

Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting, May 13, 2021 6:30 PM

NOTES

Host: Church of the Holy Family Facilitator: Mike Scribe: Anne

Attending: Mother Kae, Fr. Michael, Fr. Teri, Jack, Rosean, Dennis, Tom, Mike, Anne, Jim Herrer (guest host)

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.

Regular Business:

1. Welcome any guests

2. Agenda approval/additions Dennis confirmed that Fr. Michael is no longer the Vicar with Mother Kae's election as bishop. Fr. Michael is now a guest at the RMRC meetings--will address in New Business. **Agenda approved.**

3. March 2021 notes for approval **March meeting minutes approved.**

4. Personal connections: sharing among members

5. Financial Report Jack asked that Jim pass a question back to Greg regarding the current status of the COVID-related loans/grants given to the RMRC.

6. Vicar's Report See Appendix A. Attended Independent Old Catholic Happy Hour hosted by Fr. Jamie. Heads up on Fr. Andre from Arizona moving to a facility in Denver to be near family. Fr. Michael has his contact information and will reach out to Fr. Andre and/or his family to offer support. Wrote preface for Ascension and shared with independent communities.

7. Report from ECC Leadership Council Teri's update: April's meeting attendance was lower due to a death in Bishop Francis' family. Good conversations about relationship building among HoP and HoL. Updated and clarified Facebook page: HoP Clergy and Delegates. More clarity with naming conventions.

Date for close of Synod: Sunday, 18 July 2021, at 1:30 MST for 90 minutes. Core amendment team has been looking at 13 different amendments and incorporating them into the document. Document will be sent out ahead of time for review. Affirming Mother Kae as RMR Bishop will also be on agenda. Conclude with 20 minutes of prayer.

8. Community Updates

- **LOC** Pentecost is the 16th anniversary for LOC. Will do parking lot/drive through service.
- **CHF** Planning outside service in the park for 13 June.
- **MoM** Outside service for Pentecost.
- **COB** Outside for Pentecost. Date for Confirmation.
- **StP** Inside service for Pentecost

Old or Continuing Business:

1. Decision after review of “Caffeinated Church”. Annual (5) \$100 or Annual (1) \$60.
3. Ordinations? Confirmations? Coordination of Bishop Travel?
4. Any news from the ECC Constitution Amendments Committee?
5. Development of 2022 Fiscal Year Budget (begins April 1, 2021).

New Business:

1. **Next Steps for affirmation** According to the old constitution, need to make a request of the Leadership Council in the form of a letter. Mother Kae believes that the same people who wrote the initial letter to request bishop vacancy should also write the letter to request affirmation. **Action Item: Jack will research this topic and report back at the June meeting.**

2. **Press release for Bishop** Fr. Michael drafted a press release for Bishop's announcement. Announcement will be linked on multiple social media sites. See Appendix B.

Fr. Teri requested that the word “female” be substituted for “woman.” Mother Kae requested that the press release include some verbiage that details the fact that the entire ECC community was involved in the election of Mother Kae as bishop. Mother Kae will work on some words to add and send them to Fr. Michael for review.

Jack suggested that we add a short explanation of Bishop Francis’ role in the ECC. Jack also suggested some additional minor edits.

Fr. Michael stated that the press release needs to be shorter -- no more than one page. Deacon Rosean relayed her experience with her recent letter to the editor and agreed that the press release needs to be shorter.

3. **Plan for ratifying constitution** Tom reported that all of RMR amendments have been reviewed and adapted by the Amendments Team. Some changes were made to most amendments--changing verbiage to read as more “constitutional.” About 70% of RMR amendment wording was kept intact. Core team is looking at how to share the results with all of the communities. Organizational work is ongoing, but all submitted amendments have been reviewed.

4. 501 C3

5. **Transition from Bishop to Vicar Elect** Mother Kae and Fr. Michael have had conversations about the transition. Mother Kae asked Fr. Michael to continue in his roles for social justice, advocacy, and external relationships. Mother Kae believes that Fr. Michael should be compensated, as his workload in

these areas is substantial. She would like for Fr. Michael's current compensation from the RMRC to continue. Mother Kae is currently compensated by CoB.

Fr. Teri asked about the length of this arrangement. Mother Kae stated that Fr. Michael has skills in these areas and should continue his efforts on behalf of the RMR. Mother Kae is still working through the details of the transition. Mother Kae anticipates that she and Fr. Michael will work in partnership with the council's blessing.

Dennis would like the RMRC to consider some level of monthly compensation for Mother Kae in her service as bishop. Fr. Teri suggested a commitment to a stipend for both Fr. Michael and Mother Kae, at least until the consecration. Need to be mindful of justice and do not want to set a precedent for not compensating a bishop.

Mother Kae would like for Fr. Michael to continue on the RMRC as the regional Vicar and a non-voting member.

Agenda item for next meeting. Mother Kae and Fr. Michael will work on a division of responsibilities and come back to the June meeting with a proposal for responsibilities and monthly stipends.

- 6. Plan for Consecration** Mother Kae stated that there is a House of Bishops meeting on 17 May, so she will ask the other bishops about potential timing for the consecration.

Closing Prayer

Next meetings: June 3: LOC; Jul 1: StP; Aug 5: MoM; Sep 2: COB; Oct 7: HF; Nov 4: LOC; Dec 2: StP

Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 05 13 2021

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Participated in weekly regional pastoral ministers' Zoom gatherings.

Presided at hybrid Masses with StP 4/17; via Zoom with MoM 4/18.

Participated in HOP Zoom meeting 4/24.

