSoGdQ>
- ~ 3/18 Rev. Rossbert re SB21-009 which will enhance access to contraception for undocumented people and low-income families in the state medicare program. <https://youtu.be/YOQWhgwU6Mw>
- ~ 3/25 video from Jean Demmler of the Denver Presbytery re HB21-1194, the Immigration Legal Defense Fund bill. <https://youtu.be/Z8OaeLcXCYU>
- ~ ECC Moment: assumed that we can't focus on gun legislation, but coalition consensus not necessary; partners who disagree simply wouldn't disseminate it.

## VOICES FOR JUSTICE

- ~ following SB21-1142 which deals with "show up" identifications
- ~ SB21-116 ban against Native American school mascots
- ~ SB21-129 suicide prevention for Veterans
- ~ HB21-1057 Extortion Of Immigrants Engaging In Lawful Acts
- ~ SB21-077 Remove Lawful Presence Verification Credentialing before issuing or renewing a license.
- ~ polling Judicators on HB21-1194 legal defense fund for non-profit indigent immigration representation (subject of 3/25 Moment)

## POSSIBLE COLLABORATIONS

- ~ Aging Mastery Classes ~ waiting to hear if there'll be a faith component
- ~ Alzheimer's Assoc. still looking for denominational collaborations; updates coming

## VACCINATION ROLL-OUT:

- ~ target 75%; 1/3 adult population vaccinated to date
- ~ hesitancy of Communities of Color lessening
- ~ greatest hesitancy among White Republicans
- ~ survey of Faith communities re clergy and essential staff vaccinations (estimate submitted for ECC Region)

## GOVERNOR'S CALL WITH FAITH LEADERS 03/24/21

- ~ Interfaith prayers shared for Boulder tragedy.
- ~ Boulder faith communities are well coordinated to handle local need; request that those who wish to support them NOT travel to Boulder for any advocacy events.
- ~ Faith leaders eligible for vaccination; our getting it is a witness to our people.
- ~ Every adult should be able to schedule vaccinations in a couple of weeks.