

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

Meeting, November 3, 2022 6:00PM

Host: Mary of Magdala; Facilitator: Rosean Amaral; Notes: Tom Moos (Actions in red)

Present:

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)
Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)
Jack Wolfe, Chuck Howard (Light of Christ)
Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos (Mary of Magdala)
Alice Bradley, Christy Chady (Church of the Beloved)

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

Regular Business:

1. Welcome any guests: Gail Craun (Holy Family) attended by phone but, due to audio problems, could not be heard.
2. Agenda approvals/additions: No reorg, no additions.
Rosean asked that folks email her at motherrosean@gmail.com, not roseanlaurie@gmail.com.
3. October notes approved as distributed by Greg.
4. Financial Report
 - Kae shared Greg's financial report and Alice lead the group in reviewing. No questions or concerns and budget was approved as presented.
 - In the context of the financial report, we reviewed Bp Kae's Synod expense report. Tom moved, Jack seconded that the RMRC cover the \$891 in outstanding Synod expenses. Motion carried without objection.
5. Bishop Notes and Vicar Report
Kae's Bishop Notes:
 - Kae summarized some impressions of the Catholic Bishop Forum focusing on building relationships among independent Catholic bishops. There was much discussion about the value of bishops, reflecting some of the RMR's conversation when calling a bishop. She also noted the challenges of one day being a cleric and the next day being "The Bishop". Episcopal and Lutheran churches have 3 years of school/training for how to be a bishop.
 - Kae also commented on the ECC Council of Bishops meeting after Synod:
 - Relationship building
 - Pablo's focus areas seem to be interfaith connections, work with the marginalized, continuing the Truth and Reconciliation efforts.
 - COB may begin a symposium with a "book of the year"
 - Desire for an ECC "youth day"
 - Bp Tomasz invited people (esp bishops and youth) to Poland
 - "Diocese" –vs- "region" discussions are ongoing.
 - An immediate "TODO": form a hearing committee with membership from HOL, HOP and COB to review "Constitutionality" grievances and issues.

- Bishops are still in process of responding to St Matthew's request to be its own diocese.
- Bp Rafe is now officially retired.
- Discussion on how to support new PB Pablo and transitions to Colorado.
- Next Synod in Colorado:
 1. Jack cautioned about Synod over a weekend (Bronco schedule)
 2. Jack encouraged some planning ahead to save \$\$\$ and vacation time before the next Synod to enable participation by more members of the ECC thereby allowing more people to share in the love and joy.
 3. To accommodate communities without a presider for weekend Mass during Synod, Michael suggested we open the ending liturgy to whomever wants to attend, whether delegates or not.

Vicar's report.

- Other communities outside the ECC might like to participate in the Advanced Care Planning. **Michael is looking for suggestions for a central ECC site with good AV tech expertise particularly for Zoom.**
- RMR webpage: **Michael still needs to approach the web designers who bid the project to verify the contracted estimate hasn't changed.**

6. Leadership Council Report

No one was able to provide an LC update. Questions were raised about when an evaluation form and recordings from the Synod general sessions might become available. **Kae to pursue with Teri.**

7. Personal Connections – what surprised you in the month of October?

Old Business:

1. Update on website.

Nothing new to report. Michael continues to do some work pulling together materials from the RMR communities.

2. Regional Synod Planning for 2023

- April 22/23 seems to be the preferred timeframe.
- Kae asked us to suggest topics. Some ideas proposed:
 - Where are we post-Pandemic?
 - Moving the OPB from St Louis to Denver
 - Shared prayer
 - Begin brainstorming ideas for resolutions for the next National Synod
 - Begin organizing a National Synod 2024 planning committee
 - Offer some kind of workshop (Jack suggested George von Stamwitz as a possible speaker)
 - What does it mean regionally to be a member of the ECC?
- Kae raised again the idea of a Chrism Mass.
- Brief tangential discussion on a Reception for Pablo but the group felt this should be separate and sooner than a regional Synod.
- LOC and MoM suggested as venues for the Synod -- **check facility availability.**

- Kae proposed meeting over zoom on Sat Nov 19th 10:00 – 11:30 to have an initial planning meeting and determine who might wish to participate in planning a regional Synod.
3. Future RMRC Meetings
- Most meetings will continue to be at 6:00 on Zoom, trying to finish in 90 mins.
 - First Saturday in May and October proposed for meeting in person, 10:00 – noon. No objections.

