

**MINUTES**  
**Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting**  
**25 February 2010, 7-9 pm**  
**Light of Christ**

**In attendance:** Sheila Dierks, Chuck Howard, Laura Strom and Jude Biggs. Tom Stumpf was absent.

**Opening Prayer/Meditation:** Sheila led the group in the opening prayer.

**Instruction to Visitors/General Facilitation:** Chuck facilitated the meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Communications:** Jude explained that Sharon Taylor started a draft of the newsletter, but it needs work (cutting articles down, pulling together more info, etc.) Jude said she would work on the articles and get them into shape so that Sharon could work on the layout. Jude is hopeful that more volunteers will join the communications committee, as Sharon is busy with other work and the work needs to be spread around. In addition, it is important to start thinking about external communications, and that process cannot start without enough help.
- **Strategic Plan/Business:** Chuck has updated a few dates in the Strategic Plan, but had not made any substantial changes. He indicated that, after the facilitator for the discernment meeting is paid (\$450), the Council's checking account will have only \$13 left. Winnie Aiton and Kathleen Gorman have agreed to be on the financial advisory committee. Further, COB and St. Augustine are checking on possible volunteers and will be kept informed of meeting dates. The financial advisory committee needs to discuss how to finance regional expenses; Chuck will have a meeting of the committee before the next RC meeting and will bring recommendations to the next RC meeting. Chuck thanked Don Rickard for providing helpful feedback on the estimated budget requirements of a bishop (if one is called) and Chuck will bring a modified budget sheet to the next RC meeting.

Chuck reported on the recent Delegates meeting and that the topic for the next Delegates' meeting will focus on the relationship between the Council and Delegates. He also said he had had a productive discussion with David Kenney, in which they talked about the roles of the Council and delegates and the relationship between the two. They found they had more in common than they had realized. Both agreed that the question is not one of supervision, but one of accountability: is the Council accountable to the delegates or is it accountable to the communities? and regardless of the answer, how does it work?

Chuck also noted that as the RC's role becomes more defined, it should consider a formal constitution and/or by-laws. He has outlined his thoughts on the issue. Many of the key ideas for a constitution are already documented. The Council agreed that would be a topic for its next meeting, and Chuck will provide materials on it for that meeting.

- **Episcopacy:** The Episcopacy committee is now fully formed and has met. It is

made up of Bill Wycoff (COB), Digg Chen (HF), David Kenney (St. Aug.), Sheila Dierks (LOC), and Laura Strom (St. Aug.). Laura held a “get to know you” meeting earlier this month and the members had a thorough discussion of the educational and other issues related to whether the region calls a bishop. They have reviewed the relevant canons and are reading other “source” documents. The next meeting is on March 23. Everyone on the RC agreed that the RC’s purpose (and the RC Episcopacy committee’s purpose) is to help provide information on the issue and to develop a process for communities to discern about the issue. No one assumes that the region will (or will not) call a bishop. The result is open and up to the communities in the region.

#### **Follow-up Reports:**

- **Discernment Day:** Tom Stumpf provided a written report on the Discernment Day, which is scheduled at COB on March 27, 2010 from 9-12pm. The Council discussed what its role should be and agreed it might be helpful for 1 or 2 members to describe what it has been like to be on the RC, how much time it takes, and where new members may contribute most. The Council also thought it might be helpful to have a conversation with the candidates about the Strategic Plan. Sheila will provide the Strategic Plan to the facilitator so she can work the discussion into the discernment process. The Council also thought it might be helpful to save time at the end to allow the entire Council to talk about the regional vision. Sheila will also provide the RC’s Vision Statement to the facilitator before the discernment.

#### **Audience Feedback**

- Rose Chalifoux asked, with 2 candidates for the discernment process, whether it was possible one of the spots might not be filled. The Council answered “yes”; that was the reason for following through with the discernment process despite having 2 candidates for 2 positions. It is important for the candidates and the 4 communities to go through the discernment process.
- Don Rickard clarified that although it is good for the committees to draw from each of the communities, the committee members do not represent their communities. He said he thought the leadership of each community should be involved early in the education process about the episcopacy. He also said he hopes that the RC will make decisions where needed and to lead, without too much concern for possible criticism.

**Next Month's Topics:** committee reports (communications, business and episcopacy) and discussion on an RC constitution/by-laws.

Upcoming Events: *Next RMRC Meeting, Thursday 25 March 2010, 7-9 pm, COB*