

# Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, August 4, 2022 at 7:00PM

Host: Church of the Holy Family    Facilitator: Christine Casillas    Notes: Anne Grant

## Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer

Holy One, Enlivening Spirit, In the wilderness of new, Root the Body of Christ Fully into our “Yes”, Blooming in Your Holy Season. Together, Amen!

## Regular Business:

1. No guests
2. Agenda approvals/additions—One item added by Kae to new business
3. Review and approval of July notes—approved
4. Financial Report—Financial report sent in by Greg. Reviewed by BOD and no issues/questions.
- 5a. Bishop Notes and Vicar Report

### Bishop Report:

- Retired/inactive list of clergy: add Fr. Len even though he is currently active at HF
- Education/Formation team
- Regional Synod Delegates meeting? Plan it after any legislation is sent to delegates.  
Rachel will follow up with delegates via email. Send delegate info to Rachel by 12 August. Potential meeting date could be 20 August.
- Working through issues on the Council of Bishops; still a fairly new entity.
- Some communities skeptical re need for a Presiding Bishop; what does it mean to be “independent” and “communion”

### 5b. Vicar Report:

- Michael shelving idea of starting a community in Colorado Springs; not able to commit the amount of time needed.
- Is there possibly a role for Rev Kathleen in the Advanced Directives initiative? Michael will ask at the first meeting.

### 6. Leadership Council Report

- No BOD members currently on the Leadership Council. Maybe ask Teri if she could provide a few sentences for the meeting each month.

### 7. Personal Connections - Have you tried something new or different this year?

## Old Business:

1. Website update

- Look through the information Michael sent out last month and let him know if any corrections are needed.
  - Specific information needed from each of the communities.
2. Additional Thoughts on Regional Picnic – What went well? Opportunities for improvement?
- Separate spaces for eating, gathering, and worship; creating a separate space for worship.
  - Feeling that overall it went well.
  - Maybe try icebreakers next time to encourage people from different communities to interact.
  - Drawback in the park was not in a place where the public could witness and maybe ask questions about the ECC. Not one of the goals of the planning team, but maybe a consideration for next time.
  - Good opportunity for Synod delegates to meet each other.
3. Synod Oct 9-12 in St Louis; Do we want a regional display table at Synod?
- Maybe a regional table with graphic displays of regional polity. Blessings of connectedness. Simple display to show RMR structure.
  - Each community is expected to provide a 3-5 minute video or photo montage for Parade of Communities during the Synod.
  - Could leverage input for PoC to populate a regional display table.
  - Add topic to agenda for next month. Bring your ideas.
- a. Presiding Bishop Nominations—Fr. Paul Burson is the only nomination for Presiding Bishop.
- b. Legislation: ECC Deacons, Behavior/Consequences—Waiting for actual legislation to be proposed. Keep on agenda.

**New Business:**

1. Local Synod planning for 2023.
- Need to look at dates first and then work on space and other details.
  - Corpus Christie Sunday is June 11 – would be a good time.
  - Could also have Chrism Mass at that time.
  - Check the June date or suggest another one at the September BOD meeting.
  - Do national delegates also serve as local delegates?
  - Define attendees for local Synod.
2. Delegate Gathering.
- Already discussed under the Bishop Report? Refer to notes under Bishop Report.
3. Safety and Ethics training in each Community
- StP: no; CoB: preparing to do training; LoC: yes; MoM: yes; COHF: no.
  - Are other communities interested in joining with CoB to do training?
  - Kae can forward information from the ECC about ethics and safety training; not required, but strongly encouraged in RMR.
4. Community Updates
- COHF: Family Promise rotation in July –lots of volunteers from HF; COHF Annual Picnic is scheduled for 14 August; Christine working with Mike on formation process

- MoM: Planned presentation on the Red Flag Order by Colorado Ceasefire –more understanding of law. Will be a hybrid presentation. Tom will send out a link to the BOD.
- LoC: Teri held a confirmation class retreat–three confirmands; Joining with host Lutheran community to host a movie night with nearby apartment complex; for last two months, Teri has hosted a casual gathering around a fire pit–opportunity for members of community to ask questions about the ECC.
- StP: Building a new website to add to FB page; new community council is up and running; several new members have joined the community.
- CoB: Green Sheen – collect paint cans and recycle cans and paint –donate money back to Habitat for Humanity – CoB did a fundraiser for them and collected \$2000 in 4 hours.
- MoM: Lots of illness in the community recently, so more services on Zoom.
- Christy: Will have prayer time commitment as part of her studies on Thursdays for the next three years – conflict with BOD meetings once per month.
- BOD Meeting Schedule: Can we start meetings at 6:30? Should we plan for some in-person meetings? Add to the agenda for September. Need to vote for changes.

