

Rocky Mountain Regional Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes—January 4, 2024 6:00 PM Zoom

Host: Church of the Holy Family **Facilitator:** Rev. Jane Reina **Scribe:** Anne Grant

Present:

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)
Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)
Jack Wolfe, Chuck Howard (LOC)
Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos (MoM)
Alice Bradley (COB)
Jane Reina, Anne Grant (CHF)
Don Sutton, Liz Begalla (St. Paul)

Welcome Guests (none)

Opening 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

Christmas and New Year welcome

Agenda Approval and Additions

- Agenda approved as written
- Need to clarify Zoom link before next meeting

Regular Business

- Review and approval of December minutes – Latest addition to notes provided by Fr. Michael (Jan 2)
 - December minutes approved with Fr Michael’s updates/additions.
- Financial reports for November and December 2023 by Greg Yonker, Treasurer
 - December tithes – HF behind due to illness; will get caught up.
 - For February, include discussion on next steps for “Timed Savings.” 5.0% APY on new rollovers where account is currently banked. Discussion needed on penalty for withdrawal for next time.
- Calendar of Accountability – Sept added.
 - Communities undoubtedly busy with Advent and Christmas.
 - With gratitude to all the RMR communities for the energy and limited resources needed in settling liturgies when the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are the same day.
 - Thanks from Pastor Jane for patience and assistance in coordinating 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve services.

- Bishop's notes
 - Not much going on during December.
 - Mid-America diocese still working through issues.

- Vicar's report (see email report from Fr Michael dated 2 Jan 2024, Appendix B)
 - Photos needed for the regional website.
 - Moved founding documents to the general public section of the website; everyone can now see the constitution, by-laws, and values. RMRC minutes back to 2018 are also available to view.
 - Discussion on whether or not minutes should be public; agreed that confidential information is not included in the minutes. Finance report is no longer included in the minutes.
 - Discussion of Executive Council – RMR BOD has a statutory right to convene an Executive Session, as needed – session is not public.
 - Jack will follow up on rules/guidelines for an Executive Session.
 - Retired Clergy Association – Michael is working with Scott Jenkins on establishing the RCA. Scott has contacts in the Episcopal Diocese. Some questions raised so far: For Episcopal, the mandatory retirement age is 72 for liability reasons – does the ECC need to consider this? Clergy have faculties through the local bishop, so the RMR BOD could potentially be liable. What are the RMR/ECC policies?
 - Blessing will take place at the Colorado State Capitol on 12 January, 1030 – 1200.

- Leadership Council Report
 - No Leadership Council report for this month.

New Business

- Community Updates
 - COB – Busy Advent. Christmas went well; now into Lent preparation. COB 20th Anniversary is 10 February; invites forthcoming.
 - CoHF – Also busy Advent. Fr. Michael presided on 24 December/4th Sunday of Advent – went well. For Lent, CoHF will be using the same books as COB. Liturgy Ministry is evolving.
 - MoM – Advent soup suppers and prayer services; about 50 people attended Christmas Day Mass – lots of new faces. Video of community by Tom. Grocery card collection by the Social Justice Team - \$1875 collected.
 - StP – Combination service with UCC for Christmas. “Reverse Advent” – filled boxes daily and then donated to Metro Cares – around 1700 pounds donated. Several new members. New constitution approved.
 - LOC – Different kind of celebration this year; afternoon celebration with Bethlehem Lutheran – very nice with young children. Combined set of security procedures – almost completed.

- April RMRC meeting date change by one week due to Easter, to 11 April.
 - See email from Tom with meeting dates.

Old Business

- Holy Synod 2024 Planning for Oct 11-14 YMCA of the Rockies.
 - Names of delegates should be sent to Fr. Teri and Mother Rosean by 20 January.
 - MoM – 2 HOP and 2 HOL (1 pending)
 - LOC – 2 HOP and 4 HOL (plus one alternate)
 - CoHF – working on it
 - StP – “hustling” – will confirm at council meeting (1 definite)
 - COB – 1 definite and making progress with others
 - Will need lots of volunteers; encouraging all to come.
 - 1st delegate meeting will be on 17 February at 10:00 on Zoom – will discuss any issues that communities might want to bring to Synod; Zoom meeting only, mainly to introduce delegates to each other and begin relationship building. Can also brainstorm any possible legislation to bring to Synod.

- ECC 101 feedback
 - Tom still working on recording to reduce it to one hour in length – should be done soon.

