

Minutes
Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting
25 March 2010, 7-9 pm
Church of the Beloved

In attendance: Sheila Dierks, Tom Stumpf, Laura Strom and Jude Biggs.

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

Instruction to Visitors/General Facilitation: Tom facilitated the meeting. He noted that it was a historic meeting, the first since the delegates had shifted the accountability of the Council to the four communities.

Committee Reports:

- **Communications:** Jude reported that no one has yet volunteered for the Communications Committee and sought advice on whether to wait until after the discernment day to produce a newsletter or to produce one now. After discussion, all agreed to get a simple newsletter out as soon as possible. Sheila volunteered to contact each of the 4 communities for a short description of upcoming or newsworthy events. Laura agreed to provide updated information on the Episcopacy Committee for the newsletter. Jude agreed to put the newsletter together once updated copy was available. All agreed that the 8 representatives of the communities (pastors and lay leaders) could act as reporters to the newsletter and distributors once the newsletter was ready to distribute. All 8 should receive a finished copy of the newsletter with a request to distribute to their communities. Bill Hanzel will also get a copy, for posting to the website.
- **Strategic Plan/Business:** Tom will ask Chuck Howard for a closing statement on the bank account. We have enough money in the account to pay for the facilitator for the discernment day, but nothing beyond that. One of the first topics once the Council is fully staffed needs to be funding, even though we do not need funds for any immediate projects. Don Rickard offered that LOC has continued to set aside the money it would have paid for a vicar, even though we have not had a vicar for a number of months, so perhaps that money might be available for regional purposes.
- **Episcopacy:** Laura reported that the committee is functioning well via emails and telephone conferences. Digg and others are redoing the survey and educational package, and preparing for when committee members can present materials to each of the four communities for discussion. The Council emphasized that the process will be an open one, welcoming the many diverse voices that are certain to speak on the issue. The Committee may contact the other Bishops who are being named in the ECC to learn more about their regions.

New Item:

- **Summit Meeting:** The Council's April meeting will be a "summit" with two representatives (most likely, the pastor and lay leader) from each community, to talk about the purpose of the Council, expectations for the Council, how to cooperate and communicate with each other, and how to finance regional needs. It is

important for the Council to reach out to the 4 communities given the new structure for accountability, to share its vision and obtain input for the vision and specific regional projects. The Council hopes to hold such “summit” meetings on a regular, probably quarterly, basis in the future. The Council also needs to find a way to be better informed about what is happening outside of the region and to share that information with the communities. It has been hampered by not having a vicar for so many months; without a vicar, no one in the region has been included in the regular telephone calls with Bishop Peter and other vicars and bishops. Since the Council has not heard from Bishop Peter on his selection of a Vicar, the Council agreed to reach out to him with a letter, asking him to let us know where he is in the process, when we may expect to have a vicar selected, and whether he would appreciate the Council providing input on possible candidates. Tom and Sheila agreed to draft the letter on behalf of the Council.

Follow-up Report:

- **Discernment Day:** The Discernment Day is on May 22 from 9AM to noon at Church of the Beloved. Tom will send out a letter to the four communities asking for candidates and discerners. The Council has four openings; 2 lay and 2 clergy spots. The Council hopes to have at least 3 candidates per community and as many discerners as possible. Any candidate who, after discerning on that day, decides to go forward with the process will be either seated or given a “back up” spot. Those seated will be chosen by selecting names from a hat. For instance, if there are 4 clergy who remain committed to being on the Council, those 4 names will go into a hat. The first two names selected will become Council members; the other two will be Council members-elect. When there is a clergy opening in the future, the clergy members-elect will be asked if they are willing to serve at that time. If more than one person is willing to serve, a name will be drawn from the hat. The same process will be used for lay members of the Council. By having members-elect attend meetings as much as they are able, the Council will have people ready to serve who have a good background on issues and tasks, and it will be easier, faster and cheaper to fill openings. Selecting names from a hat is not seen as a random process; rather, it is a Spirit driven process.

Next Month's Topics: Next month’s meeting will focus on the summit. Tom will develop an agenda for that before the next meeting.

Closing Prayer: Sheila closed the meeting with a prayer.

Upcoming Events: *Next RMRC Meeting, Thursday 22 April 2010, 7-9 pm, LOC*
Discernment Day, Saturday 22 May 2010, 9-12 pm, COB