

# Board of Directors Meeting

## Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

January 2, 2025, 6 PM, via ZOOM

Host: Mary of Magdala ECC: Facilitator- Rosean; Scribe Tom

### Present:

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)  
Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)  
Greg Yonker (Treasurer)  
Teri Harroun (LOC)  
Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos (MofM)  
Alice Bradley, Dennis Giblin (COB)  
Liz Begalla, Don Sutton (St. Paul)

### Excused:

Anne Grant (CHF)

### Zoom Details

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82381106642?pwd=XiQ5a9vJCt57OSMGUUSUyuQefkDU7.1>

Meeting ID: 823 8110 6642

Passcode: 10500

### Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer

### Regular Business:

1. **Welcome guests:** Rosean welcomed Teri back to our meetings.
2. **Agenda approval/addition** None
3. **Review and approval of December, 2024 notes.** Tom asked whether only the initial version of December's notes was distributed, none with corrections, and noted Dennis' name and perhaps other corrections were needed. Later when Michael arrived, he distributed a revised copy which was informally accepted at the end of the meeting.
4. **Financial report.** Greg Yonker presented the report's general income, expenses and balances. For our Feb RMRC meeting, Greg requested that **we provide estimates for each community's regional tithe as well as member headcounts for the Colorado Council of Churches (CCC) donation as well as payment for 2025 CCC Board of Directors fund** (\$60 per community = \$300 total). He also asked that we anticipate any potentially unusual expenses for 2025 which we will need to factor into the budget discussion. Michael also reminded us that if he and Mark move, **we will need to decide whether a new vicar will be appointed and what happens to the vicar's housing stipend – possibly reallocated to payment for other traditional vicar replacement roles or volunteering.**
5. **Bishop's report.** +Kae reported that she had a relatively low-key December in terms of Bishop's duties and activities. She worked with Jane and Tom to get the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity sorted out. The Council of Bishops met to review the data collected from the 2024 Synod's

visioning exercise. It was decided to allocate different visioning topics/objectives to each of the ECC houses. However, bearing in mind George von Stammwitz's mantra, "with an all-volunteer army how much bandwidth do we really have?" there is a keen awareness that more work is necessary than resources available. +Pablo will forward the results of the discussion to the Leadership Council for next steps. +Kae also expressed delight that her grandson and wife are pregnant and in becoming a great-grandma.

6. **Vicar's report** – Michael highlighted importance of BOD contributions to the CCC which are important to Adrian's work writing applications for grants. Historically, the CCC has responded mostly to local political issues. But Michael is thinking of developing a rapid response team to issues that might arise with the new federal administration. He called out specifically the Episcopal work dedicated to building a united front around immigration issues (Appendix C of his report). Tom noted that organizations like ISAAC, dedicated to serving and accompanying immigrants in Northern Colorado, are also anticipating the worst. Immigration attorney Kim Medina (of PODER) prepared and presented a sobering informational session on immigrant rights when engaging with ICE as well as potential risks to 501(c)(3) organizations losing their tax exempt status if harboring immigrants. Rosean asked about the Pastor Resiliency Program that might be offered by CCC during Lent. Michael didn't have a lot of information but noted that Adrian is pursuing national resources for such a presentation.
7. **Leadership Council Report** Teri observed that the Leadership Council is not committed to communicating status of their meetings to the ECC and the best way to keep informed is the ECC News Letters (the most public info bucket available) and regional reps to HOL and HOP steering committees: Mary Lu Stenson (HOL), Rosean (HOP).
8. **Community Updates**
  - STP: Michael played a marvelous Edith Bunker. Cabaret was a big success - \$10K raised. Michael has been talking to Stan Manickam who is on home hospice due to a heart ailment.
  - MoM: great Christmas celebration. Rosean thanked Tom for assembling the annual video honoring MoM's member Christmases. Dec 29, Christy Chady delivered homily. Planning a contemplative prayer workshop for Lent (March 29, 9 - noon).
  - COB: celebrated a lovely and well-attended Christmas liturgy. Community funeral mass for Alice's mother was very appreciated by friends and family. Dennis: food drive for food insecure families at Stuckey Elementary. Also had a successful potluck that helps build community.
  - LOC: Wrapping up an online daily retreat that lasts to Epiphany – went out to 139 email addresses. Mike Weil's internship is proceeding well – he's very enthusiastic and preached at Xmas eve service. He is leading a new team and contributing to adult Ed. Teri is building a lay preaching team with 4 individuals. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of each month, 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Bell-Ringing project now has attracted 4 communities to join in. With Bethlehem Lutheran, they have initiated work on installing 160 solar panels which should supply most if not all electrical needs. Working with Habitat to build 34 new units - supporting with workers and meals.
  - Michael: The weekend before Christmas, Mark & he went to Len and Nancy's Schreiner's retreat in NM

