

**Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion
Board of Directors
Meeting minutes for 10/3/24 @6:00 PM MDT via Zoom**

Host: Church of the Holy Family Facilitator: Rev. Jane Reina Scribe: Gayle Craun

Attending: +Kae, Tom, Jane, Chuck, Dennis, Alice, Liz, Rosean, Don, Michael, Gayle
Excused: Anne, Greg
Guest: Gayle

Meeting commenced at 6:00 PM

Opening prayer/Synod prayer

Regular Business

1. Welcome visitors – Gayle
2. **Agenda approval/additions - none**
3. **Review and approval of September minutes**
 - a. Minutes approved
4. **Financial report – screen shared. Greg was unavailable.**
 - a. Dennis: QuickBooks seems expensive.
 - b. +Kae will ask Greg to do a spreadsheet comparing our year-to date expenses and income to the budget.
 - c. Income and expenses for September meeting approved.
 - d. Financial report approved.
5. **Bishop's report**
 - a. Synod conversations continue.
 - b. Colorado meeting – interfaith communities – Together Colorado of particular interest, see notes. Kae will follow-up to see what we are going to do moving forward.
6. **Vicar's report - Michael**
 - a. CCC positions regarding statewide ballot issues – no judicatory consensus other than NO on school choice, tougher parole eligibility and funding for law enforcement.
 - b. Adrian asks for review of voter guide; would any church be willing to do event on Christian nationalism? Tom: would talk with MoM Social Justice Committee; possible interest. Tom will not commit without community input; not possible before election.
 - c. Approved
 - d. Michael follow-up regarding move: Marc still looking for job opportunities; they do not want to move in middle of winter.
7. **Leadership Council – Terri**
 - a. Very pleased with direction and planning of Synod.
8. **Old/Recurring Business**
 1. **Holy Synod**
 - a. Jane to Tom: anything new on remote dial-in? Tom's response: *NO*.

Recent meeting with A/V team; volunteers lined up to work on it. It was suggested that different meeting ID's be issued; Tom responded that was not a good plan. Only exceptions would be HOP/HOL meetings. Sunday mass will be livestreamed; details in progress, will be passed to Trish Vanni. Letters going out to all registrants.

- b. Information about Synod viewing posted on "Holy Synod 2024 – ECC" public Facebook page. Michael finalizing liturgy; slides will not be changed. Need GF Eucharistic ministers. **Chuck suggested a person, will reach out.**
- c. +Kae – unfortunate that we don't have legislation issues to discuss which gives us opportunities to interact and learn who we are.
- d. 130 registered, may include 25 on Zoom. YMCA rooms are at capacity.

2. Community updates

- a. MoM – Rosean
Fundraising for Habitat for Humanity; goal \$5000.
Tom – Social Justice. Showing video.
10/20/24 joint service with Trinity Lutheran community **and** St Paul's Episcopal.
The theme of the service was "immigration", included adult ed, an immigration-themed liturgy, followed by luncheon and collection of winter gear and hygiene supplies for immigrant students.
Blessing of Animals.
- b. CoB – Dennis
Fundraiser was successful and fun.
Rice and Bean project.
Invited the region to an LGBTQ discussion on 10/19/24
- c. St. Paul – Liz
Will share host church 100 year celebration of building; hope to do a significant event; trying to get building up to ACA code. Fund raiser/cabaret/silent auction being planned; date to be determined, Don said potentially March 2025. Looking for donations for silent auction.
- d. Holy Family – Jane
Len Schreiner celebrated mass in person on 9/29/24; good to have him.
Blessing of Animals on 10/5/24; signs on windows for building neighbors.

3. New Business

- a. Accountability Calendar is a work in progress.
- b. Marketing discussion tabled.
- c. Thanks to region from Truth and Reconciliation Committee.
Buttons and t-shirts will be available at Synod.
Anti-racism – 1619 Project meetings are on Saturdays, participation encouraged. Books have been purchased.
- d. +Kae –Regional Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – date of collective liturgy: Monday 1/20/25 – need help with creating the prayer experience. Tom and Jane will participate. In person event would work as well as on Zoom. **Invite our partners in ministry**

- e. 2025 Regional Synod
Think about planning for our local Synod, perhaps in January; last time (2023) April was a “push”. Perhaps discuss more at our November meeting >>> December?
 What do we want/need to talk about?
- f. Kae requests a “feedback” process mid-term for the bishop/vicar efforts. Evaluation per local Constitution priorities:
Chuck will write a list of appropriate questions for church councils; will consult with +Kae during development of evaluation.
- g. Jane: With Michael’s inevitable move, big shoes to fill.
 Tom will take over website; need someone on CCC. ECC has been valued members on CCC.
- h. Liz complimented Jane on getting thru meeting in one hour.
- i. Next meeting November 7 – LOC preside
- j. Don – closing prayer.
- k. Meeting concluded at 7:00 PM.

