

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting**  
**February 26, 2009 --7-9PM**  
**Light of Christ**

**Opening prayer/meditation** – Sheila passed a sphere and members reflected individually as we began.

**Instruction to visitors/General Facilitation**     **Jude** – reviewed the order of the meeting and rules for participation. Chuck was absent this evening and Jude took over task of facilitator.

**Vicars Report**   **@7:10**                                 **15 min**             **Fr. Scott**  
Mother Kae Madden is called to be pastor of COB.  
St. Augustine announces that Fr. David will be full time pastor  
Fr. Scott called for questions – there were none

**Discussion, Clarification, Agenda Review 10 minutes**   **Jude**  
Jude called for any changes to be made and there were none.

**Retreat planning follow-up**     **15 min**             **Kathleen**  
Parishes to take prayer sessions:

1. Fr. Don is the point person for the LOC prayer service. Sheila is the primary go to person for all of the prayer sessions, she would be willing to coordinate liturgical environment, music for the four prayer services and mentioned Labyrinth.
2. Maryann was not here to discuss if COB can take one of the prayer sessions; Jude will follow up with her

We need people to sign up for committees

Point people from the parishes:

1. St. Augustine – Fr. David
2. Holy Family – Kathleen
3. COB – Jude will check
4. Light of Christ – Fr. Don Rickard

Kathleen will provide email updates to inform us of planning updates and the need for additional support for retreat planning to the RC members. Teri is working on website and registration, now that details are finalized with Fr. Bjorn Marcussen the pay-pal account is activated and all will be done prior to national council meeting. Registration for about #125 registrants at a cost of ~\$150-200 for 2 days/3 nights with meals included. There will be a separate price for folks who will not stay in the park. Efforts at a “scholarship” fund to defray the cost for some registrants are underway. In early March pricing will be finalized.

**Discussion on Presencing (Present – Sensing) model**     **15 min**             **Scott, Kathleen &Teri**

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So far 2 video classes have taken place. Fr. Scott feels it is simple/not simplistic and “wonderful” Scott feels presencing is similar to Margaret Gunther’s book Holy Listening. Being attentive and listening for the emerging future is at the core. Leadership model which attempts to break the hierarchical chains and moving into a model promulgated by Otto Scharmer (Yale, now MIT) the U theory, a path of deep

listening to the promises that the emerging possibilities of the future would like to speak to us. We say, look at our blind spots and listen to the Spirit. A good leader is not one who is busy all the time. A good leader draws in the boundaries of their capabilities and makes room daily/weekly to reflect and listen.

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Scott feels that we should build a retreat around this as a RC to learn this technique/method/way. Meantime those that are participating in the class will summarize and share or provide some of the materials to the council. Teri queries if a summary would really work and feels it would be derivative. Scott feels there is a good summary document which would be useful. For a full look check out Scharmer's book "Theory U" (author: Otto Scharmer). Tom would like to have a solid plan for bringing this to the group.

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#### Discussions on How to Help Bishop Peter and on a Regional Episcopacy 25 min Jude

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Bishop Peter has said he needs help – update from Fr. Scott: help is available - We have Vicars in every region. Bishops Chuck Lee and Rick Hollingsworth (in the process of joining ECC) are also available to help. In Fr. Scott's discussions with George, the issue was raised of planning instead of reacting. The first step is to determine how the RMRC or others can help – our determination at this point is to make this question of Who we are (as a jumping off place to deciding about the need for a Regional Bishop here in the Rocky Mountain region) our work for our presencing retreat.

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Issue of calling a bishop according to Scott would be a good first question to work our presencing model. Tom feels we should not shelve this question of "helping" the Bishop. Fr. Scott feels that if something happened to our Bishop, our leadership council could take over these duties. We would also have candidates who would emerge to take up this role.

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##### Helping the bishop:

- allow the vicars to function in his absence to reduce his workload
- RMRC wants to be responsive to the request of the leadership council to help by reducing the bishop's workload and to respond to the query about whether we can appoint a bishop regionally.
- Scott will find out if there are specific things we can do to help
- The decision to appoint a regional bishop shall remain in the hands of the region

Father Scott will do a draft response to the leadership council so it has at least our preliminary response to the request that we choose a regional bishop. He'll circulate for comments, as it should come from the regional council. We will express our desire to support Bishop Peter and to lighten his load as we can; our sense that the question of needing a regional bishop must come from the people within the region; and that, at present, we have not been hearing a great call or seeing a great need for a regional bishop.

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#### Discussion around Strategic Planning Retreat for Regional Council 10 minutes Jude

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At the last meeting there was consensus that a retreat was the preferred approach to developing a strategic plan. "We can use Roses' house," says Scott, if she agrees. (She did) Scott feels that this should take place in July after the national retreat. (Of course it would be better to do this before that time but we are in the midst of Lent and planning the national retreat) **We will pick a date in a follow up email (Jude will initiate email).** Midweek date will be picked after mid July, Chuck will

facilitate. Need a subcommittee to plan a agenda –Tom will help with this. Scott reminds us that we agreed at the outset to not be in a hurry and to be patient. July gives us time to prepare.

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**Audience Feedback time      20 min      Kathleen**

Jack LOC – comments likes our organization and feels it is effective. JP-II defined 4 models of leadership in the church, with the Marian model of leadership for service which he feels is representative of our group

Don Rickard LOC – concerned about the recent update on the theological committee members. Don is concerned about the composition of the theological committee. All members are clergy, with 7 of the 8 members men. He has grave concern that we (the ECC) should be identifying methods (rather than appointing someone to make the decisions independent of how these decisions should be made) to conserve/transform our episcopacy. We are a communion of communities – a polity in and of ourselves. Greg Singleton (Chicago new to ECC) first agenda item will be ecclesiology. Fr. Scott and Fr. Don will pen a response to this.

Toni – LOC – the calling of a bishop arises locally and her concern is that we as a council clearly communicate that our role as an RC is discerning if there is a need for a regional bishop. Our RMRC can model this local control.

Shirley – We should emphasize Strategy v reaction

Scott – Recommends the book: Things Hidden, Scripture as Spirituality by Richard Rohr appropriate to read during Lent. (and Philipians – read Philipians)

Tom – what is the role of our regional council in the penning of the response to the theological committee.

**Determine our issues/important work items      10 min      Jude**

Kathleen – more time on presencing

Stan – what can we offer to the region to enhance our communion

Laura – retreat planning

Tom – continue the dialog

Scott – retreat update and work and look at draft letter to the theological committee and what can we do to bring our communities together

Jude – we should discuss what the RMRC can do for the communities, we should explore what the communities would like to see us doing.

**Closing prayer      5 min      Sheila**

**NEXT MEETING March 26, 2009 7PM at Church of the Beloved**