

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

May 3, 2025, 9:30 AM **in person** at 6th Ave. United Church of Christ-3250 E. Sixth Ave. Denver,
80206

Host: St. Paul Facilitator- Don Sutton; Scribe-Kirsten Barnard

Present: Kirsten Barnard, Greg Yonker, Steve DeHaas, Tom Moos, Don Sutton, Sue Hester (guest), Teri Harroun, Kae Madden, Michael Nicosia, Anne Grant, Rosean Amaral, Dennis Giblin

Excused: Alice Bradley

Zoom Details

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

Meeting ID: 823 8110 6642

Passcode: 10500

Pre-Business

Social time with gratitude /blessings activity for Fr. Michael was enjoyed with a potluck breakfast.

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, Amen!

Regular Business:

1. Welcome guests. Sue Hester
2. Review how decisions are made (Consensus Model at bottom of agenda)

Group confirmed they want to use the "Five is I can't live without it (like a high five) 1 is no way I'm outta here." (like a thumb pointing down in disapproval) version. We will update with today's date this version! Greg is getting correct version to print. Version on website is correct says Michael. The May 2019 version is wrong.

3. Approve Notes/Minutes from RMRC April 2025 -Kirsten moved to approve and group approved.
4. Agenda Additions/Approval -Kae says we should consider having a representative of the clergy that are not assigned to a specific community be in this RMRC group. **Add to next meeting's agenda.**
5. Financial report. -Greg updated reports including 12 month budget which now matches proposed go forward budget. He sent treasury report and yearly budget but the yearly form needs a bit of tweaking. He needs to add savings account (short term account) to the yearly budget form. **He will go back to correct report.**

No questions or comments. Feel free to email Greg with questions. Michael noted his stipend for May would be his last.

6. Bishop's report.

Kae asked for questions or concerns. She reported most of April was Church things including Easter. There will be a council of bishops retreat following the regional synod. Sue asked when the regional synod will be. It is Oct 11, 2025. Kae reminded us to send continuing education plans to Fr. Scott. Kirsten asked to clarify about St. Paul responsibilities for this. Kae explained more about this process and Teri mentioned that it is a fairly new process for the region.

7. Vicar's report.

Michael reported he's moving to New York by the first couple of weeks of June. He was interviewed by WSJ. Article is linked in his report. There's a paywall that may be a barrier to reading it. Teri appreciated his preserving relationship with Roman Catholics in his interview. Gun violence council (CFCU) featured St. Paul May newsletter and his leaving. We are still on wait list for PRIDE booth. He's the contact. **Kirsten suggested perhaps he pass off this job to someone else.** He participated in an Iliff panel about first 100 days of Trump administration. Was contacted by BBC re: conclave for the next Pope. He clarified to them the ECC is not Roman Catholic. Today is his last presiding over Mass at St. Paul.

Dennis brought up Michele being only person with CFCU and asked if we should get someone from another community but Michael clarified St. Paul is an individual member-not the ECC as a region. He reminded Kae to do the Pentecost video for CCC. **She will contact Adrian Miller to see if he needs more.**

8. Leadership Council Report (HOL and HOP Steering Committees)

Rosean reported planning for 2026 national synod is happening. Some folks are already volunteering for this. **Contact Rosean to volunteer.** She needs around 10 people. Deacons have finalized language for Deacon's roles. Tom shared this language will go into ECC statutes. This wording should be finalized by the 2026 synod. A Constitutional revisions group is being formed and Teri is on that committee. More are welcome. The house of pastors steering committee is putting together work groups on professional development. The groups include preaching and fund raising. **(I'm missing one!) Help please)** So far there's not leadership for all three groups but people are willing to be on all three committees. Kae asked about a synod follow up survey, but Rosean said they don't have anything on that yet.

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

a. Kae-invitation on how to support undocumented parishioners at this time (from March 2025) **We need to set a date to talk about this** and Rosean provided a copy to each of us present of guidance their community uses for keeping immigrants safe. The back page has a sign they use in their community telling ICE they may not enter without a judicial warrant. Rosean said their members are asked to find a clergy person to address any immediate immigration issues if ICE showed up at the church.

b. Create a process to evaluate sponsorship requests (tabled from Feb 2025)-keep in PL

c. Election (maybe) of next RMR bishop (tabled from Feb 2025)-keep in PL

d. Review current RMR Constitution to determine if we need new legislation (tabled from Feb 2025) -Keep in PL

e. Clarification of roles in the RMRC. Our legal status. Officers. State filing.

Who can write checks. Where are minutes stored long term. Access to website. Etc.-
Keep all except "a." in Parking Lot.

