

## Board of Directors

### Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

## Meeting Notes

October 5, 2022, 6:00 PM via ZOOM

Host: St Paul    Facilitator: Don Sutton    Notes: Greg Yonker

Present:

Kae Madden (Regional Bishop)

Michael Nicosia (Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement)

Jack Wolfe, Rachel O'Neill (Light of Christ)

Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos, (Mary of Magdala)

Alice Bradley, Christy Chady (Church of the Beloved)

Anne Grant, Christine Casillas, (Church of the Holy Family)

Greg Yonker (St Paul, Denver) | *Don lost internet and was excused*

### Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer (*Fr Michael opened with this 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. Welcome any guests
  - a. *No guests*
2. Agenda approvals/additions
  - a. *Agenda approved without changes*
3. Review and approval of September minutes
  - a. *Approved*
4. Personal connections: Describe one fond "food aroma" memory from your teenage years.
  - a. *Recommended to be moved to the end of the meeting...*
5. Financial Report
  - a. *Presented and accepted*
6. Bishop Notes and Vicar Report
  - a. *Michael presented highlights from the Vicar report. 10+ hours gathering materials for Regional website development. Still needs more photos from our communities intended for posting to the website. Conversation about comment from Independent Catholic Fr. Marek Bozek.*
  - b. *Kae referenced her monthly notes. Also advised that SE Region, not reaching consensus, voted not to form a Diocese/Region at this time. Shared struggles and optimism around discussing topics and seeking solutions approaching the run-up to Synod. Appreciation expressed for RMR BOD and community members involved in our expression of ECC. Requested Agenda item for what we are doing for SEFFY (+) in our region.*

7. Leadership Council Report
  - a. *Previous email to delegates from Teri Harroun, i.e. Synod preparation.*

**Old Business:**

1. Website Update     *-Michael to send a packet of information for planned content to be posted. Can be amended in the future. Will check to see that quote is still valid.*
2. ECC Synod 2022
  - a. Regional Table *-Michael has materials to be presented for display. Photos, documents, agreements. ECC lapel pins.*
  - b. Travel needs *-Nothing noted*
  - c. Legislation, Resolutions, and issues *-Nothing additional at this time*
3. Local Synod Planning for 2023
  - a. Weekend of April 22-23 or June 10-11 including a chrisem Mass  
    *-LOC, either date; CHF, June; STP, either date; COB, April; MOM, both ?*
  - b. Brainstorming on who to invite – Kae to research what other regions have done. *-Still working...perhaps come one, come all or business meeting. With Chrism Mass? Both/And? Leaning toward April dates. Need to consider a planning committee*

**New Business:**

1. Future meetings to be on-line or in-person, and possibility of starting at 6:30
  - a. 6:30pm start with 90-minute meeting
    - i. *Christy remarked that her prayer group talk about this day-time conflict, and she will notify us of the decision. **Christy advised her group changed meeting times to Wednesday, eliminating a 6pm Thursday conflict.***
    - ii. *Discussion of Zoom or In-Person meeting preference leaned toward continuing Zoom meetings with the possibility of two Saturday mornings per year in person. Discussed technical requirements of hybrid technology options for future meetings. Continue with 6:00pm start time.*
  - b. Saturday morning meetings once every 6 months *-TBD at a future date.*
  - c. Continue discerning in-person opportunities to meet
2. *Rachel O'Neill has stepped down from LOC council service and this is her last meeting for a while. Teri Harroun will return to serve on RMR Board.*
3. Community Updates
  - a. *StP starting Saturday book on the Parables*
  - b. *LOC started live music limited to 3 choir members present*
  - c. *Michael: Don't chop vegetables if feeling woozy after vaccinations*
  - d. *MOM: Enneagram study continues. Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls service 7pm*

- e. CHF: Potluck on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Collection for St Andrews in November
- f. COB: Hybrid services continue (with challenges). Completed Code of Ethics Training and Safety for Children & Vulnerable Adults. Willing to share these resources with others in the Region

**Closing Prayer:** Fr Michael offered a closing prayer to conclude the meeting.

**Future Host Communities:** Nov 3-MOM; Dec 1-COB; Jan 5-CHF; Feb 2-LOC; Mar 2-STP

**Remember, when you host to send out the agenda, have a facilitator and scribe, bring opening and closing prayer, bring Consensus Document, and send notes in a timely fashion.**

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

+Kae

**Personal:** We are grateful that Greg’s ankle is healing – beginning weight-bearing. It was a long couple of months :) We have had a very heavy pastoral care need at Church of the Beloved these past couple months, too. I appreciated taking a break last week – I needed it.

