

**Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Region of the
Ecumenical Catholic Communion**

Meeting, June 2, 2022 6:00PM

Host: Mary of Magdala; **Facilitator:** Rosean Amaral; **Notes:** Tom Moos

Present:

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)
Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)
Jack Wolfe, Rachel O'Neill (Light of Christ)
Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos (Mary of Magdala)
Alice Bradley, Christy Chady (Church of the Beloved)
Greg Yonker (St Paul, Denver)
Anne Grant (Church of the Holy Family)

Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer (Rosean began the meeting at 6:06)

Regular Business:

1. Welcome any guests:
Teri Harroun to report on Synod planning and Leadership Council updates. Agenda adjusted to schedule Teri's reports at beginning of meeting.
2. Agenda approvals/additions
Some reorg, no additions.
3. Synod Planning: Teri reported that in the past, the Synod planning team met at the venue in advance to immerse in the environment and plan. This didn't happen for our 2022 synod. However, Bp Francis and LC chairs are familiar with that venue.

Teri summarized all major planning decisions so we can begin distribution of details to our communities:

- Registration: \$250/delegate, whether you attend in person or virtually because tech to make hybrid happen also has associated costs.
- In person attendees can attend everything: large group gatherings, smaller workshops, liturgies, house meetings, etc. Breakfast and kickback buffet for dinners are included. On the last evening there, the restaurant in the hotel will cater a meal. Special dietary needs can be accommodated. Delegates will be on their own for lunch.
- Virtual delegates can join all large group gatherings, liturgies, and house meetings. They can vote at house meetings and vote for presiding bishop but cannot attend smaller workshops.
- Presiding bishop will be elected in a large group session.
- No money available for scholarships because Synods have always operated in the negative.
- Communities can virtually attend large group gatherings/liturgies for \$25/community.
- Drury Inn doesn't have a shuttle service so plan for a cab if arriving by air.
- Starts Sunday Oct 9, check-in/registration begins at 9:00 am but first event begins at 4:00 pm. Last event Wed Oct 12 scheduled to end at noon is the liturgy to install new Presiding Bishop which will include consecration if necessary.
- If you bring a spouse, there is a \$75 spouse fee.
- Hotel rooms will be between \$145 - \$199/night.
- Not sure whether there is parking at the hotel for those driving.
- There are plans for indoor and outdoor social justice activities – will be close and local.

- Michael asked whether some communities might be able to help subsidize other communities who cannot afford to send delegates. **Action: Teri will ask the planning team.**
 - Keynote speaker: Rev. Dr. Jayme Mathias who is spearheading independent Catholic movement.
 - Synod Theme: Church in Action.
4. Leadership Council Report: Teri reported that the lines between the PB Nominating Committee, Leadership Council (LC), and Synod Planning Committee get a little blurred. LC topics summary:
- Folks have through this weekend (June 5) to initiate floor nominations for Presiding Bishop. Floor nominees also need to be vetted. Then, opportunities to meet all the candidates will be provided via an electronic info packet along with 4 town hall meetings. LC wants to be fair to floor nominee(s) so hasn't initiated much publicity about Paul Burson yet.
 - LC has a monthly agenda but fighting "fires" often reprioritizes work. The Communion has a lot of growing edges/pains and LC provides a listening ear to complaints.
 - There are many teams working 2020 Synod resolutions in the Communion and LC works with each of them. Teams will present updates at 2022 Synod. There have also been many requests to respond to national issues (e.g. white supremacy) that the Communion hasn't explored deeply and thus the LC isn't really able to serve as spokesperson for the Communion on some topics.
 - LC has also been reviewing the budget. Many ECC-wide activities have been shouldered financially by St Claire and St Francis (not sustainable) so LC wants to shed light on that, e.g. need ECC archives & Liturgy library.
 - Doing a lot of forward-looking beyond Bp Francis. Also needing an Admin for LC and leadership roles other than Presiding Bishop.
 - Bp Francis is in Poland for consecration of Bp-elect Tomasz Puchalski and so Francis is fairly inaccessible this month.
 - Working with the Council of Bishops to expand/improve communications.
 - Relationships between national Communion and local churches is manifesting the tension we experienced in Jan 29 house and leadership council meeting.

At this point, Teri left the meeting.