## Old Business

### 1. **Juniper Formation's Conference:** Level of participation decision

Rosean included a summary of points that came out of last month's presentation and discussion. Alice asked whether other CCC communities are interested and sponsoring and whether Juniper is local. Yes. Juniper's focus is primarily gender and sexual orientation inclusivity. Alice commented that 2025 will be a strange year. What kind of bandwidth do we have financially and as in terms of volunteers? How are national and state politics impacting us? Spiritually, this could be a time of listening carefully – work and prayer. Teri and others asked about our process for deciding who to fund (regionally, locally, and as individual communities)? Regionally, how do we choose which communities to support who are focusing on marginalized groups? Liz: What kinds of unintended consequences (for good or bad)? Would the conference attract people on the margins or churches and groups that explicitly support marginalized groups? Maybe our purpose in attending this conference is to network with more like-minded folks. **For next month's meeting, come with criteria and budget ideas for defining a process for deciding financial support for organizations. Michael was asked to respond to Jenny indicating excitement about attending the conference with multiple attendees and expanding partnership but no commitment to a sponsorship at this time.**

### 2. **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) Service** on Tues, Jan 21

Tom and +Kae summarized the work done to prepare the regionally-hosted WPCU prayer service. Tom sent RMRC members an email to forward to clergy, lectors and other potential readers for the service within our ECC communities and the communities with whom we share a building. Most participants will be expected to attend on-line (Zoom) but in-person attendance at COB and MoM is also possible. **MoM will host the meeting. Teri volunteered to be a co-host to help admit attendees.** The MoM Pro Zoom account will support up to 100 attendees (last year, we had about 50) but with sufficient publicity, participation may exceed 100. **Tom to talk to Yvonne about increasing capacity for the event. Tom also volunteered to write a general invitation that can go into bulletins, Facebook,** as well as circulated among CCC members.

### 3. **Regional Synod 2025 Planning Team.** +Kae asked that the **RMRC help identify individuals interested in being on a regional synod planning team. She will pursue retreat themes and options with Fr Scott Jenkins.** She also asked us to **check with our respective community Leadership what might be wanted or needed in a retreat-based Synod.** We discussed inviting everyone, not just delegates, but if there are legislative concerns, those sessions might be attended and voted by delegates. +Kae also asked for **serious consideration of election of our next bishop.** The regional synod would follow closely after the Juniper conference.

### 4. **Michael's Relocation (place holder).** Mark has applied for a job in Rochester. 3 or 4 months' time would be needed for interviews.

### 5. **Continuing Education for Clergy update.** +Kae's conversation with Scott hasn't happened. Scott is willing to have conversations with clergy on their progress to fulfill Safe Spaces obligations – every 2 years as per ECC guidelines - as well as Continuing-Ed requirements. Rosean has also been making calls to see about plans to complete guidelines and to remind folks to send copies of certificates of completion to her for our regional records.

### 6. **Regional Assessments of Bishop/Vicar/RMRC.** Missing Chuck's input tonight. +Kae asked whether there were any lingering concerns, when to distribute the assessment form and when we expect it back. **+Kae will review Chuck's final draft and add due dates.**

7. **Flexibility to make space for board member needs.** Rosean asked us to consider how to make space for personal needs while getting our business finished. Liz expressed concerns about pastoral loads, volunteer burnout, and how to process personal needs. Rosean cited examples from her work experience and with the 301 Faith Partner Coop which begins each meeting with a personal needs “check-in”. Dennis likes check-in but encouraged ending meetings on time too – sometimes agenda items might need to be shifted to the next meeting. Agenda approval time could be used to prioritize remaining agenda items. Not everyone needs to “check in”. We agreed to **add a “personal check-in” item to the monthly agenda.**

**Closing Prayer:** Rosean closed the meeting at 7:53 pm by reading “Blessing the Threshold” by Jan Richardson, from **Night Visions**.

**Lead Rotation of 2025 RMRC Meetings:** Feb 6–COB; Mar 6–CHF; Apr 3– LOC; May 1–STP; Jun 5–MoM; Jul 3–COB; Aug 7 CHF; Sep 4–LOC; Oct 2–STP; Nov 6–MoM; Dec 4–COB

Remember, when you host, send out the agenda, have a facilitator and scribe, bring opening and closing prayer, bring Consensus Document, and send notes in a timely fashion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Moos, Mary of Magdala

## **Bishop Notes: Activity in December 2024**

+Kae

**Personal:** Due to a variety of circumstances, I am not functioning at my usual capacity. Hopefully, there will be a shift in a positive direction. December required much energy.

