

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
MEETING NOTES - August 6, 2020**

Teri Harroun chaired the Zoom meeting and opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m. with a reading from the Peace Declaration by the Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan. Those in attendance at the meeting were:

Dcn. Rosean Amaral- Mary of Magdala
Fr. Teri Harroun - Light of Christ
Dennis Giblin - Church of the Beloved
Mthr. Kae Madden - Church of the Beloved
Fr. Don Sutton - St. Paul
Greg Yonker - St. Paul
Fr. Michael Nicosia - Vicar
Jack Wolfe - Light of Christ, who recorded these notes

WELCOME GUESTS

There were no guests present on the Zoom Call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Teri called attention to the agenda, and asked for additions or changes; there were none.

PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

At Teri's suggestion, to improve personal connections among the members, each of those present reported an their favorite or most memorable road trip.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING NOTES

Teri called attention to the notes of the RMRC July, 2020 meeting., with corrections by Michael, which previously had been distributed to the Council. Following discussion, the notes of the July meeting were accepted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Greg presented June and July 2020 financial reports. Following discussion, the reports were accepted.

VICAR'S REPORT

Michael reviewed his July report. He noted that Trish Vanni was developing a low cost remote course of theological studies. Discussion followed about whether this course was from

an “accredited” school and/or whether it would be accepted as part of the requirements for ECC priest or deacon.

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

There was a discussion on whether to put out another Regional Newsletter at this time. One suggestion was to focus on activities of the communities to oppose racism. It was also suggested that there was nothing wrong with having a shorter newsletter than usual.

Following discussion, it was consensus that August 26th be the deadline for submission of at least two testimonies from each community, with a mix of clergy and non-clergy on what individuals are doing for self-care.

LAY MEMBERS ON RMRC FROM HOLY FAMILY AND MARY OF MAGADALA

Rosean reported that Mary of Magadala was having difficulty getting positive responses to requests to serve on RMRC and to serve as Synod delegates.

It was noted that both Dcn. Mike Weil and Dcn. David Dunn have been overwhelmed with work.

It was consensus that this matter continue on the September meeting agenda.

ECC ZOOM CALLS ON ECC CONSTITUTION REVISION

Greg mentioned that he thought there was much active listening and not much movement on the 2nd call, and he encouraged people to speak up on the August 8th call if they feel things are not moving in a direction they like.

Michael reported on a conversation he had with Bishop Francis where Francis said he would like a super majority for ratification of the revisions. Michael’s assessment is that there is no enthusiasm for putting off a vote until 2021; there are communities that do not see the issues that our region does; they would like to approve as proposed by the Commission and then amend as necessary in future years.

It was suggested that on the August 8th call we could try to encourage energizing other channels to get all communities invested in review of the proposed revisions.

UPDATE ON BISHOP CALL TEAM

Greg reported that the Call Team was trying to tie down a meeting during the coming week at which they would update the time line.

Michael suggested that clergy need to start discernment about a possible bishop call, and also discernment about possible nomination to be vice-president of the House of Pastors, as this would possibly be the best way for our Region's style of collaborative conversation and decision-making to influence our national leadership style..

Questions arose about what the HOP bylaws said about the VP election process, and Michael agreed to inquire about the presence of an official copy of the bylaws.

COORDINATION OF BISHOP TRAVEL OF ORDINATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS

Questions were raised about the need for coordination and what events might be coming up in the near future.

Discussion followed on the possibility of having someone like ELCA Bishop Gonia fill a void, but it was the consensus that this would not work if the bishop was from a church that was not in full communion with the ECC. There was a discussion about whether apostolic succession or relationship with the local communities was more important. The possibility of delegating confirmation to a priest was brought up, but it was thought that as these sacraments are important events in peoples' lives that we should stay with participation by an ECC bishop if possible.

It was then noted that with the federal grant and loan there was probably sufficient money available to support that. It was then noted that some money needed to be reserved for eventual consecration of a local bishop.

Following discussion, it looks like Spring of 2021 might be the optimum time to schedule planned ordinations and confirmations.

WHAT IF A COMMUNITY CHOOSES TO LEAVE THE REGION

Based on a comment made on a recent Zoom Call, the question was raised whether a community in a region can withdraw from the region without also totally withdrawing from the ECC. It was suggested that it is necessary to flesh out what we mean by "local church." Following discussion, it was consensus that this should be addressed on the national level, and it is not necessary to address this in our local constitution.

WHAT DOES THE THREE-LEGGED STOOL METAPHOR REPRESENT

It was reported that on a recent call someone suggested that both Bishop Peter and Bishop Francis had wished they had never used the metaphor. Several present stated that their decision to be ECC was based in large part on their belief in equality of the three legs. Discussion followed about what the reported comment meant and whether or not the bishops had been quoted correctly. Following discussion, it was consensus that the metaphor of three-legged stool be carefully suggested on the August 8th Zoom call. If the participants on the call feel the need for more clarity, then they should send out a quick e-mail; and if it appears that

there is a consensus that more clarification is needed then Michael will invite Bishop Francis to join in a Zoom call on August 15th to seek more clarity.

The comment was made that if this is not resolved, it could become a major issue in discernment for electing the next presiding bishop.

WHAT DO OUR COMMUNITIES NEED FROM EACH OTHER AND/OR FROM THE ECC - WHAT DOES THE REGION NEED FROM THE COUNCIL

It was consensus that this matter be placed on the September meeting agenda.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

It was consensus that this matter continue on the September meeting agenda.

BLESSINGS

In closing, Teri led those present in the new Regional Prayer.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at about 8:45 PM. The next regular meeting will be hosted by St. Paul on September 3.

Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 08 06 2020

FORMATION/RECEPTION

COB ordination candidate approved by OPB; working with her on options during pandemic. Shared Jane's ordination liturgy with OPB, Bishops and Vicars as resource for Zoom rituals. Participated in Zoom meeting of Bishops, vicars and Leadership Council with Rev. Trish Vanni about developing a low-cost remote course of theological studies through Bishop Kemper School for Ministry (BKSM) in Kansas. Participated in Bishop Francis's monthly Old Catholic History and Theology Seminar.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Presided at MoM via Zoom 7/19.
Attended Jane's first Mass via Zoom 7/26.
Participated in Old/Independent Catholic Virtual Summer School.
Participated in weekly regional pastoral ministers Zoom gatherings.
Participated in HOP Zoom listening session re pastoral needs 7/11.
Contacted Bp. Francis on behalf of Fr. Tomasz, who hadn't received any communications from HOP re Constitution Reconciliation; trying to clarify standing of European Synod delegates. Bp. Francis to address concerns directly, as he was under the assumption that ECC Europe wants

to form an independent church in full communion with the ECC (pending future Synod approval).

ECC Constitution: Participated in Regional Synod Delegates' meetings 7/10+25.

Also Constitution Reconciliation listening sessions 7/23+28; submitted suggestions to team. Informed Bp. Francis of personal misgivings about the process, viz., limited community bandwidth and delegate participation during pandemic; he leans toward passing the document and amending it at later synods, but is open to living with the existing Constitution and starting over if a super majority isn't on board.

FYI: HOL did have a quorum per HOL bylaws and a majority approved their Constitution revisions.

Privileged to serve as a clergy evaluator of a Pacific Northwest ordination candidate.

Populated Regional Facebook page with member churches' posts.

OPB BISHOP/VICARS MEETING 7/15

Check-in to identify which communities yet to fill out ECC Community Survey and which have yet to elect delegates.

Regional reports reveal many did not participate in Presiding Bishop's Zoom Education Calls expecting a hard ask for Mary Magdalene Society donations.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES on summer recess