

Board of Directors

Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

Meeting Minutes, December 1, 2022, 6PM, via ZOOM

Host: Church of the Beloved; Facilitator: Alice Bradley; Scribe: Christy Chady

Present:

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)

Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)

Jack Wolfe, Chuck Howard (LOC)

Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos (MoM)

Alice Bradley, Christy Chady (COB)

Christine Casillas, Anne Grant (CHF)

Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer (Alice began the meeting at 6:09pm)

Regular Business:

1. Welcome any guests - Presiding Bishop Pablo Burson joined to discuss reception ideas
2. Agenda approvals/additions - no additions; agenda was approved
3. Review and approval of November minutes - approved
4. Financial Report - presented; no questions or concerns
5. Bishop Notes and Vicar Report

Bishop Notes: Club Q vigil, Confirmations at MoM and LOC, need to update active ECC clergy list and keep current, formation - working on psych evals, MDiv education and equivalency (local and national standards/flexibility), communication/intention about formation requirements

☐ Kae: working on standard protocol for issues requiring immediate response

Vicar Report: advanced care planning session scheduled for 1/10 at MoM, hybrid

- need for a microphone and for a camera to show the flip chart
- discussed possibly recording the session and sending it out with a survey to complete after watching video (for the group to collect information about the session)

☐ Tom: check on availability of space at MoM

☐ Michael and Tom: plan timing and send out info to communities as soon as ready

6. Leadership Council Report - Jack emailed notes from Fr. Teri
 - asking for volunteers to plan 2024 Synod
7. Personal Connections – What is one of your favorite holiday traditions?

Old Business:

1. Regional Synod Planning for April 23, 2023
 - Constitution objections to be brought up at first regional Synod, need to be addressed
 - ☐ Rosean: check with Jane about individual from MoM
 - ☐ Chuck: reach out to LoC individuals, send info for StP individual to Michael
 - if there are suggested amendments, region will need official delegates for Synod
- a. Regional Synod Planning Team report and date

- notes from 11/19 meeting were included in the email with December meeting information, which is summarized below
- regional Synod: include different activities/options to choose from
 - liturgy, social justice/outreach activity, educational part, help/support between communities discussion, include participation of youth, maybe ask George to speak
- at least part of Synod will be virtual
- location options: MoM, COB, LOC
 - MoM: tech available; 4/22 all of church building is available until 4pm; after that, a few rooms are available; 4/23 MoM Mass is at 12:30pm and all of church building is available for rest of the day after that
 - LOC: Jack: ask about capacity to zoom for interactive participation
 - COB: unsure about tech situation by then; church space only available on 4/22
- need for sub-committees to help plan specific parts
- all: invite participants from communities to help with planning and attend next meeting: Wednesday, January 18th at 6:30pm on zoom

b. Including a chrism Mass? -maybe

c. Brainstorming on who to invite

- invite all community members, especially those in leadership
- invite Bishop Armando after location/timing known (need for another bishop to be present at a regional Synod)

2. Pablo's reception – Saturday, Jan 21st 10am at COB

- ideas for reception: blessing and prayers from region, mutual sharing of hope by regional community members and +Pablo, a few people could share why they came to the ECC and what gives them life
- start at 10am with food (potluck), COB provide coffee; then 10:30am in sanctuary with zoom

invitation put together and sent out

general RSVP count from each church community

3. Website update

- no response from BeMax about contract
- Michael offers to design regional site, would like to be compensated
 - BOD approved \$500 for design plus website hosting/domain costs
- need communities to regularly contribute updated photos/news/events for website
- would like co-administrator to help with visitor comments
- current website will no longer be supported after 12/31/22

4. Code of Ethics, is further sharing discussion needed?

- postponed to January's agenda

New Business:

1. Change in date for April RMRC meeting – the 1st Thursday is Holy Thursday

- meeting rescheduled for March 30th (4 weeks after March meeting)

2. ECC Synod evaluation survey – invitation to be on the planning team, complete by 12/8

- Synod videos available on ECC YouTube channel

3. Community Updates

MoM: Tom put together Synod 2022 summary document, can share with community members

LOC: 12/7 8:35am Fr. Teri being interviewed, available on 88.5FM/1390 AM

Closing Prayer: Alice (meeting ended at 8:10pm)

Next Meeting Host Communities: Jan 5-CHF; Feb 2- LOC; Mar 2-STP; Mar 30 (April meeting)-MoM; Sat. May 6 in-person meeting-COB. Upcoming In person meetings1st Saturday of May and October from 10a-noon (location TBD)

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in November 2022

+Kae

Personal: Catching up – still recovering from my bout with Covid.

Listening and Relationship building

Lots of phone calls and emails.

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

Advocacy/Presence

Response to the Archdiocese guidelines regarding their schools and trans/gay parents.

Response to Club Q tragedy: posted prayer and attended the local vigil 11/21 with +Pablo and Michael.

I am interested in developing a standard protocol for issues requiring “immediate” response.

Liturgies/Sacraments

Planning and preparing for Confirmations:

Mary of Magdala: Nov. 6th We had a great celebration with a fine confirmand.

