

Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting
March 26, 2009 --7-9PM - Minutes
Church of the Beloved

Due to March blizzard, meeting was held by conference call

Jude began the meeting with an extemporaneous prayer. Tom agreed to take minutes, until Laura "arrived."

Vicars Report Fr. Scott:

- Participated in the National Stewardship planning meeting at LOC 3/21.
- Continuing the conversation with Lynn Boudreau re: Colorado Springs
- Continuing the conversation with Grey Robe Monks
- Attended mass and potluck at COB with ECC crew.
- Participated in the National Leadership Conference call. (see below)
- Continued working on the retreat...R U Going? Website is up and running
- Served as Mentor for Jon Wallace last semester.
- Attended Global Presencing class with Teri Thompson & Kathleen Gorman. (further discussion deferred until we can meet in real time)
- Planning Regional clergy gathering late in April or early May.
- Continued conversation with Eileen Knopf re: status of Brigit's Circle.
- Fielded the usual number of Vicar related phone calls from existing communities.
- Prayed weekly for our Region and National Communion.
- Discussed the budget at length with Marlene Guganic.
- Helped arrange priestly ordination for the Rev. Sheila Dierks & the Rev. Teri Harroun.

- ❖ Scott referenced only one item from his vicar's report (which all members had received in its entirety prior to the meeting – see above) the item dealing with Lynn Boudreau from Colorado Springs, who is being ordained for the United Church of Christ. Prior to that time, she was a Benedictine sister for ten years, and a liturgical minister for five of those years.
- ❖ She is now interested in joining the ECC as an ordained minister. Scott noted that all she has to do is become incardinated into the ECC (process already underway), and she could be in a position to begin an ECC community in the Springs.

- ❖ She is being ordained into the UCC in June, and could easily become incardinated into the ECC by September/October.

ECC National Fundraising Meeting: Scott and Chuck and Teri (ECC administrator) Marlene Guganic (accountant –Las Cruces) George von Stamwitz (chancellor), and Sarah Ball, co-chair HOLattended this meeting

Objectives of meeting:

Examine scope and style of fundraiser

Investigate the appeal of various fundraiser ideas

Talk about what must be done to encourage all the parishes to participate

Chuck Howard is the chairperson of work group and reports to Sarah Ball.

The ECC goals were enumerated to help discover how to build fundraising to address needs

Chuck reports that needs identified for money were not entirely clear, what was clear was the need to welcome new communities but the cost and work involved with doing this is not clear.

Chuck has developed a spreadsheet to enumerate financial cost of regionalizing the ECC: hiring a bishop and the attendant expenses, admin assistants, regional council budget. (Planning spreadsheet Chuck developed is available) The leadership council does not want to include the cost of regionalization in the fund raising plans.

Wayne Parent and Chuck will develop a fundraiser: brochures, music and will be reporting to Sarah Ball. They will identify individuals in the communities to facilitate a national dialog about raising money via email/conference calls (to be decided).

Side note: Jude will approach COB to see if someone in their community would be willing to serve as secretary for minutes, to relieve Laura of this task.

Update on Presencing (Present – Sensing) Training : Sheila could not join our meeting, we will shelve this discussion in favor of a face to face discussion at next meeting.

June ECC Retreat planning 20 min Kathleen, Teri and Fr. Scott

We have most of the prayer sessions taken care of

Registrations are coming in

Laura will talk with Kathleen about what is expected for medical support

\$125 for folks who will not be staying overnight, LOC had some questions about this and the matter is settled

Social and outdoor activities: Rose will organize some hikes (as venue for small group discussion to further discussion about presenter) Also group will coordinate with Estes folks to see what activities are available and what the cost may be. Also thinking that some folks may want to go in to the town of Estes as an activity.

Morning Eucharist - conference call in April to discuss

Closing Eucharist (usually presided by Bishop) – Scott will discuss this with the Bishop and approach the leadership council about this. (Stan and Tom bring up the symbolism of the Bishop's participation)

Scott has been looking for “scholarship” help and not having luck. What if we do not have enough registration to cover the costs, we have April 24 cutoff for room occupation after that we pay a lower amount for those unoccupied room. (\$50)

Invitations were sent out via email to delegates to community and to all of the pastors. (Each community should assure that this gets forwarded to all in each community)

We also need a welcome committee for the retreat made up of folks from the rocky mountain ECC

Scott is heading the committee and needs volunteers. He wants to run a little training workshop to formalize this.

