

MINUTES
Rocky Mountain Region Delegates Meeting
Saturday 31 October 2009, 9 am – 12 pm
Church of the Beloved

A joint meeting of representatives of the ECC Rocky Mountain House of Laity, of the ECC Rocky Mountain House of Pastors, and of the ECC Rocky Mountain Regional Council began with a prayer by Fr. Scott Jenkins at 9:04 am. Participants also shared individual petitions.

As outgoing vicar, Scott transferred the symbol of his vicariate, a cross given him by Bishop Peter, to a member of the Rocky Mountain Regional Council, Jude Biggs. Scott's intent was that it be bestowed upon his successor, when appointed, by the RMRC.

Participants then introduced themselves to other members of the group.

Participants next shared what their respective faith communities are all about, such as Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life, Celtic Eucharists, shawl ministries, outreach activities, Crop Walk, catechetical instruction, dialogue with Bishop Peter, ordination of two women to the priesthood, emerging church discussions, and marriage preps.

Following a brief break, Chuck Howard of the RMRC began a presentation of the council's recently developed Strategic Plan, as it was presented to Bishop Peter during his visit here in mid-September for the ordinations. Chuck sees it as a working document, subject to modification as needed, with emphases on important, non-urgent work. Hard-copy handouts were made available to all participants.

He defined in general terms what a mission, vision, goals, objectives, and tasks are, and then zeroed in on their application for the RMRC.

The RMRC mission is co-terminus with the ECC mission itself. The RMRC vision is:

... for the year 2020 that all people seeking a spiritual home, in the Front Range of the Rockies, will be aware of the welcoming presence of the ECC; and that full-time leadership can be called and financially supported in a just manner.

He went on to elaborate further on the goals of each of the committees springing from the vision, i.e., Communications, Business, and Episcopacy, referencing the handouts.

He summarized by stating that we know where we would like to go, that we are confident we can get there, and this plan allows us to involve larger numbers of people without chaos – empowerment!

Sheila Dirkes then began a presentation about calling a bishop. She distributed relevant ECC canons, reasons to call or not call a bishop, episcopal affirmations, and an historical overview. She stressed the traditional episcopal roles of teaching, leading, and sanctifying.

She re-emphasized the notion of both preserving and transforming traditional interpretations and functions.

She then distributed a short survey, crafted by Laura Strom and herself, for participants to complete, as sort of a straw poll on the need, necessity, and/or urgency of calling a bishop for the Rocky Mountain Region.

At Chuck's behest, Mother Kay began a discussion of the issue of full representation of each faith community on the RMRC. As the only faith-community without specific representation on the RMRC, COB had determined to have a liaison on the council, as a non-voting representative. Two issues were determined to be paramount: the composition of the RMRC and communication outward from the council itself to the region's faith communities. Fr. David Kenney suggested a small task force be formed to reconsider the actual model, with representation from each faith community.

Teri Thompson expressed strong reluctance about re-doing the large amount of work which had preceded the formation of the council. Celi Martinez stated that communication has been an issue as well, along with the current, apparent automatic replacement process. Dave expressed essential agreement with Teri, but still wanted to fine-tune some aspects of the replacement/representation process.

Sharon Taylor expressed admiration with the work the council has done to this point. Rose Chalifoux stated that the council has in fact made itself transparent already. Winnie Aiton noted that the RMRC had communications as its main objective in its strategic plan. She also noted that every faith community will be represented on each of the three committees being formed.

Fr. Don Rickard stated that the RMRC allows observer participation at each meeting. LOC's representatives are really regional reps on the council, and not LOC representatives. He also stated that he basically agreed with Teri's comments. Scott noted that the council has done very well at this point regarding communications and representation; its birth and subsequent evolution had to, of its very nature, be somewhat messy.

Fr. Len Schreiner noted that the council had many initial benchmarks for representation, which was good, given that we are in fact democratic society. Celi noted that she supports the regional council, but she feels that her community is not necessarily in concurrence with her.

Some spirited discussion regarding the upcoming day of discernment took place. Do we move forward within the existing framework of appropriate representation, or do we let things flow with the Spirit? It was determined that the group would wait until 16 November (stipulated deadline for determining candidates), and see what will happen. If some representative candidates come forward, then we will let the process flow as set up. If no representative candidates come forward, then determinations will have to be made at that time.

The HOD participants at the meeting determined that Saturday 23 January 2010 would be the next meeting of the HOD, at St. Augustine's. Agenda would include primarily synod preparation. Some further discussion revolved around the various topics, such as the removal of a bishop.

Celi concluded with her public resignation from the co-leadership position of the national HOD, while maintaining her regional and parish affiliation. She passionately appealed to all to keep the real focus of the ECC always in mind, as we proceed into the future.

Members broke for lunch. Chuck and Sheila then presented the results of the survey, as members concluded their repast. The results will be sent out to all members of the HOL, the HOP, and the RMRC.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Stumpf