New Business:

1. Safe Environment Training: Who is doing what?
 - MoM – using the Episcopal Church’s training along with sister communities St Paul’s and Trinity Lutheran. This seems to be one of the options recommended by the SEFFY+ team
 - LOC – **Jack and Chuck will investigate and report back.**
 - SP – has a Council member who has years of experience providing this training. Question remains open whether this would be an OPB-approved training.
 - COB – has constructed their own training leveraging materials from certified courses. Alice also questioned whether this meets OPB approval/certification?

Regionally, we seem to be ahead in requiring this training not only for clergy but also youth ministers.
2. Pablo’s Reception: We agreed to ask Pablo about a reception before planning one. **No decision on when/where.**
3. Discussion of legislation/resolutions. We briefly discussed why the resolutions presented for 2022 Synod weren’t offered for an acceptance vote, timeliness of the some of the issues (e.g. Ukraine resolution). Michael suggested **we formally request George von Stamwitz to forward legislation/resolutions as they are received rather than sending everything out late as a package.**
4. Community Updates:
 - St Paul – Michael has been busy setting up a website and has learned much that can be leveraged for setting up the RMR website. There are still some pieces missing but it is coming together well.
 - MoM had an All Souls service on Nov 2 that was well attended (by 30+). Bp Kae will visit to do confirmation on Nov 6. Worship time is being moved from 5:00 pm to 12:30 pm beginning Nov 13.
 - COB had an annual drive to collect mostly homemade hats/scarves/mittens for the unhoused. Had 2 services for All Souls (one in-person and another on Zoom).
 - LOC: conducted a neighborhood outreach with Bethany Lutheran. The parish council has some new members but has also lost some institutional memory.

Closing Prayer: Rosean (7:45 pm)

Next Meeting Host Communities: Dec 1, COB; Jan 5, 2024, CHF; Feb 2, LOC; Mar 2 STP; Apr 6, MoM

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in October-ish 2022

+Kae

Personal: It was a great road trip to synod – Greg and I have never travelled across Kansas and Missouri and it was beautiful. Some rest on the way.

Listening and Relationship building:

Lots of phone calls and emails

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

Met with or extended phone calls with 4 clergy

Liturgies/Sacraments Planning and preparing for Confirmations: Light of Christ: Nov. 12th, Mary of Magdala: Nov. 6th Presiding at CHF on Dec. 11

Formation: Working on resources for psych evaluations

Continuing discernment with candidates

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

ECC

Attended Catholic Bishops Forum Oct 31 – Nov 2 virtually.

Purpose: to build relationships among independent Catholic bishops with similar jurisdictions/ecclesiology Very uplifting for me to hear the experience of other independent Catholic bishops – vision and challenges Council of Bishops

- Lots of email communications.
- Follow-up on St. Matthew's: Ongoing

The Council of Bishops meeting after synod was very productive. Hopefully I will have notes to share at the meeting. It was good to discuss how to support Pablo, our vision/challenges, immediate to-do list.

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.

Synod: with travel time Oct. 7-14, returned via my home town in Nebraska

Consultations ongoing.

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 11 03 2022

submitted 11/2/2022 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING in faith communities: ECC RMR needs to suggest central physical location for presentation, ideally at site that has experience with tech end of Zoom participation.

Spent 10 more hours on gathering website info, including seeking input on various regional statements.

Developed new website for Stp, includes photo galleries of Kae's Consecration and Synod2022, and info about our ecumenical partnerships—should be able to serve as a resource for our Regional site.

www.stpauldenverecc.com active, but still being reviewed by Council before wide dissemination of site.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

10/6 Continued work with advisory board for Advance Care Planning education initiative.

10/9-12 Ministered at Synod with flute, song, chaplains' healing service, and holy conversation.

Asked to serve as an evaluator for a ECC Benedictine incardination candidate.

Participated in ECC Chaplains Zoom 10/24 to debrief about healing ceremony at Synod.

Participated in Independent Catholic THINK TANK on interjurisdictional unity 10/17, 25.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing—invitation extended to all regional clergy.

Presided at LOC 10/8, MoM 10/16 AND Dignity 10/30.

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

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting 10/26

END-YEAR GIVING (registered for Colorado Gives Day 12/6 to support Sunrise Service)

RedRocksEaster 2023: I suggested Bishop Pablo as possible preacher (draw: local; new Exec. Board

Member of National Council of Churches; excited that he's bi-lingual)

Board positions open: I suggested Adrian approach Pastor Rick of Trinity Lutheran and Pastor Chris of

6thAveUCC as possible asks to represent their respective denominations.

Study Program for ADVANCE CARE PLANNING in faith communities: planning continues; sessions to be occur before April.

OFFICER ELECTIONS coming up

UPCOMING 2022 MEETINGS: 11/22, 12/14