

## Rocky Mountain Regional Council Notes for September 4, 2018

Present: Teri Harroun, Kae Madden, Jim DeMuth, Michael Nicosia, Don Sutton (notes), Dennis Giblin, Greg Yonker (chair), Jack Wolfe, Mike Weil, John Head, Kerrie Anderson

**Approval of August minutes...** moved and seconded...

Michael N when notetaker sends out notes, please respond via e-mail...

**Financial report:** (Greg)

INCOME - Reviewed August Income. The spike in income was due to receiving the annual tithe from Mary of Magdala.

EXPENSES - August Expenses were steady with payment of the Vicar's Housing Stipend.

FIRSTBANK - Upon successfully transferring banking privileges from former treasurer, Lara Martinez, I was able to establish and utilize three Online and Mobile Services offered by FirstBank. • Mobile Banking allows checks to be deposited using the FirstBank mobile app. • Online Banking provides electronic access through the FirstBank web portal to view up to date activity and receive statements electronically.

• Zelle© was used to make a paperless electronic funds transfer directly to the Regional Vicar's account for the monthly stipend.

IN PROGRESS - I am in the process of selecting an appropriate no cost or low cost cloud-based storage solution for the Treasurer's current and historical records. I believe it is prudent to modernize and utilize the technological resources available to streamline the Treasurer's activity while enabling easy, convenient and secure access, storage, archival and retrieval capabilities. (Leaning toward Microsoft OneDrive).

Mary of Magdala bulk tithe is through the end of 2018

An extra check from MoM was for the expenses of the bishop's visit, deposited by Laura.

Michael N had some questions about the symbols used in the spreadsheet and Greg will clarify going forward...

Differentiate between tithing income and other expense income so we know where the income had come from – can excel add comments?

St Paul will be sending a retroactive contribution back to July 1, 2018... which is the beginning of the business year for St Paul.

First Bank...transition was smooth and Greg set up on line banking and electronic banking and does direct transfer for Vicar's housing allowance.

Treasurer's notes are quite important and useful says Mother Kae.

**Vicar's Report** – see Appendix A

Note Colorado Council of Churches statement on Ethical Eating; **Vicar needs feedback from the communities ASAP....by the 19th..?**

Also note Time's Up: Catholics Demand Truth Info was shared re Vigil at the Basilica

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Stipend** for the use of space for the Regional Monthly Meeting - in the past it was \$100; motion to allow the treasurer to make a check out for that amount... Moved and seconded.

**ECC Deacons Association** - idea evolved out of Diakonate 101 Zoom seminar with Bp. Rafe. David Dunn has been gathering a deacon's group video conference (some priests also attend); sent out questionnaire re role of deacons; the assoc is just starting to form and are planning an educational breakout session at Synod.

**Pastors should be getting the e-mails about the Association Zoom meetings.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Regional process re Sept 8-9 vote re bishop**

Votes due this week-end; disseminate results, just "yes" or "no" by community, not by the numbers, though numbers recorded for historical reference

Frank's video was a good resource.

What if the proposal is voted down? "sack cloth and ashes" No real step if we do not choose to go forward.

**You are Welcome Here** Oct 5-6 - we have a table ...no one has responded to Michael's request for staffing help; **needs help if table is to stay up all day**

**Progressive Congregations Network.** Interfaith Alliance asking if there is interest and a willingness to provide some folks to serve on leadership team

**ID cards** – no update; Photographs need to be taken for those lacking cards...

## **COMMUNITY REPORTS**

**CHF**

- John having hip replacement
- picnic cancelled
- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sept 30 10AM
- Oct 21 10 AM first deacon service for Cynthia (her diaconal ordination at Wake Forest Chapel was an amazing experience "Truly Ecumenical"; the ceremony is on the Holy Family webpage)  
*(10/4 addendum: first Mass moved to Nov. 4)*
- December 9 10AM Ordination to the Presbyterate

**MoM** - Will sign w Trinity Lutheran signing a two year lease

**COB** - feast day this week-end

**LOC** collaborative events include

- Sept 12 reducing gun violence conversation with 8 faith communities in Longmont;
- Sept 22 Lutheran Interim will preach while Teri presides
- Sept 28 partnering with Boulder SURJ viewing film, "Two Rivers"

**SP** - transitional ELCA co-pastor from Germany and ECC co-pastor Don helping community negotiate and revision Grant Street Reach collaboration

## **Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 09 04 2018**

### **FORMATION/RECEPTION**

More files submitted for ordination candidate Jane (Wagner) Reina of MoM.

