

**Board of Directors Meeting
Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion
Minutes**

June 5, 2025, 6 PM, via ZOOM

Host – Mary of Magdala; Facilitator – Rosean Amaral; Scribe - Tom Moos

Present:

Regional Bishop: Bishop Kae Madden
Vicar for Ecumenical Engagement: Father Michael Nicosia
Treasurer: Greg Yonker
STP: Father Don Sutton, Father Michael Nicosia
COB: Mother Alice Bradley
CHF: Anne Grant
LOC: Steve de Haas
MoM: Mother Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos

Excused Absent:

STP: Kirsten Barnard
COB: Dennis Giblin
LOC: Father Teri Harroun (Grand Jury duty)

Zoom Details

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82381106642?pwd=XiQ5a9vJCt57OSMGUUSUyuQefkDU7.1>

Meeting ID: 823 8110 6642

Passcode: 10500

Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer (Rosean started meeting at 6:08)

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!

Pre-Business

1. **Welcome guests.** None.
2. **Personal check In.**

Regular Business:

1. **Approve Notes/Minutes** from RMRC May 2025
Unanimous approval. **Tom will post to RMR website.**
2. **Agenda Additions/Approval**
Greg asked to add an item for reimbursing Michael for crystal pitchers. Rosean addressed that immediately. Greg asked for Council approval to reimburse \$115 for 3 oil pitchers to be used for regional Chrism Masses. All approved. **Greg will pay Michael.**

3. **Financial report.** Greg summarized tithe income, expenses and bank balances for May 2025. Our timed savings account is earning 4.0% annual yield. Budget approved unanimously.
4. **Bishop's report.** No initial questions on Kae's Bishop Report. Kae commented on Bps Pablo and Dewayne jointly supporting the Franciscans of Reconciliation who are remaining united with members from both the ECC and the communities that split off during the parting from the Mid-America diocese. Alice asked for more information about Cathy Chalmers who recently interviewed with the HOP for incardination. Though a bishop, Cathy is not elected and doesn't lead an ECC diocese. So her incardination is a bit unusual. She would only serve as a bishop if one of the regions needed her to do bishop duties. Kae also highlighted Fr Scotty, a Catholic, who is serving in two Lutheran communities in Nebraska. He wants to be affiliated with our region since Nebraska is not part of an ECC diocese currently. The Lutherans (e.g. Bp Gonia) support extra-denominational pastors in unusual circumstances, with specific dispensation. Fr Scotty will probably attend our regional Synod in October.
5. **Vicar's report.** Michael's new address is in his vicar's report (and earlier he shared photos of their new home). Our waiting list status for a non-profit booth at Denver PRIDE remains unchanged but Greg is our contact with organizer and Michael will probably help out if demands of the move allow. Michael regrets that the "First 100 days of Trump's Presidency" webinar was not recorded. The session was a success. Rosean had a conversation with Frank Quintana who is interested in taking on some of Michael's roles. **Teri will make this a focus area at the midterm assessment meeting on Saturday, June 7. Michael will try to attend that meeting.**
6. **Leadership Council Report (HOL and HOP Steering Committees).** Rosean summarized topics discussed at a recent HOP steering committee meeting. Don Pachuta will be leading a Spirituality and Spiritual Growth group. Other special group initiatives ("preaching", "fundraising", "planning") don't have a leader and are not moving forward at this time. Trish is trying to connect with colleagues in proto-diocese who are far apart and not as interacting as our 5 parishes in the RMR..9 people showed up to an initial zoom meeting trying to strengthen those relationships. Trish wants to get to know them, do networking. Constitutional revisions being investigated by a subcommittee working with George von Stamwitz with Kate Lehman, Don Pachuta, Delores Kropf, Trish Vanni, and Teri. (Note:Lay involvement is also expected – Tom has signed up from our region.) Synod 2026 has 10-12 volunteer planners. Planners are considering Drury Hotel as a venue, given the positive reviews of the Drury in St Louis. USA Today ad, no one really knows what happened to the ad. Hardcopies never went out to subscribers, certainly not in the numbers we expected. Kae bought and has a hardcopy. Tom helped Carolyn Sue download a digital copy of the entire USA Today issue although the pages are watermarked for personal use only. **Tom also reconstructed the ad as a high-resolution jpg from 6 screen shots of portions of the ad and will send out a copy to the RMRC members.** Around the ECC, Tim Rooney was ordained in Phoenix and Holy Angels is looking for a pastor. Tom reported that Mary Lu Stenson is doing a great job informing HOL delegates of updates from the HOL steering community. George von Stamwitz will be retiring and the ECC is looking for a new Chancellor, Art Bavoso retiring from leadership of Mary Magdalene Society and someone is needed to lead that. Nationally the ECC is looking for a program for education and training for anyone working with youth and vulnerable adults as an extension of the Safe Environments SEFFY initiative of the ECC Synod in 2022. Mary Lu is asking folks to send faith community updates to her.

