

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting**  
**May 28, 2009 7-9 pm**  
**Held at Light of Christ**

1. Opening prayer/meditation – Jude let the group in a short prayer.
2. Instruction to visitors/ general facilitation – Tom explained the meeting process and that there is an opportunity for guests to speak at the end.
3. Vicar’s Report – Father Scott provided the following information before the meeting:
  - I attended my last Leadership Council conference call this month. I was graciously thanked by the president of the House of Pastors for my years of service via e-mail.
  - I attended the monthly vicars’ conference call. I gave them my monthly update, inquired further regarding the developing situation at Sophia Spirit, and asked if we could move our meetings to a quarterly schedule.
  - I have spent some with the clergy and in some instances, the lay leadership from each community this month.
  - Would someone from each community send me a “hard copy” of the latest copy of their parish constitution? I would appreciate it.
  - There is no news from Fr. Frank Quintana regarding the health of his daughter, Jeannette Maria. They are still waiting for more test results.
  - The details of the retreat are shaping up. I am thankful for all who participated in the shaping of the agenda, joining the welcoming committee, and leading the prayer services. My thanks especially to Teri Thompson and Marlene Guganic for their many hours of work in all the administration details in order to make the retreat flow so smoothly.
  - My meetings with Lynn Boudreau continue. Every time we unravel one knotty group of problems we do a great job of creating more issues to be explored! If nothing else we are being very thorough in her case.
  - I would like 5 minutes to discuss the Tumaini ministries in Kenya.

Scott added he will have eye surgery this summer but that it should not interfere with any planned meetings. He asked what points, if any, of his report people wished to

discuss. He explained that Lynn Boudreau's ordination is being sponsored by the United Church of Christ (UCC), which allows people who have been ordained to serve in more than one church. He expects her to talk with the UCC next week about her ordination in the ECC as well.

Scott said that Bishop Peter had responded to our letter on the "Vision of the ECC" and said, "Thank you very much." Bishop Peter offered to distribute a PowerPoint on our process if we can get one together, and Chuck and Sheila agreed to do one. Scott said Father Krebs of St. Louis had responded more vigorously than we had, and the council agreed it would be helpful to read his response, too. The consensus was that the Regional Council has the authority to continue to address regional issues as it has in the past and develop regional procedures, as needed.

Scott said other regions may form; for instance, St. Louis, Chicago, and Oklahoma. Frank Krebs and his region might do something similar to our process and Jim Lehman and his group may follow a process more like California's. Florida may also form a region (with Father Steve and the Franciscans). Unfortunately, St. Andrew and St. Paul are closing in California, and Giovanna recently sent a letter to Sophia Spirit terminating mass, to the shock of parishioners.

Scott said there are several developments in California. Some new churches in California may form a "diocese." In addition, Father Armando Leyba is becoming a Bishop. He is vicar for a number of Spanish communities, which requested he become a Bishop. There was a lengthy discussion around the idea, meaning and process of his becoming a Bishop, and several members asked for more information, including whether those involved were following the procedures in the constitution. There was a concern that this might be a step that could affect the ECC nationally, when the time comes for selecting a new Presiding Bishop. Members expressed that it was important that the process be followed, to make sure that the ECC's philosophy of co-leadership with clergy and laity be honored. Scott said Bishop Peter has now said he will serve as Presiding Bishop until his term is up in 2012. Scott already had a phone call set with Bishop Peter to discuss the issue and he believed the community in California was following the constitutional protocol. (Since the regional council meeting, Scott talked with Bishop Peter, and confirmed that the process in our constitution is being followed with great discernment and now excitement. The Church of the Holy Trinity, where Fr. Armando is the pastor, celebrates 5 liturgies every Sunday, averaging 2,500 people. The community of Holy Trinity and Father Arturo's Hispanic community at St. Matthew are the communities calling Armando forth to be their Bishop. Armando meets regularly with 4 pastors of Hispanic, Old Catholic communities that have pledged to join the ECC

when Armando is ordained. They too would like to have Armando as their bishop. Armando will be brought forward as a candidate at the next synod.)

Scott says that Bishop Peter has decided to limit participation on Leadership Calls to Presidents and Vice Presidents of the House of Laity and House of Pastors, so Scott and Teri will no longer be on the calls.

#### 4. June ECC Retreat Planning –

A. ECC “Visioning” -- Sheila & Chuck discussed the possibility of doing a low tech “Thought Pile” game or exercise (using sticky notes) during the Retreat, to encourage people to show how they see the regional and national ECC communities developing in the future and to help define what people see as important goals in that process. Originally the discussion seemed to focus on using the game to develop regional visions, but ultimately the council agreed that any game like that at the retreat should be focused on national ideas and vision. There was quite a bit of discussion on when and where such an exercise would happen, and the council initially decided it was too late to insert the game into the already formed agenda that had been approved by the Leadership Council. However, upon further discussion, the council agreed to do it as an ancillary activity that would tie in nicely with the theme of the retreat and presentations at the retreat. Sheila and Chuck agreed to work out the details

B. Retreat registrations -- Teri Thompson reported that the schedule is finalized and registrations are trickling in. We can add additional rooms if needed. We need people to volunteer to help shuttle Bjorn. Gift bags will be simple, with sunscreen, water, instructions about altitude and other small items.

C. Retreat logistics -- Teri & Kathleen reported they still need some small group facilitators. For instance, Rose is taking a small group on a hike and will facilitate a talk on the hike. Teri is sending out activity information (lunch on own, breakfast and dinner provided, lunch can be obtained from the cafeteria).

D. Loose ends – Scott asked if anyone has volley balls, baseballs and mitts, and other similar items; if so, please bring them to the retreat.

5. Roman Catholic women priests -- Sheila reported on her recent trip to Washington, , where about 150-180 people attended a conference of independent Catholics. It was interesting to see the difference between the women and the men. Generally, the men were still hoping the RCC would change; the women were “moving on.” They see the ECC as having broken away from the RCC.

Bridget Mary did a breakout on women clergy. She has 2 churches and they run themselves very simply, without committees. People bring bread and wine and share Eucharist together. Scott said we are also exploring other models for operating a church and may do away with committees.

6. Regional Council Strategic Planning Retreat – Tom and Chuck presented a revised agenda, got feedback, and will develop another revision which will include using the presencing model.

7. Audience feedback

Father Don made 3 points: (a) the Thought Pile exercise was a good idea and the council should not let itself be limited by the existing agenda; (b) Bishop Peter will be here on September 19, the day after Sheila and Teri's ordination; that will be a good chance to give him the PowerPoint on the Regional Council and reflect on what we are doing here; and (c) the council should be concerned about the structure of the proposed diocese, as it provides for unilateral appointment of a Bishop without Synod approval. He urges the council to remain attuned to structural issues and decision-making procedures. Don's comments renewed the discussion about the Thought Pile exercise, and ultimately, Sheila and Church agreed to develop the idea, figure out the logistics, and to report back to the rest of the council in a week.

Teri Thompson raised a concern that the Council was using terminology of "we and them" in our discussions and that was not healthy. Her point was that we should be seeking a more homogenous "us" in our language.

8. Issues/work items for next month – There won't be any meetings in June and July, given the Retreat in June and the Strategic Retreat of the regional council in July. Work items and future meetings will be addressed by email.

9. Closing prayer – Sheila ended with a short prayer.