### Listening and Relationship building

Lots of phone calls and emails

Participate as available in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing

Feedback offered to the Colorado Council of Churches regarding the recommendations re: the Colorado voter guide

### Liturgies/Sacraments

**Confirmation: Light of Christ: Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, Mary of Magdala: Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Presiding at CHF on Dec. 11**

### ECC

#### Council of Bishops

- Council of Bishops call on Sept 12 Planning for synod and for two days following. Review of deacon legislation.
- **Lots** of email communications.
- The Southwest region did not reach consensus to proceed to form a diocese.
- Mid America Diocese: Rafe is retiring, and the MidAmerica diocese will likely not hold an election prior to synod.
- Follow-up on St. Matthew’s: Ongoing

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.

Pending: Continued work to form a commission regarding education standards for ordination

Pending: Review of the approval process for ordination of clergy

**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 We are driving, leaving Friday and driving short days due to Greg's ankle. We will return via Nebraska and I'll be back in action on Tuesday, Oct. 18th.

**Consultations** ongoing.

## **Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 10 05 2022**

submitted 10/4/2022 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

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

Spent 10 more hours on gathering website info, including seeking input on various regional statements. Study Program for ADVANCE CARE PLANNING in faith communities: RMR/ECC hybrid gathering may be scheduled before April; will eventually need to identify a central location for in-person participants.

### **REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS**

9/8 Continued work with advisory board for Advance Care Planning education initiative.

Convo with +Francis – wants to clarify our relations with ECUSA to add to our relational paper trail; his take on Apostolic Succession and Marek's article has ecumenical implications – our validity is not the prerogative of other jurisdictions; moving forward, the focus is on mutual recognition of orders (which has already been affirmed with the ELCA and the 301 Faith Partners' covenant).

Attended OPB Ecumenical seminar group 9/14. +Francis hopes to continue after Synod pending new PB approval.

Participated in ECC Chaplains Zoom 9/26 to plan healing ceremony at Synod; created PowerPoint for service. Those in attendance enthusiastically welcomed Bishop Cathy Chalmers of The Ascension Alliance as a guest. She is a long time chaplain with extensive experience in Palliative Care, living in Grand Rapids Michigan, and is exploring the possibility of ECC incardination. Aware of how vital peer support is in our ministry, she asked if we might consider extending an invitation to other Independent Catholic chaplains. Group to consider what shape our association might take, whether as a casual support group or an official designated ECC ministry. This might be an alternate route, as an ecumenical collaboration similar to our bishops participation in the Independent Catholic Bishops Forum.

Conv with Fr. Jayme 9/28 about his talk at Synod, seeking input into Communion needs; shared our need for broader/deeper relationships across jurisdictions.

Missed HOP/HOL Synod discussion re proposed legislation 9/29; followed up with Don.

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

Presided at MoM 9/18.

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

### **COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES** Board Meeting 09/28

TREASURER'S REPORT: computer hard/software updating Windows 11 and QuickBooks (\$1500 approved); financial accounts need updating (accountant ill)

2022-2023 SOCIAL JUSTICE FELLOW Wesley Moncrief

ADVOCACY UPDATE: REVIEW 2022 Colorado State Ballot Initiatives for Positions

support Amendment E: expanding Homestead Exemption to cover Gold Star spouses

support Amendment FF: Healthy School Meals for All (big push over tax increase “3rd rail”)

support Prop GG: Tax tables published upfront on ballot signature petitions

oppose Pro 121: Income Tax Rate Reduction—benefits corporations/further hamstrings gov

researching Prop 122: Access to Natural Psychedelic Substances

(due to healthcare benefits and possible criminal justice reform)

approve Prop 123: Dedicate Revenue for Affordable Housing Programs

#### EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN EVENT (disseminating info but not sponsoring)

ILIFF WOMEN CANDIDATE FORUM (perception of bias? all panelists DEM, GOP declined invite)

DISMANTLING RACISM (disseminating info but not sponsoring)

Study Program for ADVANCE CARE PLANNING in faith communities: 6-8 possible churches identified

representing faith/theology diversity; sessions to be occur before April.

UPCOMING 2022 MEETINGS: 10/26, 11/**22**, 12/14

OFFICER ELECTIONS coming up

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