Closing Prayer: Christine

Next Meeting Host Communities: Sept 1, LOC; Oct 6, STP; Nov 3, MoM; Dec 1, COB

## Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in Jul 2022

+Kae

**Personal:** Greg will have total ankle replacement surgery on Aug. 11. He will be non-weight-bearing for 6 weeks. Needless to say, my presence will be necessary to support him. After the first week, I will make arrangements for care-givers and friends to come in and hang out with him. In the meantime, zoom and phone calls will continue : )

**Vicar Michael:**

**Regional Picnic:** Thanks to all who served on the planning team and all those who promoted the picnic and attended! It was a great day. Lots of food! Special shout out to Jack for being the grill-master for the duration. The attendees included members from each of our communities – a great mixer. Any comments?

### Listening and Relationship building

Lots of phone calls and emails

Communicating prayer requests and news among the region’s clergy via email.

Considering means to communicate with and organize our retired or inactive ECC clergy in the region: Scott, Stan, Frank, Bonnie, David, Kathleen, Jim, Sheila, (Len)...

Colorado Council of Churches supper on Sat. Aug 6: I declined the invitation because we are avoiding social gatherings due to Greg's surgery.

### **Discernment and ordination**

Ongoing conversations with Mike W and Christy Chady, a candidate from Church of the Beloved. Both traveled together to attend the orientation weekend in Kansas for the Bishop Kemper School of Ministry : )

Formation: I think we'll wait until after synod to form our region's education and formation team so that we don't have to double back. Any in your communities who may be interested in being part of the team, please let me know.

### **Liturgies**

#### **Regional picnic!**

### **ECC**

The final ECC **liturgy town hall** was on June 8<sup>th</sup> on the topic of Closing Rite was postponed due to +Francis' absence.

### **Council of Bishops**

- **Monthly bishop call on July 11<sup>th</sup>:**
  - Mid America Diocese: Rafe update: continuing conversations of electing new diocesan bishop – the process is developing. Extending target dates. May or may not hold an election prior to synod. Rafe will be the custodian of knowledge to pass along to whomever is elected.
  - A new community forming in Little Rock being constructed with Bruno and Carol Ann Blow is forming a new community also in Arkansas.
  - Follow-up on St. Matthew's
  - The trip to Poland was wonderful.
  
- **Meeting with the CoB and LC on July 21<sup>st</sup>: Topics included:**
  - Communication and transparency of notes from meetings of LC and COB
  - Continued work on members to form the Standing Hearing Committee (Appeals board) regarding constitutionality
  - Continued work to form a commission regarding education standards for ordination
  - Review of the approval process for ordination of clergy
  - Expanding the LC to include another bishop – 2 HOP, 2 HOL and 2 CoB
  - Resistance to forming local church/diocese by members of the Communion
  - General dissatisfaction with the Council of Bishops
  
- **Consulting with Pablo:** Phone calls and meetings to discuss the current climate and functioning of the ECC, perspectives.

**Synod:** Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2022

- My discernment led me to decline the invitation to coordinate the synod's Wednesday morning closing liturgy planning, with option for consecration of the new Presiding Bishop. As a bishop, I would like to fully participate in the liturgy without a coordinating function, along with Greg's surgery and the loss of my mom.
- The members of the council of bishops will stay over through Friday noon (Oct 13-14) for our annual gathering. If Paul is elected we will orient and welcome him during that time.
- Possibility of a regional delegate gathering soon to coordinate housing and transportation?

**Consultation:**

## **Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 08 04 2022**

submitted 8/4/2022 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

### **KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS**

Colorado Council of Churches: Advisory Board for their Advance Directives education initiative in conjunction with UCHealth; first meeting scheduled for 8/11

After consultations with Kae, Scott and husb. Marc, I will not be spearheading the start of an ECC community in Colorado Springs. Making invitations to attend existing RMR communities is, of course, on-going.

Fielded ECC inquiries sent to Facebook page (Did Jade Phinn visit any of the communities?)

### **REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS**

Attended memorial of regional music minister Carl von Loewenfeldt 7/9.

Represented Region at City of Aurora's LGBTQAI+ Summit focused on healthcare services and training allies 7/22-23; passed out RMR fliers and made some connections.

Attended Vigil marking 10th Anniversary of the Aurora Theater Shooting with CO Ceasefire founder Eileen McCarron (photo of me with ECC tag in Denver Post).

Participated in ECC Chaplains Zoom 7/25 planning healing ceremony at Synod; submitted photos of my chaplain ministry for group presentation.

Participated in Independent Catholic 7/26 Coffee Chat; topics of convo incl. Pope's Canada pilgrimage. 2nd holy conversation 8/2 with Rev. Lance of Conifer Community Church, about the Bible and human sexuality, particularly re: orientation and gender identity.

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

Reconnection phone convos with Fr. Stan; updated his email address with CHF.

Presided at St. Paul 7/23+30, MoM 7/31.

Attended RMR Picnic and Mass 7/10 (I have RMR banner); posted Regional recognitions to Facebook.

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

Was unable to attend OPB Ecumenical Study group this month.

**COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES** Board on summer break. Monthly newsletter circulated.

Board approved posting freelance articles related to CCC mission on its website and in newsletters.