10. Community Updates

- **STP:** St. Paul Michael presided the entire Easter Triduum. Easter Vigil followed the German catholic reading selection. A bit shorter than typical Roman Easter Vigil and came with context that helped people. There was a co-UCC Easter service-not a joint eucharist but very well received and Fr. Don was thanked by UCC members for praying with them. There is one huge end of May celebration for Michael's leaving, 42nd ordination anniversary of Don. And 24th year of St. Paul **and** UCC celebration of accessibility work completion. Pastor C. Gilmore will preach at that day's 4:30 Mass. We do brown bag lunches and provide breakfast for homeless. People are hearing about St. Paul through Fr. Michael.

Michael said Tom Mouser could speak about his Ceasefire group to any of our communities. Sue asked about a priest being ordained at COB in case we could put her in our sites for a new priest. Fr. Don expressed he is aware of her. Celebration of life of a parishioner who was 93 was lovely. St. Paul is continuing its transition to new leadership and have a supportive expert who has done this work before to help St. Paul with transition (along with all the support from Kae).

- MOM: -Good holy week and Easter. They had a goodbye/funeral to a beloved community member who died. Their family really liked the service. 301 faith partners are tied into immigration in Ft. Collins. MOM used the rice bowl idea to raise money for immigrants and had an overwhelming response with nearly \$6000 to the group-ISAAC who helps these immigrants. Fr. Frank gave a great sermon about being bold. Rosean feels they are bold in their social justice acts.
- COB: During Lent they supported Project Angel Heart which provides healthy meals to ill people who cannot leave home. They financially supported and decorated bags. Palm Sunday and holy week went well. All well attended. Deacon Christy graduates this month. Soon they will have another priest.
- LOC: June 7 is 20th anniversary of LOC at Pentecost. Party with theme of Come Grow with Us will happen. The Lutherans will handle LOC's Pride Fest Booth since its the night of the anniversary party. Walk on Good Friday was about climate justice and well attended.
- COHF: No extra things for Lent. There was an Easter service. Michael presided. Two rosary making groups were held. Lots of people took to the rosary making. Rosaries are piling up and will be given away at PRIDE or elsewhere if that doesn't happen. There are a couple of zoom rosaries that happen in two communities. Bishop Kae has helped with a way forward "holy conversation." They will have a follow up meeting about way forward with congregation.

SPECIAL MEETING Kae suggested next meeting we can do the Mid-Term Review as first topic so we get to it. Then we discussed trying to meet separately a different day for Mid-Term Review. A Saturday morning on zoom was discussed. **Saturday June 7th was suggested. 10:00** am works for about one hour. Just be sure to go over the questions in advance. Teri will lead the discussion. We will still have a regular meeting on 5th of June.

All old business and new business will be moved to next meeting. Meeting ended with group photo and celebratory toast to Michael.

Old Business

1. Michael moving (May/June). Don staying on a bit. How do we decided what is a priority to fill from Michael's role?

a. Regionally, we'll be looking for someone to be our ECC rep on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Council of Churches.

It is only one meeting a month, plus keeping everyone informed about the CCC's advocacy work.

b. Fortunately, Tom has expressed his willingness to be the admin of the Regional website. We'll be getting together for a tutorial.

Along with periodic changes to keep it fresh and relevant, there's the posting of events and documents.

c. We'll also need someone to take over social media, administrator of our FB page.

Purpose to share regional, national, and CCC news and calls to action.

It would be nice of someone shares important posts on other platforms.

d. We continue to talk about covering my past involvements around ECC participation in Denver PrideFest.

Michael encourages regional clergy to attend other Front Range Pride celebrations.

e. Regular fellowship with others in the Extraordinary Catholics! And independent jurisdiction circles.

+Kae has some connect with the various bishops. Relationship building is important.

f. Michele Yonker is one of our StP reps to CFCU; would like a 2nd to take Michael's place.

Share advocacy updates with the region.

Other ECC communities encouraged to join and have their own reps.

2. Regional Synod 2025.

Updates:

Brainstorming Zoom Session May 7th, 6:00pm – 7:15pm.

All communities have a representative

3. Denver PRIDE, updates/who will take over correspondence with Denver Pride?

4. USA Today/ Wall St. Journal

Any follow up needed?

5. Clergy Continuing Education Forms turned in. Should have been turned in in April.

6. Mid-Term Review--continued

Informed by all the data we have gathered, what are the themes, take-aways, ways forward, action items, etc, emerging.

How would we as a group (fully informed) answering the following from the assessment:

With the information provided, which Regional Priorities do you consider most important and how well are they being addressed? Response:

In what specific ways are the broad regional needs of your community and its members being met or not met? Response:

Are there other activities that you feel are more important, or at least as important, as those that are being addressed? If so, what are they? Response:

Other comments: Please tell the Bishop, Vicar and the RMRC, in your own words, anything you have to say about leadership from the Rocky Mountain Region. Response:

New Business:

1. Website, FB page, other social media, "preaching", social justice

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 represents RMRC/ECC with these tools?