### **Listening and Relationship building:**

#### **Administration**

Ongoing: I did not engage this component during December.

- Clergy Ethics/Safety Training:
- Continuing Education: Fr. Scott is willing to assist us by holding this expectation, assisting and conversation with clergy. Rosean would still retain the official records.

#### **Advocacy/Presence/Consultation**

#### **Clergy support:**

Praying with many...

Clergy meetings and phone calls

Weekly Friday clergy gatherings:

#### **Community support:**

#### **Liturgies/Sacraments**

\* **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is Jan 18 -25.** We agreed to gather on Tuesday, Jan 21 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Jane and Tom and I met to plan : ) **Each community will be responsible for assigning those who will be involved with “speaking parts” (lay or clergy mix from partners) for “your” segment of the prayer. See Tom’s email.**

## Ordination:

## Formation

Continuing discernment with Jim. Dory has begun discernment for the permanent diaconate at Mary of Magdala.

Mike’s discernment team will continue as support. Support of Christy as she completes her third year of study. Both Mike and Christy will graduate on May 17<sup>th</sup> – Hooray! (Due to his circumstances, Mike will have 4 classes remaining and then receive his certificate of presbyteral ministry.)

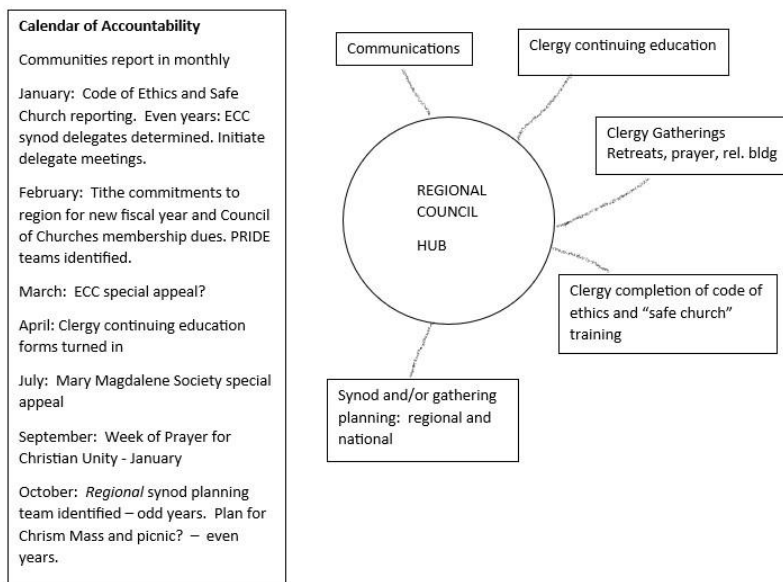
## ECC

### Council of Bishops

- Meetings: Call on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. Reviewed the visioning session of the synod and Pablo will meet with the Leadership Team to determine an action plan moving forward with the issues/ideas named.

**Consulting with Pablo:** Phone calls and meetings to discuss the current climate and functioning of the ECC, perspectives.

Brainstorming model of administration of the region....



## Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 01 02 2025

submitted 12/30/2024 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

### KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS in red below

#### REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Participated in Regional Pastors' Friday prayers.

Attended the beginning of “Real Men Talk”—a men’s breakfast at Peaceful Rest Baptist Church in Aurora (invited by new neighbor).

Participated in monthly Ecumenical Study Group; seem more open to honoring the diversity of our church roots, i.e., Old Catholic, Vatican II Catholics, Anglo Catholics, et al.

Attended monthly ECC Chaplains meeting.

Presided at StP 12/7+14, Dignity 12/8, and MoM 12/15, CHF 12/29.

#### COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES—12/11 meeting

CALL TO ORDER/ GATHERING THOUGHTS—reflections on solidarity in struggle; question current collective anger at Healthcare/Insurance in wake of CEO murder

#### FUNDRAISING

- Still seeking Easter Sunrise Service donor recommendations
- Colorado Gives Day brought in \$650 as of meeting
- Importance of Board contributions for grant proposals (thank you, RMRC!)

#### VOTE ON 2025 PROGRAM PLAN

Program activities listed below are ranked according to priority during that particular quarter.

