

# RMRC Notes for 04 04 2019

Host: CHF

1. **Opening Prayer**
2. **and Regional Prayer**  
holy One, sweet Guide  
reveal Your will; our new “yes”  
together. Amen.
3. **Agenda approved**
4. **March notes approved via email**  
**COMMUNICATIONS NOTE:** agreed future emails would list needs in subject line, e.g.,  
“Response requested” or “No response needed” and/or “Reply to sender only” or “Reply ALL for  
conversation”; start a new subject line if it does not pertain to the previous string.
5. **Treasury Report**(Greg)
  - a. Remaining ECC Pins to be accounted for.
  - b. 2019/ 1Q 2020 Budget approved as amended.
6. **Vicar Report** (*see Appendix A below*)

## New Business:

7. **Local Bishop process**
  - a. Review of March 30 regional gathering. Michael to write newsletter article about the process.
  - b. Review of Polity Team and Bishop Call Committee makeup. Understood that MoM unable to send participants at this time. Clergy participation sought for Bishop Call Committee.
  - c. Agreed that notes of team meetings should be submitted for publication on regional website (with a dedicated page linked to the home page) so that interested community members can keep abreast of progress.
  - d. Affirmation of our process should be sought from the Communities at key points.
  - e. Notes of Mar. 30 gathering and Letter to Leadership Council asking for affirmation of episcopal vacancy also to be posted on coloradoecc.org Process Page.
8. Discussion initiated by Jane led to amendment of select wording in Feb. Vicar Report.

## Old Business

9. **Regional gatherings**
  - a. Mar. 30 gathering counts as our Lenten Prayer together.
  - b. Chrism Mass is a possibility when +Francis in town for ECUSA episcopal consecration May 18.
10. **Consensus decision making**
  - a. Discussion re Kae’s draft.
  - b. Kae will make amendments and disseminate before next meeting.
  - c. Meeting chairs to have document at the ready.
11. **Community Reports**
12. **Closing Prayer**

**Next meeting:** May 2 LOC; Jun 6 MoM; Jul 18 SP; Aug 1 COB; Sept 5 HF

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## Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 04 04 2019

### FORMATION/RECEPTION

Next steps for our 2 regional priesthood candidates progressing in their discernment and testing.

**ON-GOING CONCERN: Any young vocations coming up?** Many of our regional clergy are either already retired or fast approaching it! What is our future?

Received authorization from +Francis to administer Sacrament of Confirmation to a former member of Pax Christi, now with St. Paul; coordinating with Co-pastors re scheduling possibilities.

### REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Participated in RMRC meeting 3/7 and served as chaplain for our regional planning gathering 3/30.

Attended CHF's "**I am for peace**"\*: **The Psalms for Justice-Seekers and Peace-Makers** with Prof. McCann 3/9

Celebrated Mass at Dignity/Denver 3/10 and MoM 3/17.

CCC Communications team meeting 3/11 postponed, but touched base with other point persons at Faithful Tuesday gatherings.

Presented meditation and background reflection on my *Stations of Justice* for Mile High Ministries 3/12.

3/14 presentation at CHF on **Suicidal Desperation Awareness** canceled due to weather; postponed for better attendance before Mass sometime during the Easter season.

**Encouraging all communities to schedule a presentation for their full membership.**

NEEDED:

1) the presence of any members or associates who have intervention skills training through a program like Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) or its equivalent.

2) white board or flip chart.

3) 10-page handout for each participant.

(Presenters have to have gone through the Soul Shop training; if Fr. Michael is unavailable, there may be presenters available through CFCU.)

Published regional newsletter, ***The Journey Shared***. **NEXT DEADLINE May 1**

Attended Governor Polis's first Interfaith Prayer Breakfast 3/27 with Mother Cynthia and other members of the monthly rabbi/ministers group and other faith leaders; gave presentation on "Catholic Prayer as Sacramental Participation."

Populated regional Facebook page @coloradoecc.

Encouraged ECC clergy to join ECC Clergy page.

Advised MoM to learn from CHF process of pastor search and remain a support resource.

UPCOMING:

Received invitation to attend Episcopal Bishop-elect Kim Lucas's consecration 5/18; **our Presiding Bishop Francis is unable to attend** and asked that I represent him.

## **ADVOCACY**

Attended **Faithful Tuesdays** regularly; schedule at [www.faithfultuesdays.org](http://www.faithfultuesdays.org). Mother Cynthia attends regularly with other members of CHF; Fr. Don and Fr. Stan have also attended.

Attended Interfaith memorial gathering of support at the Denver Islamic Society in the wake of the Christchurch shootings.