5. Review and approval of May notes
The May meeting notes went out shortly before tonight's meeting. Kae requested that everyone approve May notes via email by June 16.
6. Financial Report
Greg reported April's and May's financials.
- April tithing income and expenses (including Bp stipend, Vicar housing, CCC, Quickbooks online subscription, bank charges and reimbursement for Denver Pridefest registration and booth rental). Kae pointed out a discrepancy with CCC not reporting the RMR's contributions though Greg noted the check was cashed.
 - May tithing income and expenses. (Bp stipend, Vicar housing, Quickbooks online subscription, and bank fee).
7. Bishop Notes and Vicar Report
Kae's Bishop Notes:

- **Action: Picnic volunteers are still needed from 3 communities.** Jack had sent some ideas for locations and **will review requirements about reserving a park in Longmont.** We will wait for additional volunteers until June 10. Need buy-in from every community about the picnic or we won't do it. Kae also suggested the picnic planning need not be complex or time-consuming. The planners should combine planning with encouraging participation.
- COB bylaws. Alice thought the bylaws represented substantial progress. Kae clarified that the COB is responsible for its own stuff so norms for engagement are established for COB meetings and sponsored events. Other houses will likely establish their own.
- Each community needs to fill out a community report covering community name, clergy, synod delegates, etc.
- Rosean asked about the targeted audience for the formation education alternatives for anyone, potential new clergy, or Continuing Ed for clergy. Kae hopes this will address all groups, even laity and expects this covered by one of the Synod working group reports.

Vicar's report.

No main action steps, more a list of things Michael has been working on. No questions.

Old Business:

1. Update on website.
Bill H is correcting the pastors and contact info for MoM. Not much activity on this.
2. Denver Pridefest: **Michael** has received volunteer offers of help from MoM and Holy Family but **would welcome more help to facilitate conversations with passers-by.** Jack mentioned LOC Pridefest June 11 and is having trouble staffing that also.
3. Bylaws and Synod resolutions:
 - Jack reported COB and HOP is working on bylaws pertaining to communications, what is good communications and what is not.
 - LOC is putting together 2 resolutions. First, in terms of Black Lives Matter, a resolution expanding the language of who is oppressed to include other groups (Japanese, Native Americans, LGBTQ+, etc). Second, the ECC Statutes and Constitutions seem more like a presentation of ideals and lack teeth. Not sure where this 2nd initiative will go.

New Business:

1. Community Updates:
 - MoM will have a combined service with the 301 Faith Partners on June 12 at 10:30 am. We're still on "Yellow" level for Covid and so there are challenges for Social Distancing. May have the liturgy outdoors but that presents tech problems.
 - St Paul has some changes in leadership: vice president and secretary.
 - LOC: will be celebrating Pentecost and 17th anniversary 5:00: outside Mass and Facebook live.
2. Personal Connections: Rosean asked for feedback about having personal connections at the beginning vs end of the meeting. No clear preference requested. **Alice reminded the facilitators to send out a PC theme suggestion with the agenda.** A brief discussion ensued about how people are reacting to recent mass shootings.

Closing Prayer: Rosean (7:27 pm)

Next Meeting Host Communities: July 7, COB; Aug 4, CHF; Sep 1, LOC; Oct 5, STP; Nov 3, MoM

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in May 2022

Bishop Notes: Activity in May 2022

+Kae

General notes ongoing: Gratitude for Michael as Vicar in the roles of Ecumenical Engagement: advocacy, interfaith relationships, ecumenical relationships including Colo. Council of Churches board, and communication/media. I attended the CCC monthly board meeting in Michael's place on May 25th – a great group of people. The Easter Sunrise service did not make budget : (

I have not heard from St. Paul, CHF or LOC regarding planning volunteers for our regional gathering. Jack responded with some possible locations in Longmont. How do you want to proceed?

Listening and Relationship building Lots of phone calls and emails Communicating prayer requests and news among the region's clergy via email.

I will participate in the Together Colorado legislative review and planning on June 8th .

Discernment and ordination: Ongoing conversations with Mike W and a candidate from Church of the Beloved

Formation: I think we'll wait until after synod to form our region's education and formation team so that we don't have to double back. Any in your communities who may be interested in being part of the team, please let me know.

Liturgies: Celebrating with St. Paul has been rescheduled for June 25th, their 21st anniversary of forming the community.

ECC: Participated in the zoom Town Hall regarding liturgy on April 6th – the topic was the Liturgy of the Eucharist and was very engaging. The next liturgy town hall is on June 8th at 6 p.m. on the topic of Closing Rite and Michael will participate.