##### First Quarter

###### Ecumenical

- Absalom Jones Day collaboration with Colorado Episcopal Diocese and African Methodist Episcopal Church (Feb. 15 tentatively)
- Easter Sunrise Service at Red Rocks preparation, fundraising, and hosting
- Lenten—pastor resiliency program, looking into resources
- Denominational Leader Gathering
- Quarterly communications meeting

###### Social Justice

- Voices for Justice primary focus on “Yes in My Backyard” legislation
- Reflection on the first 100 days of Trump Administration—hybrid  
What’s our role if Operation Aurora happens? Denver?  
Who’s being left out? Draw awareness to the most vulnerable.  
(—big question for judicators re: CCC level of response to actions of new US Administration; typically only comment on local issues.)
- May develop a CCC rapid response team
- Virtual meeting with immigration experts
- See Appendix C on Episcopal Church’s Suggestions around immigration issue.

##### Second Quarter

###### Ecumenical

- Church Educator Gatherings—plan for young people event
- Easter Sunrise Service at Red Rocks preparation, fundraising, and hosting

- Lenten series collaboration
- Pentecost video from denominational leaders

#### **Social Justice**

- Voices for Justice primary focus on “Yes in My Backyard” legislation
- Reflection on the first 100 days of Trump Administration (alternate date)

#### **Third Quarter**

##### **Ecumenical**

- America 250/Colorado 150 birthday event pre-planning (2026)
- Save Green, Be Green Conference on Energy Efficiency
- Rural Colorado Outreach
- Teen/Young Adult Mental Health Summit—hybrid program

##### **Social Justice**

- Congregational Housing
- Public Policy Statement re-draft

#### **Fourth Quarter**

##### **Ecumenical**

- America 250/Colorado 150 event pre-planning
- Caffeinated Church Communications Conference—encourage denominational participation
- Denominational leader gathering
- Eco-Justice Conference—Illiff School of Theology
- Prophetically Reimagining the Church Conference
- Rural Colorado Outreach
- Teen/Young Adult Mental Health Summit (alternate date)

##### **Social Justice**

- Congregational Housing Outreach
- Public Policy Statement re-draft
- Prep for 2026

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE—looking for preacher, hopefully with rural focus; ELCA or UMC new bishops; Fr. Scott Jenkins with immigration focus; others

#### **ELECT 2025 OFFICERS**

- Chair—Michael for January meeting
- Vice Chair—Roland
- Treasurer
- Secretary

NEXT MEETING—JANUARY—1/22/2025 Going forward, meeting will be on 4th Thurs at 9am

## **Appendix C—United Front Around Immigration Issue**

from ECUSA Board Member, Rev. Terri Hobart [tlhobart@gmail.com](mailto:tlhobart@gmail.com)

*Thu, Dec 12 at 12:59 PM*

Hi All,

Just passing on information in case you are interested. This is part of the conversation that Episcopal Churches are having.

I would be happy to schedule a time to talk further about our past experience serving as a sanctuary church. I am also attaching several resources for you. I think the resource from BJC is the best I have seen regarding churches serving as sanctuary.

That being said, with the new administration, the terrain is changing and there are several big unknowns. Most importantly, will ICE still respect churches as “sensitive sites” and how will the courts interpret the harboring clause. In the past, we protected ourselves from the harboring clause by notifying ICE that an immigrant had taken sanctuary in the church. We do not know if that notification will still protect churches from prosecution or whether such a notification will place the individual on ICE’s radar screen. I am in conversation with a number of churches in Douglas County and the Denver Metro area and we are still assessing our risks and our options. The big question is how to offer sanctuary and protection, especially to families, without placing the families, vestries and clergy in a situation with unacceptable risks.

My sense is that there are five critical ministry areas that churches can engage in around the issue of immigration the coming years. I would love to see every church in our state actively engage one of these ministries, depending on their context.

- Moral Voice of Authority in the Public Square - proclaiming our theology of welcoming the stranger.
- Protesting and Witnessing ICE Raids
- Providing funding for churches providing sanctuary
- Sanctuary Churches
- Ministering to immigrants by providing basic and legal resources and information

Because of the risk and sensitivity of sanctuary, my sense is that these ministries should be siloed. In other words, churches offering sanctuary will need to fly way below the radar and not be publicly associated with the “fight” against immigration policies or aiding immigrants. I believe sanctuary will need to be a covert ministry. I also think it would be good to locate sanctuary churches in areas where ICE may be less active.

I think it would be helpful to build a coalition of churches talking that are interested in this issue. Perhaps we could all get on a Zoom, share resources and information, identify partners and strategize. In the past I have worked with CIRC and the American Friends Service Committee.

Peace,

Terri

Rector, St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
707-272-2539

+++