Light of Christ: Nov. 12th I was too sick – so delegated to Fr. Teri – a wonderful liturgy

Presiding at CHF on Dec. 11

Formation

Working on resources and alternatives for psych evaluations.

Continuing discernment with candidates.

Working on local Education Team to accompany our candidates’ learning & to determine MDiv Equivalency and what classes need to be substituted and added for Bishop Kemper School of Ministry.

Local 2023 Synod Planning: First meeting on Nov. 19 and the participants rocked! We have a good start.

More at the meeting.

ECC

Council of Bishops

- **Monthly meeting on Nov. 14th**
 - Mid-America working on their process for election of a bishop. Frank is really stepping back.
 - It is part of the bishops’ Colorado Covenant that another bishop be invited and present at a local synod for transparency/accountability. We’ll need to address this requirement.
 - +Pablo was scheduled to visit St. Matthew’s this weekend, but an outbreak of covid in the community – rescheduled for end of January.
 - Working on active clergy list through HOP.

- Working on the clergy continuing education pilot program with Rev. Kate Lehman.
- **Presiding bishop's quarterly vicar and bishops meeting on Nov. 16th.** Transitional meeting to establish our practices moving forward. Pablo is interested in exploring our lived experience and putting words to our theology regarding "virtual consecration". Will continue the current schedule.

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 to form a commission regarding education standards for ordination.

Pending: Review of the approval process for ordination of clergy.

Anecdote: Due to my need for notes, I have become the COB note taker. What to DO with the notes is the question of the hour!

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

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 12 01 2022

submitted 11/29/2022 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING in faith communities: Assuming in-person listening circle at MoM, forwarded Tom Moos' questions about presentation needs, suggesting a week night in the second or third week of January. **ASKING ABOUT JAN. 10th.**

REGIONAL WEBSITE: Haven't gotten a response from BeMax Group about website contract.

Having developed new website for StP www.stpauldenverecc.com, might make sense for me to design our Regional site (would like to be compensated)

ISSUE: Open to updating site periodically, with expectation that communities contribute, but don't want to be the only administrator monitoring visitors comments and calendar.

COST: Wix platform for StP cost \$324 and \$57.60 domain for 3yr plan; a calendar would be an additional \$3.99/mon (\$9.99/mon if we want to enable guest registration for events; sample at <https://calendarboomtech.wixsite.com/calendar>)

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

11/10 Continued work with advisory board for Advance Care Planning education initiative.

11/20 Attended consecration of Bishop MichaelAngelo D-Arrigo of the Convergent Christian Communion in Phoenix.

11/21 Participated with +Kae and +Pablo in Interfaith Alliance/OneColorado Vigil supporting Club Q victims, and helped Pablo craft a statement (also wrote statement for CCC with edits by +Kae).

Participated in Independent Catholic 11/22 Coffee Chat; in wake of Club Q shooting we focused a lot on the question of non-violent resistance in the face of hate. Can violence be used in self-defense or are we called to be martyrs for love's sake? (No consensus.)

11/23 Interviewed ECC Benedictine incardination candidate.

11/28 Participated in ECC Chaplains Zoom.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.
Presided at MoM 11/20 and Dignity 11/27.
Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CFCU Rapid Response, and CCC posts.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting 11/22/2022

GATHERING THOUGHTS shared about Club Q

WESLEY MONCRIEF ADVOCACY UPDATE: frustrations shared that we couldn't get judicator unanimity around legalization of psychotropic drugs (shared our 5-finger consensus model)

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING EVENTS: disappointing that no sessions until new year

END-OF-YEAR-GIVING STRATEGY: appeal letter being crafted; missed CO Gives Day application (donations limited because of so many organizations on their list)

2023 PROGRAM PLANNING (draft):

Ecumenical

- 1st Quarter: Faithful Thursdays, Voices for Justice (hopefully getting more people to testify and contact legislators), CURIOUS Partnership
- 2nd Quarter: Easter Sunrise Service at Red Rocks; Faithful Thursdays, Voices for Justice, CURIOUS Partnership
- 3rd or 4th Quarters: Faith Leader trip to The Legacy Museum in Montgomery, AL, dependent on grant; Bridging Divides (bringing black&white/urban&rural churches together)
- 4th Quarter: Civility gatherings, Judicatory Retreat

Social Justice

- 1st Quarter: Voices for Justice, Faithful Thursdays, Congregational Land Survey, Food Security Survey, *Caste* Study Group recommendations
- 2nd Quarters: Voices for Justice, Faithful Thursdays, Congregational Land Survey, *Caste* Study Group recommendations
- 3rd Quarter: *Caste* Study Group recommendations
- 3rd and 4th Quarters: 2022 statewide electoral issues

On-going

- Ecumenical church visits
- Gov. Polis Clergy Council meetings
- Quarterly judicatory meetings
- Advance Care Planning
- CCC Board Retreat

OFFICER NOMINATIONS still open and BOARD RECRUITMENT ongoing

UPCOMING 2022 MEETINGS: December 14th