- Does the Regional Council need Directors and Officers Insurance – Dennis
 - *Tabled pending Dennis’ availability*

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, RMR service
 - Friday, Jan 19, 2024, Zoom hosted by CoB
 - Theme: Luke 10:27 You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbor as yourself. [WPCU-2024-English-pamphlet-Final.pdf \(ctbi.org.uk\)](https://www.ctbi.org.uk/WPCU-2024-English-pamphlet-Final.pdf)
 - Each community participates via assigned prayer.
 - Fr. Michael will send an invite to the RMR communities.
 - Zoom max is 100 participants; encourage small group attendance.
 - Order of Service draft will be sent out; each community will participate.
 - Fr. Michael sent invites to other clergy.

- Ethics and Safety Training – see Kae’s email with details; required for all clergy.
 - COB – not done yet; plan to do Lutheran version.
 - StP – still in planning and hustling
 - CoHF – planning
 - MOM – not done yet; planning for attendance
 - LOC – done earlier this year
 - Send completion certificates to Rosean; pertains to all active clergy.
 - ECC Ethical Code of Conduct – approved, but not enacted due to liability issues. Kae sent it out to the BOD via email for reference and information.

- Reminder of meeting host for 1st half of 2024: Feb StP, March MoM, April COB, May LoC (in person?), June CoHF

Closing Prayer—Anne Grant

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in December 2023

by Bishop Kae Madden

Personal: Focused mainly on CoB and my family in the month of December. Increased my “rest.”

Listening and Relationship building

Administration

Worked with a Church of the Beloved lay leader to research the “safe church” training options. Sent an email to our regional clergy with information about a Lutheran-based local course held on Zoom starting Jan 18. Also provided information about the “safe gatherings” option (Donna Massey 888.241.8258) and [Churches – MinistrySafe](#). Church of the Beloved will host an in-person “code of ethics training” for all lay and clergy leaders of the CoB community in the next 4-6 weeks and others are welcome to participate. Attached is the Code of Ethics supported by the ECC.

Advocacy/Presence/Consultation

Working with team to plan the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity prayer service on Jan 19th. Thank you, Michael, for taking the lead, developing the invitation and fine-tuning the prayer service. Other team members include Rosean and Tom. Added WPCU to our accountability calendar.

Clergy support:

Praying with many...

Clergy meetings and phone calls

Weekly Friday gatherings

Community support:

Liturgies/Sacraments

Formation

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike and Christy. Conversations continue with another presbyterate candidate. Coordinating alternate ECC courses for our students at Bishop Kemper School of Ministry with the bishops and the dean of the seminary regarding Liberation Theology, Old Catholic tradition, Vatican II, and the ECC philosophy/theology of orders.