Dcn. David Dunn has sent updates re ECC Deacons Association, but have not contributed to conversations.

Connected with Fr. Daniel Storrs, recently moved to Austin TX; encouraged ECC connection.

### **REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS**

Regularly posted to **regional Facebook page** at <https://www.facebook.com/Coloradoecc> .

Celebrated Mass at MoM 8/26 and LOC 9/1. Invited by CHF but scheduling conflict postponed presiding.

Wrote article on ELCA/ECC gathering July 19 for *The Journey Shared* and disseminated it to website and CCC connections.

Confirmed registration for **You Are Welcome Here (YAWH) Conference Oct 4 at 9 AM to Oct 5 at 5:30 PM**

<https://welcomeyawh.org>

Turnhalle Ballroom At The Tivoli, 900 Auraria Pkwy, Denver, Colorado 80204

**NOTE: Would need staffing help, especially at close of conference on 10/5 as it conflicts with Michael's Gateway to the Rockies Art Show opening awards ceremony.**

Was interviewed on 8/28 by UCC minister Nancy Niero developing Hospice and Palliative Care models of pastoral care for closing churches.

Multiple communications around Synod issues and our regional vote re calling a local bishop.

### **COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

CCC developing Public Policy Statement on Ethical Eating (below), being reviewed by Board before being sent to Judicators; Vicar solicited feedback from ECC region 8/21 (no response as of this report).

***Ethical Eating***

*As our society moved towards industrialized food production we lost the connection between how the food we eat is raised or grown, and the process it takes to get food from farm to plate. To increase yields, modern farming often relies on the use of herbicides and pesticides. With factory farming animals are raised in tightly confined environments, often lacking access to fresh air and are routinely given antibiotics to combat illnesses caused by unsanitary living conditions. High concentrations of pesticides, herbicides, antibiotics and animal waste finds its way into our air, soil and groundwater, creating health problems for nearby residents and those downstream. [Michael's suggested edit would add something about the dangers of cross-pollination when large-scale GMO fields threaten native and Non-GMO crops.]*

*Because industrialized farming relies on cheap labor it often employs undocumented workers, who are paid substandard wages and lack any health benefits should they become sick or injured. Highly processed foods have contributed to an epidemic of obesity, cardiovascular disease, Diabetes and certain forms of cancer. And our demand for year-round fresh produce often involves importing fruits and vegetables from other countries, thus increasing our carbon footprint. In short, our modern industrialized farming methods adversely affect our environment, animal welfare, workers' rights and human health. (Deuteronomy 24:14) (Jeremiah 2:7) (Is 24:4-7) (Proverbs 12:10).*

*Therefore, the member denominations of the Colorado Council of Churches advocate for public policies that:*

- *Support efforts to educate the public regarding where their food comes from so that people can make more informed and healthier choices about what they eat.*
- *Support policies that provide farm workers with a living wage, safe working environment, and access to affordable health care.*
- *Support policies that minimize animal suffering by permitting animals to be raised in an environment that provides clean air and water, access to the outdoors, and sufficient room to move, turn around and lie down.*
- *[Michael's edit: Support responsible crop management practices that limit the environmental impact of GMOs.]*
- *Support legislation that limits the overuse of herbicides, pesticides, and antibiotics, and imposes penalties for food production methods that pollute air, land and water.*
- *Support policies that work to eliminate "food deserts;" in inner-city and rural areas where the lack of grocery stores means limited or no access to fresh fruits and vegetables.*

*"You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns." Deuteronomy 24:14*

*"I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable." (Jeremiah 2:7)*

*"The earth is polluted by its inhabitants, for they have transgressed teachings, overstepped decrees, and broken the everlasting covenant." (Is 24:4-7)*

*"Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel." (Proverbs 12:10)*

Researching Ford Foundation Grant on Income Inequality;  
possible collaboration with Vaccination Study Group;  
collaboration in **Soul Shop Workshop 11/13** with Josh Williams MD re Suicide Prevention.

