

Rocky Mountain Regional Council

Board of Directors Meeting – September 7, 2023

Christine, Rosean, Dennis, Jack, Chuck, Alice, Liz, Don, Anne

Michael is in Rochester

Chair: Rosean Scribe: Kae

Opening Prayer

Approval of Notes: Delete the “numbers” following mention of bishop highlights. Approved.
Kudos to Michael for the comprehensive notes for August from Chuck

Accountability Model:

Addition: July: Mary of Magdala feast day

Add consider a Chrism Mass or some kind of regional gathering in our non-synod regional year

Bishop’s report

Discussion regarding Proposition HH – no clear direction. Generally support Proposition ii. Need more input.

Vicar’s report: Michael is absent. Any issues to explore?

Action Item? do we need to send photos for the gallery because what was there disappeared.

Surfacing themes for 2024 synod.

CHF representative: Christine has resigned from Church of the Holy Family PLT so as to integrate into the New Mexico community. The October meeting will be her last meeting with the regional council.

Leadership Council report: Jack

Considering forming a Commission to discuss Diocese structure and polity in the ECC.

Leadership Council will be in Estes Park, Colorado Sept. 22-24 to immerse in planning for synod.

No update on Lilly Grant.

Planning with +Pablo for 20 year anniversary on Sept 19th – how are we the church for the next 20 years?

Financial report: approved

Greg acted at our direction and \$14,000 was transferred to a time savings account CD with FirstBank.

Dennis: This transfer is not what we agreed to open. The amount was supposed to be \$12,000. Greg found that CIT doesn’t offer business CDs so he did the next best thing. This new account has a penalty if withdrawn early. When it is time to renew, perhaps we consider a relationship with a stock broker. LoC has a relationship with Edward Jones and they find banks to suggest to work with as business accounts.

This situation brings to light some concerns. We are jointly responsible to be good stewards of our funds. We have entrusted all financial activity to our Treasurer and book-keeper and we supported his acting independently. At this point, we need clear guidelines, and if a direction is not feasible, we need to come back to discuss it before moving forward. Perhaps we need a financial committee to diversify and broaden the financial responsibility.

Greg’s leave of absence has been felt deeply. We miss Greg. Greg is the formal chairperson and treasurer. There is concern moving forward. Greg’s six months sabbatical is coming to an end – we

need to inquire if Greg can come back fully. Rosean will speak to him. Depending on Greg's response, the board may need to take action to address financial bookkeeping and financial accountability. Hopefully he is able and willing to return to full participation on the board.

2024 Synod planning: underway

ECC 20th Anniversary: Sept 19. Pending

Regional website: Dennis: There are a couple glitches in the operation of the regional website. When you sign in, it should take you to the log in screen. If you are new to the site, you could be invited to sign up. The chat window that pops up covers part of the content and can't be moved. Also we post the meeting minutes but maybe the link was lost on where the minutes are? Some useability issues. Dennis will work with Michael to improve it. Michael did a great job setting it up.

October meeting: We'll meet in the sanctuary at COB on Oct. 7th. 9:30 gathering, meeting from 10 – 12:00 noon.

Community Updates:

LoC: Dr. Jared Orsi: speaker re: the history of public lands –the inclusion of indigenous people.
Saturday, Sept 16 2-4 p.m. Please invite all.

COB: feast day celebration this Saturday, Sept 9; Beautiful Redemption presentation on Sept 16 during homily time.

SP: maturing in the ECC and the current council is reviewing and amending their constitution to “write it as they see it and live it as you write it” – considering continuation and succession planning.

Food for thought: We are synodal and Pope Francis is gathering regarding synodality – a topic for our synod??? What can we learn from these discussions? Or invite a rep from the RC synod (like from WOC) to be a speaker at our Synod in 2024. Approaching 2nd anniversary at 6th Avenue.

MoM: Ice cream social after Mass on Sept 10. Shared worship of 3 churches on Oct. 22 at 10:30

CHF: Picnic – singing bowls – good celebration

Closing Prayer: Rosean

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in August 2023

by Bishop Kae Madden

Personal: I enjoyed my retreat days in August. Silence is golden :)

Listening and Relationship building

Participate as available in weekly regional clergy prayer/sharing on Friday mornings.

Administration

I have received rsvps from each community Sept 8 with +Pablo to plan MMS fund-raising.

Advocacy/Presence/Consultation

American Friends Service Committee: I attended an action at Congresswoman Caraveo's office regarding two immigration bills: The Registry and New Way Forward. Alice also attended. We followed up with attending a town hall meeting with Senator Bennett and Caraveo.

Interfaith Alliance: I attended a press conference sponsored by the Greater Denver Ministerial Alliance in response to the Jacksonville race-motivated shooting. It was very powerful. Michael and Alice were also present.