No progress to report on next steps for our 2024 ECC Visioning exercise. **Kae will follow up with Bishops.**

Parking Lot Items (not necessarily to talk about this time, but don't lose these)

1. Kae-invitation on how to support undocumented parishioners at this time (from March 2025). Postponed for now.
2. Create a process for evaluating and prioritizing sponsorship requests (tabled from Feb 2025). Tom noted that this is a nontrivial exercise and warrants pre-meeting homework and consideration. To be resumed later.
3. Election (maybe) of next RMR bishop (tabled from Feb 2025). Also a non-trivial exercise and warrants extensive discussion. May eventually require a focused "Call Committee"? We should also review the Bishop's job description.
4. Review current RMR Constitution to determine if we need new legislation (tabled from Feb 2025). Based on inputs, we're trying to avoid legislation at regional synod. However, given time constraints before Oct 2025, Kae suggested scheduling a deadline for Constitution reviews and collecting inputs and also proposed a separate meeting on the morning of Aug 2, 10-11am? Here are the links:
RMR Foundational Docs website: <https://www.rockymountaineccumenicalcatholics.org/documents>
RMR Constitution:
https://www.rockymountaineccumenicalcatholics.org/files/ugd/4927fc_34c397ac766e49f8b8029ccd622b7ccc.pdf
RMR Bylaws:
https://www.rockymountaineccumenicalcatholics.org/files/ugd/4927fc_721fdd037ac84dc7aa8914e737873c2f.pdf
5. Clarification of roles in the RMRC, e.g. our legal status, officers, federal and state tax filing status, who can write checks?, where are minutes stored long term?, contacts and access to website and social media?. etc. **Greg summarized answers to most of these questions and will provide this info in writing for next meeting.**

Community Updates

1. **STP:** Greg reported the most recent big event was 100th anniversary of the building. There are projects completing and underway to make the building more handicap accessible. Nice turnout for anniversary Mass, Pastor Chris gave homily, Michael did vocals with piano accompanist. Both communities enjoyed. Pastor Chris had a cake made with celebratory names and numbers (e.g. years with community, years ordained, birthdate. E.g..Michael's name had the number 1556, the number of miles he will be away from us. Don noted that transition is moving from one thing to another, sometimes not easy but growthful. The community is using services and skills of a Lutheran pastor trained with interim pastorship – will be a grace for the community. STP has engaged a cantor from Opera Colorado to help lead music.
2. **MoM:** Sendoff for Michael on May 18th. Rosean summarized sendoff liturgy and blessing which Michael volunteered to read as Rosean teared up, the gift of a stole, and a Mexican feast that followed. Rosean also summarized recent liturgical celebrations and focused on The Visitation. Tom reported that much Social Justice effort is still going into supporting the

Immigrant community in Fort Collins. Most of our social justice work is done collaboratively with St Paul Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran, our 301 Faith Partners.

3. **COB:** Alice shared that long time, founding, member is developing early stage dementia, moving to Missouri, and the community had a send off blessing and reception. 5 COB youth graduated from high school. Much work has gone into preparing for Kae's leave of absence. Alice appreciates all of Kae's work in this regard. Thanks to volunteer guest presiders (e.g. Frank, Bp Pable, Jane, Rosean). Behind the scenes, Jane and Linda Land Crosson are doing another round of the 1619 Project over zoom on Wed evenings 6:30 – 8 pm starting June 18. Both went on pilgrimage to Montgomery.
4. **LOC:** Steve: 20th anniversary of LOC will occur on Sat, June 7 with liturgy at 5pm followed by a potluck dinner and story-telling. Pentecost marked LOC's first meeting in gym of Senior Center.
5. **COHF:** Anne: Community is still dealing with transition details with lots of help from Kae, A big community meeting is planned for after Mass, June 8th.