Jude and Chuck are going to help

The welcome committee will:

Carry bags

Give out water

Give out a map

Smile, etc

Music: Chuck will call Irene and ask her to coordinate with Sheila (Fr. Scott until Sheila returns) regarding music for the retreat prayer services. Sheila has offered to coordinate music for the retreat.

Discussion around July Strategic Planning Retreat for Regional Council Tom and Chuck

Tom reports that he will be working on an agenda (with Chuck). Once this is done we will discuss this at the next meeting.

Role of the synod

What kind of leadership position do we take

What is the role of the episcopacy vis a vis the council

Our strategic Planning Retreat will be held starting the evening of July 22 (Wed) and continuing during the day on July 23 (Thurs.) concluding when done, as Rose Chalifoux’s house in Longmont.

Chuck will facilitate.

Jude will help with other arrangements – Rose will host us in terms of food and other nuts and bolts needs, including sleeping arrangements for all.

Update on Communications with the Leadership Council on Assisting Bishop Peter, the Issue of the Regional Episcopacy, and the Formation of the Theology Committee – Fr. Scott

April leadership council phone call has topic on agenda - Oct synod in St Louis 2010

Theological committee discussion – two lay persons have now been added to the committee and committee’s commission is strictly advisory. It will tackle the issue of candidates in mid 40’s-50’s needing a second track (these people come with life experience)

Nomination process and election process for new presiding Bishop will be the agenda item for the phone call with the leadership council (a grass roots method of bringing names forth as delineated in our constitution)

Electing local delegates for the next synod – should be done expeditiously so that they are involved in the upcoming process of the next Synod (LOC has a document about how to choose delegates to the house of laity – delegates must be able to attend Synod) Scott would like the delegates to have an

agenda and an understanding of what is involved in the process at the Synod. Chuck will distribute the document that LOC uses for this process as an example/suggestion to other communities.

How to Communicate with and Know Needs of Communities within the Region –Jude and Stan

Needs:

- to know each other better and to do things that help build "glue"
- to coordinate better with and within each community (for instance, we may send minutes to each community but don't know if those are circulated or reviewed; similarly, we may put short blurbs in bulletins but don't have a good way to follow up).
- to have formal and informal ways of interacting with each community and making sure that each community's needs or concerns are surfaced and addressed. Particularly in light of COB.
- to identify forms or tools that would be useful to communities, especially new or smaller ones, and determine what we can do to assist in providing those forms/tools. Mother Kae mentioned this need
- to gather and publish information of interest to individual members of communities (our minutes are short and don't tell a full story of what is going on in the region or nationally)

To Consider:

- attending services, potlucks, etc. at other communities some ideas: take a month and council visits other parishes? Get invited to community's parish council meetings to give a report, during Advent and Lent – plan some joint celebrations
- meeting together at the June retreat to work on better coordination; select individuals from different communities for taskforces for June retreat (make sure we mix up the committees on the retreat so representatives from different parishes interact)
- develop with each community a process of encouraging ideas and distributing information
- ask communities what forms/tools they would find useful, help identify who has forms/tools, help gather and distribute same
- quarterly newsletter on news of interest (both national level and regional level)
- communication needs that may be needed for Father Frank's mission or Church of the Beloved, or new members as they join

Audience Feedback time: no audience, Teri asked for comment during meeting regarding presencing.

Determine our issues/important work items

Kathleen: presencing model and June retreat

Stan: what more can we do facilitate the communion of our communities

Laura: presencing and retreat

Scott: leadership council position on electing new Bishop and continue retreat discussion

Tom: presencing and retreat

Chuck: presencing and leadership council about selection of presiding Bishop, Chuck will get agenda together

Jude: presencing discussion and retreat

Next meeting: Church of Holy Family April 23, 7PM meeting will be facilitated by Kathleen