I watched an ADL educational presentation about how to respond to bullying in the schools. It was most informative. I will pass along a link to their resource page. [Back to School Webinar Resources.pdf](#)

Colorado Council of Churches ask the judicatory to consider two Colorado bills: Propositions HH and ii. We discussed them briefly last month. I am undecided about HH and if you have any thoughts, I'd appreciate hearing them. Adrian's email is below.

Clergy support: Praying with many...

Liturgies/Sacraments

August 20: Presided for Church of the Holy Family's picnic held at Mike W's house. A great gathering.

Sept 30: Light of Christ community visit

**Be sure to save the date for the ECC 20th anniversary liturgy at 6 p.m. on Sept 19th (the anniversary of the signing of the constitution). Could we design some "ad" in the short run for us to use in common to promote this zoom event?

Need to schedule the "annual bishop visit" with each community – what do you imagine that entails for your community?

Formation

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike and Christy. Conversations continue with another presbyterate candidate.

ECC

Council of Bishops

- Meetings on August 7th and 14th. Discussion regarding "what if a community opts to leave a diocese – are they out of the ECC, become part of the proto-diocese? What is the intended purpose of forming dioceses? History of early church. How does our constitution reflect our experience?
- Continuing to work on ordination and incardination standards and the requirement to submit same to the Council of Bishops prior to approval.
- Continued conversations with St. Matthew's and +Peter, Mid-America election

With the Leadership Council: pending

Pending: Continued work on members to form the Standing Hearing Committee (Appeals board) regarding constitutionality – I am unaware of anyone volunteering from the HOP or HOL and perhaps someone has.

Pending: Continued work regarding education standards for ordination

Pending: Review of the approval process for ordination of clergy Consulting with Pablo: Phone calls and meetings to discuss the current climate and functioning of the ECC, perspectives.

CCC communication from Adrian

PROPOSITION HH

Seeking to SUPPORT

Proposition HH diverts anticipated TABOR refunds for the next 10 years to property tax relief for Colorado homeowners. In addition, Proposition HH will improve funding for entities, like local governments and schools, who depend on property tax revenue. For those who want more information on Proposition HH, I think this [analysis](#) from the Bell Policy Center (my former employer) is helpful. This recent [Denver Post opinion piece](#) provides an opposing view. Because it significantly helps with school funding, it aligns with our [Education of Children public policy statement](#). Yet, the necessary consequence is that Coloradans will lose a significant amount of anticipated TABOR refunds in the coming decade.

My ask: please let me know if your denomination would like to support, oppose, or remain neutral. If the CCC supports, it would be indicated publicly. Board member Father Michael Nicosia also suggested that the CCC write an opinion piece in support.

PROPOSITION ii

Requested to SUPPORT

According to the Preschool for All Coloradans Campaign, Proposition ii would use \$23 million of tobacco settlement funds to provide 5,100 kids with additional hours of free preschool and fund additional public health programs. Here's a link to the [campaign website](#). The CCC board favors supporting this proposition since it aligns with our [Education of Children public policy statement](#).

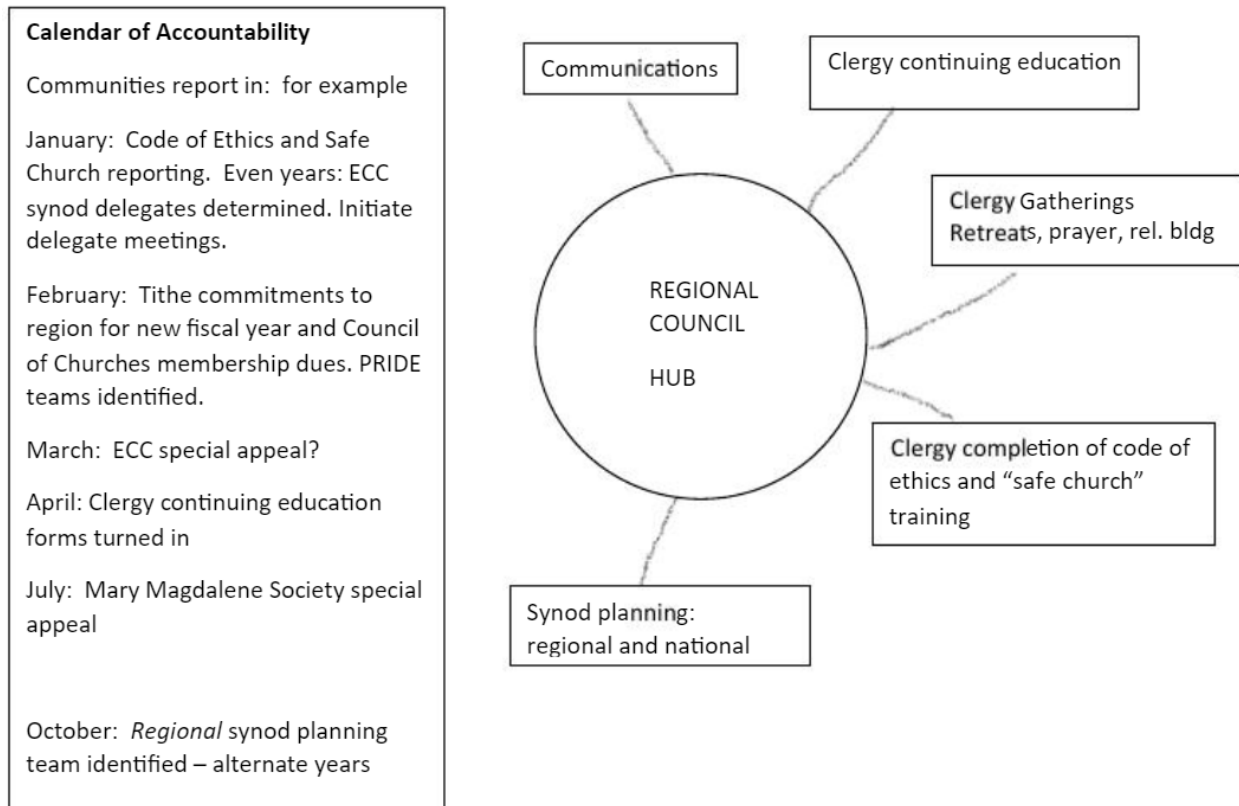
My ask: please let me know if your denomination would like to support, oppose, or remain neutral. If the CCC supports, it would be indicated publicly.