Lead Rotation of RMC Meetings:

2024: Nov 7 – LOC; Dec 5 – STP

2025: Jan 2 – MoM; Feb 6 – COB; March 6 (day after Ash Wed) – CHF
 April 3 – LOC, May 1 – STP, June 5 – MoM; July 3 – COB; Aug 7 – CHF;
 Sep 4 – LOC; Oct 2 – STP leads in person at LOC; Nov 6 – MoM;
 Dec 4 - COB

gkraun
 10/25/23
 Rev. 10/27/24
 Rev. 10/30/24 with revisions (Moos, Nicosia)
 Rev. 12/2/24 with appendices

Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in September 2024

+Kae

Personal: I will be present at Synod and with the Council of Bishops from Thursday, October 10 through Wednesday, October 16. Then I begin vacation and retreat time, returning to “active ministry” on October 29th.

Listening and Relationship building:

Administration

*Tabled from August: Mid-term, it would be useful to me if the council could design an evaluative tool send out to our communities to assess my ministry as bishop and whether expectations have been met or a shift in my focus is determined to be necessary. I checked the local constitution and it does not address evaluation in any way. Your thoughts?

Ongoing:

- Clergy Ethics/Safety Training:
- Continuing Education: Fr. Scott is willing to assist us by holding this expectation, assisting and conversation with clergy. Rosean would still retain the official records.

Advocacy/Presence/Consultation

I attended Together Colorado’s visioning session on Sunday Sept 22. The vision of this state-wide faith-based organization is to work together to encourage candidates for offices and boards and to advocate for legislation

and policies that are supportive of their mission: *Rooted in our sacred traditions, we work together to move from fear to liberation, from violence to life, from isolation to beloved community, so that our thoughts, words and actions place human dignity and care for creation at the center of public life.* Adams County, where I am located, does not have a faith-leader caucus. Neighboring counties have active groups, i.e. Boulder County, Denver, Northern Colorado.

Colorado Council of Churches: I responded to a request for positions regarding select ballot issues. I concurred with the Board on most.

Clergy support:

Praying with many...
 Clergy meetings and phone calls
 Weekly Friday clergy gatherings:

Community support:

Liturgies/Sacraments

Confirmation of a delightful young woman at MoM on Sept 8
 * **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is Jan 18 -25. See details in Appendix A1 below.**

Ordination:

Formation

Continuing discernment with Jim.
 Mike’s discernment team concluded with a unanimous thumbs up! He will be serving a mini-internship at LoC in 2024-2025 liturgical year while completing his studies. The discernment team will continue as support.
 Support of Christy as she completes her third year of study.

ECC

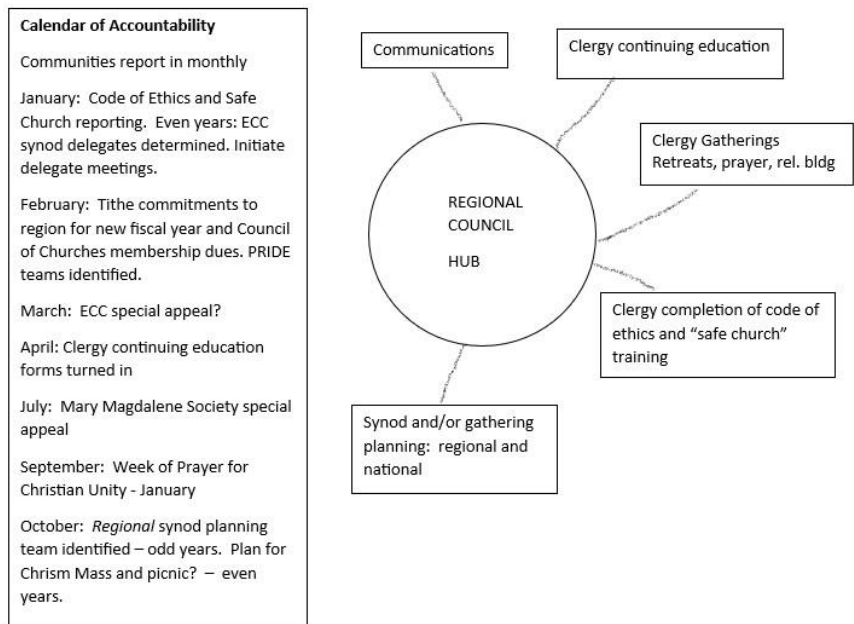
Regional Delegate meetings: We had a brief meeting on Tuesday, Sept 24, with updates and sharing. Sorry about the date confusion : (