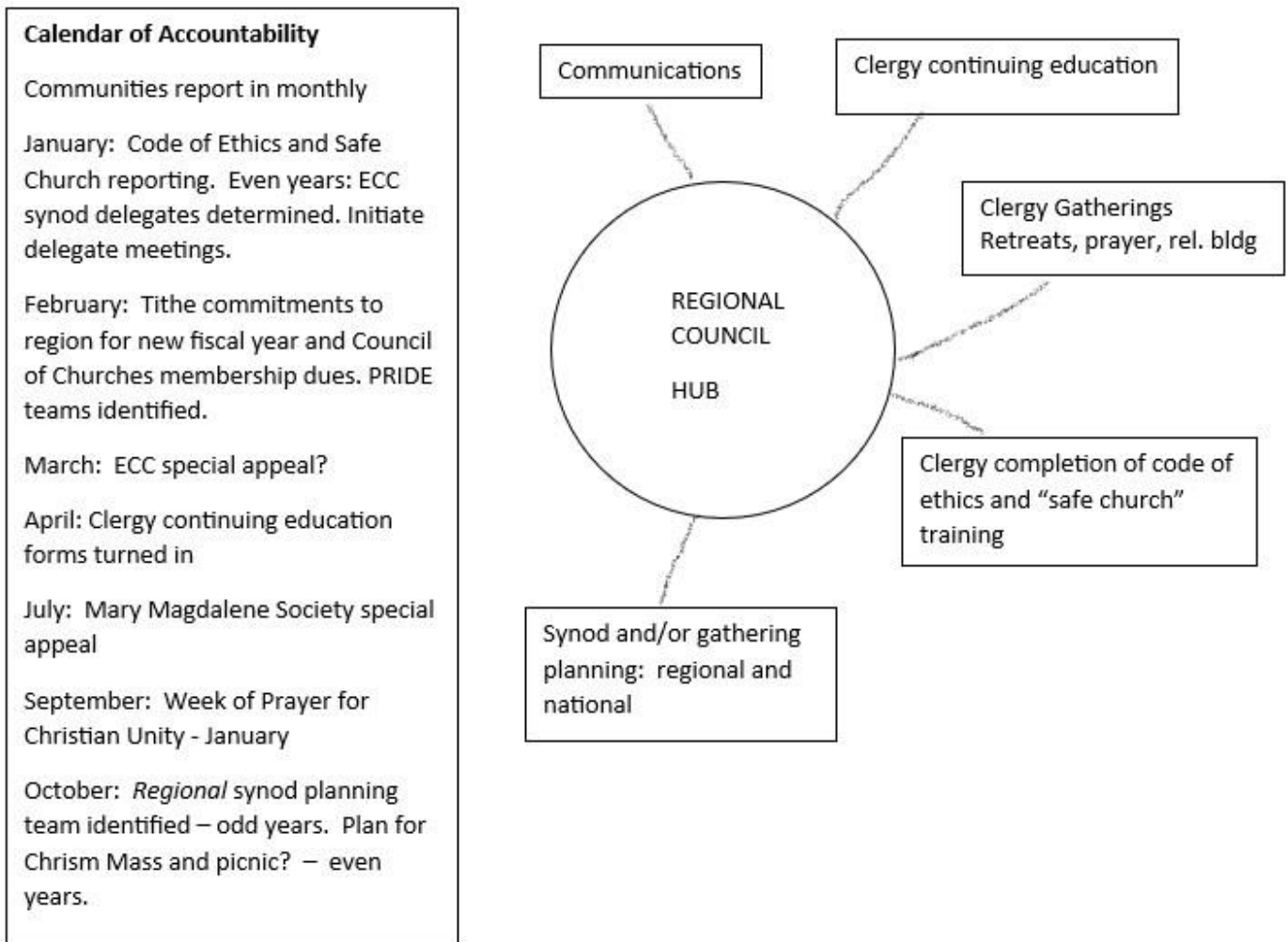
ECC

Council of Bishops

- Meetings on Dec 11 and 18
- Met with Pablo twice

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

Brainstorming model of administration of the region....



Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 01 04 2024

submitted 1/2/2024 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS in red

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Need new community photos for Website.

Worked on planning committee for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; developed and circulated invitation. Collaborated with Scott Jenkins on proposal forming the Retired Clergy Association of the ECC (RCA-ECC).

Wrote draft Constitution and By-laws and sent out invitations to select clergy to be founding members and others to serve on an advisory committee; hope is to present application for Specialized Ministry status to SYNOD 2024.

Question raised about liability if a priest/deacon is retired but ministers occasionally in a community. Scott asking Episcopal Diocese. **What are our policies in the Region?**

Attended Inclusive Catholics Coffee Chat 12/19—very interested in RCA-ECC, as none of their jurisdictions have anything similar.

Circulated letter of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition urging the Biden Administration to Reject Extreme Asylum Restrictions.

Presided at Mom 12/17, CHF 12/24.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy updates, incl. CCC posts.

Up-coming calendar: TogetherCO State Capitol Blessing 1/12 10:30-noon

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – Board Meeting December 13, 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT—revisions to be made; to be reviewed and approved via email

- COLORADO GIVES DAY—initial report \$200-500 discrepancy; checks yet to be counted.
- END OF YEAR BOARD GIVING--\$300 each suggested; 100% participation needed for grant writing. *(RMR contributed already)*

2024 BUDGET APPROVED—changes since last meeting's review:

- Office-move expenses: barring “a deal,” expecting new rent expense around \$300/mon.
- Added \$7,000 for Voices For Justice contractor + \$1500 for expenses.
(Roland to give legislative process briefing to candidate Sinai Bebo)
- Deficit \$6K-\$7K acceptable.

2024 PROGRAM PLAN APPROVED

Program activities listed below are ranked according to priority during that particular quarter.

First Quarter

- Voices for Justice
- Easter Sunrise Service at Red Rocks preparation, fundraising, and hosting
- Thisspace cohort building and management
- Christian Nationalism program
- Lily Grant planning

Second Quarter

- Voices for Justice
- Antisemitism program
- Islamophobia program
- Pentecost video by CCC Judicatories
- Thiisspace cohort management
- Lily Grant planning

Third Quarter

- Rural outreach
- Thiisspace cohort management
- Public Policy Statement Redraft
- Rural Outreach

- Election education and get out the vote

Fourth Quarter

- Rural outreach
- Ballot initiative advocacy
- Election education and get out the vote
- Advance care planning cohort work
- Thiisspace cohort management
- Public Policy Statement Redraft

2024 OFFICERS—no interested expressed other than Michael considering Chair

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Justice for Black Coloradans effort has shared a draft of legislation that will be introduced in the 2024 Colorado General Assembly. This legislation is the first of a multi-faceted effort to create reparations for Black Coloradans. This bill focuses primarily on free access to postsecondary education. This legislation falls within our Education and Racism, so the Board and the Judicators are reviewing it to determine level of support.
- Appreciation expressed for Stan's years of service as Chair and representing Plains & Peaks Presbytery. He closed in prayer.

NEXT MEETING—JANUARY 24 at 8am