Participated with Mother Cynthia in membership meeting of **Colorado Faith Communities United to end gun violence** (CFCU) 3/19. --New network connection: retired EP Bishop of Nevada, Dan Edwards, now in Denver...member of Bishops Against Gun Violence.

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook

Advocacy on LGBTQIA inclusion, progressive Christianity, Islamophobia, et al.

Also shared posts of regional churches and the CCC including re Faithful Tuesdays.

**BISHOPS/VICARS CALL** March call preempted by Bishops annual retreat.

## **COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - Board Meeting 3/20**

Reflections on UMC Meeting (Scott Schiesswohl): The 2019 meeting only dealt with human sexuality issues, in particular same-sex marriages and ordination of LGBTQ+ clergy. Because the law of the land is that same-sex marriages will be honored, the practical implication for US churches is not that great; the pastoral impact is great. As far as ordination, 8% of the clergy in the US are part of the LGBTQ+ community. The current Bishop was ordained before the ruling, which is a different problem. Under the new rules, if a clergy holds a same-sex marriage, they are placed on leave. If they do it a second time, they will be defrocked. 40% of the legislation passed may be unconstitutional, so the Supreme Court of the denomination will review the final legislation. If the measure is found to be unconstitutional in whole or part, the conversation will be revisited in March of 2019. A group is gathering to determine whether or not churches in the US can or should leave the denomination.

Easter Sunrise Service Deposit. The loan was approved for the deposit. The deposit was then made, and we are moving ahead.

Voices for Justice Report: Rev. Marcia Meier (Disciples of Christ) gave a legislative update. Marcia and Adrian will be giving a mid-term update on the progress of all critical legislation.

Family Leave Act. CCC is getting requests for the CCC to take a stand on the FAMILI (Family Medical Leave Insurance Program). The Board was asked to review the bill by April 1st so we can determine our stand. We then discussed how this bill intersected with TABOR reform, which could help with funding.

Ethical Eating Statement: Stan met with representatives from the farming community and discussed how when something as complex as how we get our food gets summarized in a half page of text, generalities make the conversation complex. Stan will share with us his conversations and then will propose language changes to the proposed Ethical Eating Statement to modify the generalities. Stan also hopes that we can use this document to begin conversations between urban/rural members of our community. Adrian will be visiting churches throughout the state to hold vaccination listening sessions which could perhaps be leveraged to have conversations about food.

Faithful Tuesdays: The program is getting good traction. Adrian continues to send out press releases and targeted e-mails, but still isn't getting media coverage. The Colorado Sun, an on-line news outlet, covered the issue at [https://coloradosun.com/2019/03/11/we-the-faithful-people-coalition-of-religious-groups-push-to-redefine-faith-in-colorado-politics/?fbclid=IwAR3rQ0EtjmHOiVhw527siMC7XuZIAJTU\\_szi35BnPievdylLafCkx6Ah\\_6Q](https://coloradosun.com/2019/03/11/we-the-faithful-people-coalition-of-religious-groups-push-to-redefine-faith-in-colorado-politics/?fbclid=IwAR3rQ0EtjmHOiVhw527siMC7XuZIAJTU_szi35BnPievdylLafCkx6Ah_6Q)

Right to Survive Forum: The CCC has been asked to participate with Capitol Hill United Ministries on a forum discussing Denver initiative concerning the current camping ban. Paul Alexander (Episcopal Diocese) has been asked to moderate the event. The program is not moving ahead as quickly as Adrian had hoped.

Easter Sunrise Service Update: We have about \$1,000 in pledges. We may be able to save money because the sound system will be in place. Have request for someone who is in hospice to come to Sunrise Service. Adrian will continue to explore how that "wish" can be granted. K-Love will be sponsoring again. Adrian will continue negotiations.

Remerg Program: This program is exploring hosting a forum on the public policy issue of eliminating life sentences. Mark Mauer, an author working to engage the conversation, is exploring coming to Denver as part of an event. The CCC has been asked to help sponsor the event. The group wants cash and not in-kind donations. Members of the Board said they will make a designated contribution to CCC in order to provide support for this group.

Housing Survey for Denver Mayoral Candidates: Adrian asked whether we would be willing to publicize the response from the Survey. Adrian will send out a query to the Board.

Vaccination Study. A national organization, the American Association of Pediatricians, has as a priority getting rid of the religious exemption for vaccination. With our study, we will be in the center of the conversation.

Committees/By-laws: At the February meeting, Adrian stated that he would bring a list of the committees to the March meeting. That conversation will take place at the April meeting.