Legislative Updates available at <https://mailchi.mp/145068848d5f/our-september-news>

**ADVOCACY**

Attended 8/4 **March on the NRA** at the Capitol.

In collar at **Aurora PrideFest** 8/4 with ECC brochures.

Attended Moms Demand Action/Aurora picnic 8/24 to meet candidates in support of sensible gun regs.

Disseminated info for the Denver CO area re 9/9 10am Prayer vigil at the Denver Immaculate Conception Basilica - Cathedral in support of abuse survivors and calling for change in the church.

Time's Up: Catholics Demand Truth <http://catholictoo.org/join-a-prayer-service-demonstration-in-your-area/> part of a number of vigils being hosted by a coalition of Catholic organizations including Call To Action, FutureChurch, Women's Ordination Conference, the Quixote Center, and others.

## **BISHOPS/VICARS CALL 8/15/18**

### **Constitution Commission's reordered document—thoughts from the regions**

**RMR:** soul gone; imbalance of polity resultant from move of HOP and HOL duties to by-laws/procedures; frustrated that initial feedback didn't impact final draft; wrote regional delegate letter to Commission, LC and Chancellor.

**East Coast:** 2 monthly meetings to review; echo "episcopal heavy", stripped away collaborative input of HOL/HOP and their confirmational roles; commission replaced words that denoted essence/spirit of respective canons; upset about up-or-down vote; sent comments to Commission, LC and Chancellor.

**Pacific Northwest:** feedback went nowhere; Chancellor's involvement raised hopes again; also see diminishment of laity in reordered document.

(Southwest not on call)

**MidAmerica:** no rumblings in region but aware of issues raised by others; +Rafe to clarify during diocesan clergy call later in the week.

★ **+Rafe's take:** We need to address our understanding of church/catholicity/ministry, acknowledging that the original document never articulated our ecclesiology. The relationship between bishops/clergy/laity seen as call-and-response and an articulated theology of the laity including the critical doctrine of reception and honoring the *sensus fidelium*...all are missing and should be key. These deficiencies, which have been there all along, are now being highlighted by the reordered version; without the work of the Commission we might not have come to this awareness.

There needs to be consensus about who we are before moving forward (echoed by Chancellor via +Denise). +Francis reported that most believe it's okay to live with the existing Constitution while we engage in this deeper discussion.

Education is also needed re distinction between order (Sacramental) and office (legislative) of bishops; similar to distinction btwn priest and pastor. +Francis and +Denise acknowledged that the most vocal responder on the Commission, Fr. Jim Ferris, has a more conservative/traditional view of bishops and their authority, something which Utrecht does not have consensus over and which was not part of the ECC's founding vision.

Another corrective: Fr. Jim asserted that "While the Church as a whole is inheritor of the apostolic tradition; Bishops are successors of the apostles, with parallel authority and responsibility (apostolic succession)." Bp. Francis clarified that Apostolic Succession resides in the Church as a whole; the bishop stands in that succession and is the guardian of it.

### **Regional Updates**

**Pacific Northwest** held their regional vote to elect a bishop on 8/12/18; because 1 of the 2 candidates dropped out, the members were asked to participate in a vote of discernment, whether or not to call the remaining candidate and to affirmation the formation of a diocese. At the time of the call, they were waiting for the results from 2 of the communities.

★ On 8/19 they posted their election of Rev. Kedda Keough, to be affirmed at Synod 2018.

**Vicar transitions.** Vicars serve for the term of the Presiding Bishop and traditionally submit their resignations at the Synod electing his/her successor. +Francis asked his vicars to let him know beforehand of their willingness to continue. (I emailed him to inform him of my willingness to serve.)