Participated in ECC Chaplains Association 4/26 meeting (last Monday of each month)

Circulated info on various bills before the State Legislature and event announcements from interfaith and inter-denomination partners. Published 4/1 Faithful Thursday video moment representing ECC.

Designed new artwork for CCC Easter Sunrise video publicity.

Provided marriage materials and templates to Dcn. Rosean.

Discussions with Rev. Jane and Mthr. Kae re baptismal prep.

Email check-in with Dr. Clifford Wilson who had inquired re ordination, included Fr. Teri; no response.

Received and added letter of recommendation from MoM Leadership Council to Dcn. Rosean's file.

Contributed article on ECC for Fr. Jayme's inaugural issue of *Extraordinary Catholics!* quarterly magazine <https://mailchi.mp/230d72a6d5bd/utrechtsweetrecht-8111002?e=44d28f4ff4>.

Scheduled and participated in first HOP Liturgy Resource Working Group 4/30 meeting.

Helped refine survey to prioritize goals.

Submitted proposal for possible HOP discussion topic: "something in common"

Participated in Rabbi Evette Lutman's coffee chat 5/11 on transitions; shared insights/literature on liminality.

Participated in Independent/Old Catholic happy hour 5/13; given heads up of an Independent Catholic priest Fr. Andre (Blind Cleric?) moving to Denver facility near family.

Thankful for 4/11 candidate blessing.

Populated Regional Facebook page with member churches' posts and election updates.
Composed draft media release re: election (*see Appendix B, below*).
Transferred vocation files to Bishop-Elect Kae and discussed transition and delegation of duties.

OPB CALL April cancelled due to death of Bishop Francis's brother

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting 4/28/2021

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

vaccination grants coming in incl. one for hesitancy in Black communities

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES

- invited to podcasts incl Food & Faith Podcast ;The Hyphenated Life (Boulder); interviews re pandemic losses of connection (ELCA RMR Synod); Alzheimer's in Black Communities (AMZ)
- members noted re struggles of congregations in pandemic has led to movements toward shared ministries
- revisit mapping churches of each denomination as resource for collaboration

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE RECAP

- hack attempt the night before; some video delays
- 14K visited website, 2000 on YouTube, 1000 on Facebook
- next year 75th; compelling speaker (national renown?); \$30K needed – discussion on how to fundraise (blunt about cancelling if not raised?)

ADVOCACY/LEGISLATIVE

- **FAITHFUL THURSDAYS**
 - low viewership; suggest sending video links to legislators
 - Virtual Closing Event on May 27th, CCC host
- **VOICES FOR JUSTICE** – Adrian assuming coordinator duties
- Faith Leaders letter re Path to Citizenship
- Possible Iliff Intern for 2021-22 fiscal year, Halley Anderson; compensation challenge

Unity Spiritual Center interested in affiliating with CCC

UPCOMING 2021 MEETINGS: 5/26; Summer??

Appendix B—Draft Media Release re Bishop Election

(contact person)
Rocky Mountain Regional Council
Ecumenical Catholic Communion
(phone number; email address)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5/15/21

Independent Catholics Call Woman Pastor To Be Their First Local Bishop

The Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion elects Mother Kae Madden

Northglenn, CO: With great joy, the Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion (ECC) announces that we have called Mother Kae Madden as our first local Bishop.

A formal affirmation by delegates of all the ECC communities across the country will occur at the Holy Synod gathering virtually this July. She will be consecrated locally at a later date.

Our radical hospitality shapes our communal life, mission and consensus model of decision-making, honoring every voice. The Region is united in faith and mission through its Regional Council. Until now our Presiding Bishop Francis Krebs served our sacramental and pastoral needs, assisted by a succession of local Vicars. Calling our own bishop adds a new voice to our holy conversations, a voice that is essential to our Catholic understanding of being church together.

On behalf of the Council of Bishops, Bishop Francis writes: “We are grateful to the Holy Spirit of the Living God for inspiring the church in the Rocky Mountain Region to choose Bishop-elect Kae Madden. We are thrilled that Kae, who has a long track record of facilitating respectful conversations and collaborative agreements among members of the Body of Christ, will be, to borrow a phrase from Frere Roger of Taizé, ‘the Servant of Unity in the Midst of the Assembly’ for this vital region within the ECC.”

About the ECC’s Rocky Mountain Region: In 2003 the Church of the Holy Family in Aurora, CO became one of the founding churches of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion’s “communion of communities.” Over the years several of its missions up and down the Front Range became independent churches. The members of Church of the Beloved in Northglenn (of which Bishop-elect Kae serves as pastor), Light of Christ ECC in Longmont, Mary of Magdala ECC in Fort Collins, and most recently St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith in Denver, together with Holy Family, now comprise the Rocky Mountain Region of the ECC.

Many of our individual communities are engaged with local ecumenical and interfaith associations, particularly focused on social justice advocacy and service; e.g., the Rocky Mountain Region of the ECC became a member of the Colorado Council of Churches in 2016. (The ECC has been a member of the National Council of Churches since 2014.)

The majority of our communities do not have worship spaces of their own, but are hosted by other denominations. Some enjoy covenant relationships of faith, mission and service with them, building communion from the ground up. In Colorado this led to Bishop Francis’s signing a 2019 agreement with Bishop Jim Gonia of the ELCA’s Rocky Mountain Synod regarding “Collaboration in Mission and Sharing in Worship” within their shared territories; they hope it will be a model of ecumenism for our wider Communion. May God bless Bishop-elect Kae as such relationships grow.