Web application thisspace

In case you missed this, the CCC is exploring a collaboration with thisspace. As a reminder, [thisspace](#) is an online application that helps churches and faith-based organizations use and share their spaces more efficiently. By using thisspace, one can connect with people in one's community who need space for different activities. It's like "Airbnb for churches" where one controls the cost, duration, frequency, and access permissions. This application helps congregations engage more with their community, collaborate more, and create more meaningful connections. Here's a [video](#) of the "Lunch 'n' Learn" that we hosted last month. I really think this will help congregations, and I'd like to spread the word. Please let me know any feedback you have on this.

Last thing, would you be interested in a presentation from the Colorado State Demographer on current trends in Colorado? I think it will help with future planning.

Brainstorming model of administration of the region....



Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 09 07 2023

submitted 9/5/2023 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

- **Dennis to inform me of updates to website programming and any changes from the Board.**
- **No new site members as of 0/5/2023; issue related to Dennis’ analysis?**
- **Been reposting LOC and Bp. Kae posts that appear in my FB feed to our Regional page. I realize that some of our communities have a more active social media presence. Let’s explore ways to get posts from all our communities.**

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Website: will have to repopulate our photo gallery – disappeared for some reason. ☹️

Missed monthly ECC Chaplains meeting again.

8/11 performed in Crown Cabaret benefitting Women’s Homelessness Initiative and Capitol Hill United Ministries, raising around \$450.

8/13 submitted theme suggestion for SYNOD2024 to planning team: turning 21, we’ve seen ourselves as "a communion of independent communities" and should rather commit to being "a covenanted

communion of communities." Maybe that could be our SYNOD2024 theme, "on the threshold of adulthood as a covenanted communion."

8/29 ~ Attended news conference of the Denver Ministerial Alliance with Bp. Kae and Mthr. Alice representing our Region, Colorado Faith Communities Untied to end gun violence, and the Colorado Council of Churches at a news conference organized by the Denver Ministerial Alliance and Interfaith Alliance in response to the Jacksonville FL shooting and gun violence as it relates to racist inequity.

~ Later that evening I and members of StP joined CFCU at a Metro Area Community Vigil to Address Gun Violence on the steps of the Denver City/County Building. It was a first step as we seek to ensure that Gun Violence is eradicated from our city, similar to the city's commitment to address homelessness. "As community leaders, we make a promise that we will not stand for our young people using gun violence as a tool to resolve conflict."

Presided at StP 8/19, Mom 8/20 and CHF 9/3.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts, and MoM's job listing for a Social Media guru.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – Board on Summer hiatus, but...

Prop HH update: Relayed our Council questions re: which benefits citizens more, reducing property taxes or preserving TABOR rebates. Consensus that response challenging our society's persistent resistance to sacrifice for the common good is a good thing, regardless of whether CCC endorses specific ballot measures. (No action taken to date.)

Also brought to Adrian's attention that separate group is collecting ballot signatures for a prop that reduces property taxes with no strings attached (viz., without withholding TABOR rebates).

Adrian attended the Parliament of the World's Religions. See Sept. newsletter at [https://mailchi.mp/cochurches/our-august-news-16474841?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/cochurches/our-august-news-16474841?e=[UNIQID])

My work with the CAFE-Advance Care Planning advisory board continues, discussing scope of next steps and application for another grant; grant delayed, so won't be available until Spring of 2024.