Council of Bishops: The COB is meeting with the Leadership Council intentionally right now to improve communication, determine a path for questions of conduct or constitutionality, alternatives to MDiv in formation of priests, and more clearly articulated roles, responsibilities and collaboration of the HOP, HOL and CoB. We met with the LC on May 26th and reviewed the COB draft of bylaws (attached). We will be publishing our updated "Colorado Covenant" in the next ECC Report. I am meeting with the LC on June 7th to represent the Presiding Bishop who is on vacation and then on to Tomasz' consecration in Poland. (I am refraining from attending.)

Synod: don't know yet but expect that there will be 1-2 days prior or after the synod for our annual bishop gathering. We do not know the cost of synod yet. Oct. 9th-12th. The synod begins on Sunday afternoon so communities will need to make arrangements for liturgies so that delegates can arrive in time.

Consultation: continued interaction with CHF in discerning their leadership model of church

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 06 02 2022

submitted 6/1/2022 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Gave opening convocation for Majestic Hearts Pageant 5/7.

Met with Rev. Lance Swearengin, pastor of Conifer Community Church, to discuss ecumenical engagement 5/10; shared about the difficulties in challenging a politically conservative community.

Participated OPB Liturgy Seminar 5/11.

Attended ECC Chaplains Group 5/13.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Presided at MoM on 5/15.

Touched base with +Kae and +Francis about being triangulated in another diocese's politics.

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CFCU Rapid Response, and CCC posts.

Forwarded MoM's contact update request for current regional website.

Engaged in preliminary communications re Interfaith Pride Service planning, tentatively at 6/23.

Complied Regional history from Road Show for website development, 2 hours 40 minutes.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting covered by Bishop Kae 4/27

Appendix C—RMRC Adopted Practice of Consensus Decision Making

Final May 2, 2019

Overall: The council definitely prefers face to face meetings rather than email discussion or conference calls. Zoom visual technology may help but if at all possible, we need to meet in person. Meetings begin and end with prayer.

1) Our general practice during meetings will be to slow down and engage each person around the table, listening, asking or responding to clarifying questions and engaging with Love, respect, emotional strength and intelligence, commitment to the common good and foregoing personal agendas.

2) Facilitators will ask if there are any opposing views on every decision and wait for a response, and also to call on those not vocal during issue discussions. If the facilitator prefers, s/he may ask for a volunteer to take the role of assuring that we are hearing from all voices during the meeting.

Members may request to abstain from a particular decision if there are unusual circumstances such as a conflict of interest.

If the group is divided, we will: Yield. Stop. Pray. Listen. Try to identify how a problem emerged, if it is local or regional, and the source of resistance by going around the table. Honor no crosstalk as each person responds uninterrupted. After hearing from everyone, if there is not clear consensus, use the 5-finger model:

5. *I love it. I insist on it. I can't live without it.*
4. *I prefer it. I like it. But I can live without it. And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.*
3. *I am neutral on the question. I have no preference. And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.*
2. *I prefer not to do it/support it. I don't like it. But I can live with it. And if it is the group's decision... I will support it.*
1. *I hate it. I insist against it. I can't live with it. I veto it.*

3) Repeat :) We cannot move forward if 1s or 5s are present. We listen again and amend.

4) If consensus cannot be reached, hit the pause button and postpone the decision until the next meeting. At the next meeting, if we still can't reach consensus we may resort to voting as we continue to listen to the minority voices (see below). If consensus is blocked and no new consensus can be reached, the group may stay with whatever the previous decision was on the subject, or does nothing if that is applicable.

5) Major philosophical or moral questions that will come up with each affinity group will have to be worked through as the group forms and re-forms with each new member.

Difficulties in reaching consensus: If a decision has been reached, or is on the verge of being reached that you cannot support, there are several ways to express your objections:

- Non-support ("I don't see the need for this, but I'll go along.")
- Reservations ("I think this may be a mistake but I can live with it.")
- Standing aside ("I personally can't do this, but I won't stop others from doing it. ")
- Blocking ("I cannot support this or allow the group to support this. It is immoral." If a final decision violates someone's fundamental moral values they are obligated to block consensus.)
- Withdrawing from the group. Obviously, if many people express non-support or reservations or stand aside or leave the group, it may not be a viable decision even if no one directly blocks it. This is what is known as a "lukewarm" consensus and it is just as desirable as a lukewarm beer or a lukewarm bath.

***The facilitator of the meeting is responsible to bring a copy of this document to the meeting.