Old Business

1. **Michael Moving (May/June) and Roles.** We'll focus on prioritizing and refilling Michael's roles at our mid-term assessment meeting on Sat, June 7 (Teri has distributed an agenda and Zoom link). Summary of responsibilities:
 - a. ECC rep on the CCC Board of Directors
 - b. Regional website admin: Tom
 - c. Administer regional FB page. Teri.
 - d. RMR contact with Denver PRIDE. Greg is covering for 2025. Who owns long term?.
 - e. Representative to Extraordinary Catholics and independent Catholic jurisdiction circles.
 - f. Representative to Colorado Faith Communities United to end gun violence. STP's rep is Michelle Yonker. Michael clarified that CFCU needs more faith communities joining with their own representatives rather than having regional representation.
2. **Regional Synod 2025.** Next meeting of planning team, June 11 6pm. Teri has sent out an invitation, agenda and zoom links. She will manage us well.
3. **Denver PRIDE.** Discussed during Michael's vicar report.
4. **USA Today.** Discussed earlier. No further update.
5. **Clergy Continuing Education Forms** Should have been turned in in April.
6. **Mid-Term Review.** To be continued Saturday June 7, at 10am on zoom. Teri has distributed an agenda and Zoom links.
7. **Website, FB page, other social media.** Not covered tonight. Eventually, begin a conversation about overall purpose/focus, "guardrails" for these resources. Who is the audience of each of these tools? What does the audience need from the tool? How do we evaluate information to best represent RMRC/ECC with these tools?

New Business:

1. **Pastoral Care Training Session.** (*Info taken from agenda*) Expanding pastoral care within our communities could be a great asset. Recognizing the desire of ECC Pastors to expand pastoral care within their church communities, this interactive training provides insights and practices designed to help lay people make visits to other community members, offering them additional caring contact beyond that which the priest gives. It also considers ways to support the pastor and other clergy in the community.

Content: The 4 hour session is made up of five modules which are entitled as follows...

- a. Why provide Pastoral Care?
- b. Assuring confidentiality
- c. Sharing prayer and Eucharist
- d. Providing a listening ear (both active and reflective)
- e. Maintaining healthy boundaries
- f. Vetting volunteers for lay pastoral care ministry
- g. Clergy support.

The training will be held on Saturday August 23rd, from 10am to 2pm at Church of the Beloved. The training will be open to everyone in the RMR who is interested. Chuck Cooper and Mary Franch, from Light of Christ ECC, are happy to bring this training session to the Rocky Mountain Region of the ECC. Both are experienced and trained Stephen Ministers and Stephen Ministry leaders. Mary also served as Lay Pastoral Associate at Light of Christ for many years and Chuck has been the Parish Council Staff Liaison in support of LOC's pastor. Steve joined Rosean in advocating for this training. How do we take non-critical pastoral care off the back of our pastors, extra support for folks that just need a listening ear. Makes a huge difference in pastor's support. It is not a zoom telecast. Attend at COB. **RSVP so COB knows how many are coming.**

2. Next RMRC Meeting. COB is facilitating July 3 meeting. Will the proximity to July 4th pose a problem? Alternate date, July 10th? **Alice will ask for availability via email.**

Closing Prayer: Rosean

Lead Rotation of 2025 RMRC Meetings: Jul 3—COB; Aug 7 CHF; Sep 4—LOC; Oct 2—STP; Nov 6—MoM; Dec 4—COB;

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

RMRC Adopted Practice of Consensus Decision Making: See

https://www.rockymountaineccumenicalcatholics.org/files/ugd/4927fc_93bd19c7f50b477d8c74e9352ca42ebc.pdf

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Moos, Mary of Magdala

Appendix A: Bishop Notes: Activity in May 2025

Personal: Our grandson's graduation was a good family celebration. The wee great grandchild is growing well – 4 lbs. 14 oz with 6 weeks to go :) Needless to say, I have spent some time preparing for the leave of absence, mostly with Church of the Beloved presider rotation, etc. Thank you all for your support.