Council of Bishops

- Meetings: Call on Sept 9.
- Synod planning: working with the process review team for a presentation on Saturday.

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 A1—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 resources available worldwide

Churches and Christian communities worldwide are invited to use the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 resources to pray together for the unity among churches throughout the year.

14 March 2024

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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For the year 2025, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy.

The resources are jointly published by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches. The final material is sent to WCC member churches and Roman Catholic episcopal conferences. Persons are invited to translate the text and contextualize or adapt it for their own use.

2025 marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 AD. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the creed formulated during this council.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

The guiding biblical text for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 comes from John 11:17-27. The theme for the week, “Do you believe this?” (v. 26), takes its cue from the dialogue between Jesus and Martha when Jesus visited the home of Martha and Mary in Bethany following the death of their brother Lazarus.

The traditional period in the northern hemisphere for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January. In the southern hemisphere churches often find other days to celebrate the Week of Prayer, for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for the unity of the church.

Mindful of the need for flexibility, organizers of the Week of Prayer invite you to use this material throughout the year to express the degree of communion which the churches have already reached, and to pray together for that full unity which is Christ’s will.

Those interested in receiving the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 resources in advance are kindly asked to send in their requests to the email address Media@wcc-coe.org.

Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 10 03 2024

submitted 10/2/2024 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS in red below

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

NY relocation postponed. Husband Marc's job search to resume in January 2025.

Wonderful vacation in NY visiting numerous State Parks and connecting with relatives.

Participated in Regional Pastors' Friday prayers.

Participated in Ecumenical Study Group throughout the month reviewing materials and helping to refine elevator speech defining group's purpose.

Attended monthly ECC Chaplains meeting; welcomed Linda Land-Closson who has expressed interest in joining the ECC.

Participated in Dignity Denver's 50th anniversary celebration (also participated in Dignity Rochester's discussions about their future after 49 years).

Conversations with +Pablo on ride up to Estes and back re Communion in general, focus on covenanting together while preserving diversity and autonomy, my relocation, retired clergy association, et al.

Incorporated +Pablo's revisions re Synod Liturgy re Mass time, inclusion of recognition of newly ordained and incardinated, including more Spanish. (Special thanks to Jean Christen for translating readings and Tom Moos for revising slides!)

Produced Synod Worship Aid for publication.

Produced Retired Clergy Association materials for info table.

Worked with Tom to clarify tech needs for Synod.

Got special event tax license for artist sales at Synod (so far no other artists have expressed interest).

Produced StP's video for the Parade of Communities.

Produced video of Synod closing song "Bless Our Way", circulated across the Communion. (Thanks to Mark Stenson for scoring the melody!)

Attended CFCU's 10th anniversary celebration; joined other clergy in offering closing blessings.

Participated in Regional delegates' meeting.

Lunch with Adrian Miller to discuss CCC business and my eventual relocation (hopefully someone will come forward to represent our Region on the Board). He expressed willingness to cater a Soul Food "Dinner with the Pastor" to be auctioned off to raise funds for 6thAveUCC's Capital Campaign.

Presided at CHF 9/22.

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES--didn't have a quorum at September meeting.

Board asked to review and email our feedback on the [Colorado Faithful Voter Guide](#) by Monday, Oct. 7th, to be published soon after. (Document includes Michael's initial comments.)

The CCC has been awarded a \$3,000 mini-grant to do some countering Christian Nationalism. **Adrian is asking if any church outside of the Denver metro area would be willing to do an event.** If so, please let Michael know ASAP.

We need to fundraise for the 2025 Easter Sunrise service. **Adrian is asking each board member to bring 5 fundraising contacts** to the next board meeting on October 23rd. These contacts could be an individual, a church that makes mission grants, a foundation, or even a business. Anyone who you think would financially support the service. He'll do the ask; just needs the contacts.