Closing Prayer:

For Celebration by John O'Donohue (to celebrate Michael)

For Celebration

Now is the time to free the heart,

Let all intentions and worries stop,
Free the joy inside the self,
Awaken to the wonder of your life.

Open your eyes and see the friends
Whose hearts recognize your face as kin,
those whose kindness watchful and near,
Encourages you to live everything here.

See the gifts the years have given,
Things your effort could never earn,
The health to enjoy who you want to be
And the mind to mirror mystery.

Lead Rotation of 2025 RMRC Meetings: Jun 5—MoM; 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 (on website), and send notes in a timely fashion.

Appendix A: Bishop Notes: Activity in April 2025

Personal: Most of the month, understandably, I was engaged as pastor in preparation for and journeying through Holy Week and Easter. It was good to have a bit of time off after Easter. Our grandson will graduate high school on May 18th – a milestone for the family.

Listening and Relationship building:

Administration

April: Each community leadership council should have sent their clergy's individual continuing education reports (and plans?) to Fr. Scott.

Advocacy/Presence/Consultation:

- Labyrinth prayer at COB during Hands Off protests Apr 5
- April 29th listened to the Iliff and CCC panel regarding Trump's first 100 days. Thanks to Michael for being a panelist. It was an honest conversation from four different points of view about the effects of the decisions that have been made and each person's response.

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.
- Consultation in St. Paul's pastor transition. April 4th and 24th on zoom.

Liturgies/Sacraments

Ordination:

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. Support of Christy as she completes her third year of study and graduates May 17th.

ECC

Council of Bishops

- Meetings: April 14th We are exploring a Council of Bishop retreat in the days following our synod, Oct 12-15.
- USA Today ad – any responses?

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

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 05 03 2025

submitted 4/30/2025 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS in red

Update: going to Rochester last week in May for house-hunting; plan is move to a temporary rental mid-June.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Gave Tom tutorial for Regional website administration.

Posted daily Lenten reflections on Regional Facebook page, et al.

Interviewed in WSJ https://www.wsj.com/us-news/conservative-catholic-maga-pope-vance-b2a4497b?st=YfepRJ&re-fliink=article_copyURL_share

Attended Hands Off rally at Denver Capital 4/5.

Attended CFCU annual meeting 4/6; **interviewed for article in next newsletter featuring StP.**

Widely shared USA Today Advertorial.

Still on waiting list for a non-profit Pride booth.

Participated in CCC RedRocksEaster and shared news coverage.

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

Was contacted 4/30 by one of the producers working on the Sunday programme at BBC Radio 4, wanting input from around the world on the Conclave. Clarified we're not Roman Catholic, but willing to talk. Haven't heard back yet. (Informed +Kae, +Pablo and Carolyn Sue)

Joint *The Power of Community/The Power of One* observance at 6thAve/StP 5/1.

Participated in Regional Pastors' Friday prayers.

Presided at MoM 4/13; CHF 4/20; Dignity 4/6, 5/4. (StP First ever presider for full Triduum!)

5/3 may be my last time presiding at StP; 5/18 at Mom.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board Meeting—April 24, 2025

CALL TO ORDER/ GATHERING THOUGHTS: Not my Pope, but my kind of Pope.

UPDATES:

- Jerusalem Youth Choir from east and west Jerusalem May 30-June 1 (Boulder UMC May 31; looking for June 1 venue, possibly Denver Central Pres)
- Rev. Terri Bowen (UCC) new Board member

- Board aware that ECC may not have another Board volunteer; value +Kae's participation on Judicatory Board.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

- Attendance 7400; Online viewership 5200;
Financials YAY! >\$44K first time in years we raised enough to cover the costs plus a little more!

VOICES FOR JUSTICE UPDATE:

- Halftime report on website; final report to come
- Would love more youth involvement

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- [Genocide Awareness Sermon Weekend](#)
- [Congregational Legal Talk: Sheltering Vulnerable People](#)
- [Trump First 100 Days Reflection](#)—April 29th
- [Power of Community, Power of One](#) multi-faith event 5/1 (StP and 6thAveUCC are hosting one)
- Lunch 'n' Learn Webinar: [Early Warning Signs for Protecting Places of Worship](#)—May 13
- Pentecost video

FYI from Chair: interviewed in WSJ https://www.wsj.com/us-news/conservative-catholic-maga-pope-vance-b2a4497b?st=YfepRJ&reflink=article_copyURL_share

Advised Board not to post article on CCC website, as RC Archdiocese isn't a member and, while well balanced, may be interpreted as critical of Conservative Catholics.

NEXT MEETING—MAY 22, 2025 AT 9 A.M.