Listening and Relationship building:

Administration: Called a special meeting of the council May 28th to request a leave of absence June 9 -July 21. Graciously it was approved. Plan to participate in the assessment meeting on Sat. June 7th.

Advocacy/Presence/Consultation:

- CCC Pentecost video

Clergy support:

Praying with many...

Clergy meetings and phone calls

Weekly Friday clergy gatherings:

Community support:

- Consultation and support for with engaged laity and clergy with Church of the Holy Family in their transition – leadership meeting May 29th, community meeting June 8.
- Consultation in St. Paul's pastor transition.
- Plan to attend LOC 20th anniversary reception

Liturgies/Sacraments

Synod planning: May 7

Ordination: Further inquiry regarding incardination Fr. Scotty from NE – ECC USA. I'll seek guidance from the bishop council.

Formation

Continuing discernment with Jim. Dory is in discernment for the permanent diaconate at Mary of Magdala

Mike's discernment team will continue as support as he completes his remaining courses while serving his internship at LOC and navigating the challenges at CHF. Support of Christy as she determines her level of involvement, gains practical experience and considers the timing of her presbyteral ordination.

ECC

Council of Bishops

- We are exploring a Council of Bishop retreat in the days following our synod, Oct 12-15.
- Meeting May 12
 - Franciscan gathering: Bob Pragano made final profession and Pablo attended. A letter of support from both Bishop Dewayne and Bishop Pablo
 - Ordinations at St. Stanislaus in St. Louis: Pablo will ordain Deacons Chad and Laurie
 - Bishop Cathy Chalmers – Interviewed with HOP and Hold were positive. Yes to incardination. She is a member of the Chaplains Assoc as her affiliation.
 - Ordinations at St. Stanislaus in St. Louis: Pablo will ordain Deacons Chad and Laurie

- Meeting on June 6

Consulting with Pablo: Phone calls and meetings to discuss the current climate and functioning of the ECC, perspectives.) Prayers for Pablo and Rosa as they head to Guatemala for Rosa's birthday June 9 – 24th.

Appendix B: Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 06 05 2025

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS in red

Update: Offer on a new house ACCEPTED! Closing June 26.

Future forwarding address: 866 Bridle Ln, Webster NY 14580

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Turned over administration of Regional Facebook page to Teri. (Thank you.)

Still on waiting list for a non-profit Pride booth; Greg is now the contact person with Carol Hiller.

I'll still be around, and may be able to help if needed, if not too swamped with the final packing.

Participated in 5/7 Colorado Prayer Luncheon (see below).

Mid-week Oasis dinner 5/7—I'll get to see Fr. Stan before I leave town!

Participated on panel for CCC/Iliff "First 100 Days Reflection 4/29.

Participated in Regional Pastors' Friday prayers.

Last time presiding at StP 5/3, Dignity 5/4 and at MoM 5/18.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting—MAY 22, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

VOICES FOR JUSTICE UPDATE—working on their page-long summaries, to be published on CCC website

EVENT RECAP

- [Genocide Awareness Sermon Weekend](#) June 11 debriefing
- [Congregational Legal Talk: Sheltering Vulnerable People](#)
- [Trump First 100 Days Reflection](#)—April 29th—was not recorded
- [Power of Community, Power of One](#) multi-faith event on May 1
- Colorado Prayer Luncheon—May 7: focused on use of church properties for affordable housing, housing for unwed mothers, et al. StP had table for 10 with our members, UCC pastor, 2 ECUSA chaplains, and my 2 neighbors involved in a Black Church street ministry.
- Lunch 'n' Learn Webinar through DOJ: [Early Warning Signs for Protecting Places of Worship](#)—May 13; poorly attended; regrouping through DOJ personnel running it were laid off

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Pentecost video—only one judicator committed thus far; Adrian to circle back
- Fall Youth Summit—more info to come

NEXT MEETING—SEPTEMBER 2025 **(still no current Board members have volunteered to Chair;
no one in the RMR-ECC has approached me to discern representing us on the Board.**