

**Minutes**  
**Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting**  
**19 November 2009, 7-9 pm at Holy Family**

**In attendance:** Chuck Howard, Stan Manickam, Tom Stumpf, Laura Strom and Jude Biggs. Sheila Dierks could not attend. Father Scott attended as part of the audience.

**Opening Prayer/Meditation:** Stan led the group in the opening prayer and meditation.

**Instruction to Visitors/General Facilitation:** Tom welcomed the audience and facilitated the meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Communications:** Jude reported the communications committee has been formed and is making progress. Members include Sharon Taylor (HF), Sharon Friedman (St. Aug.), Linda Garrity (HF), Bill Hanzel (HF), Tom Stumpf (LOC), and Jude Biggs (LOC). Bill Hanzel leads the effort on website activities and coordinates with Teri Thompson on national website issues or with regional communities on community issues. Sharon T. and Linda G., who has agreed to take the lead editing the quarterly newsletter, are investigating formats and other options available through Constant Contact. The committee plans to use the letterhead artwork for the RC as a masthead. It will distribute the first newsletter early in the year, with information on what happened regionally in 2009 and what to look forward to in 2010. Each member of the committee will be in touch with his or her community to gather news ideas; since COB does not have a member on the committee, the committee will contact Mother Kae and the head of the parish council for information. Linda, Sharon F., and Jude are meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 24 to work on the newsletter.

It appears that communities are hesitant to give email lists to the committee for mailing newsletters through Constant Contact. As a result, the committee will provide electronic newsletters to each community to print off or to distribute by email; if readers sign up to receive the newsletter, the committee will add their names to the email list on Constant Contact.

**Strategic Plan/Business:** Chuck reported that the strategic plan was presented and explained to the Regional Delegates at the joint Council-Regional Delegate meeting on October 31. That presentation helped clear up some misinformation about what the Council is doing and the plan appeared to be very well received. The plan needs a little more updating or revising, which Chuck will handle. He does not plan to form a committee to meet regularly, but would like to have a committee of financial advisors he can call on from time to time for help and input, usually via a conference call or email communications. Kathleen Gorman has volunteered to be on the committee.

The checking account has \$417 in the account after paying what remained of Bridget Mary's travel expenses. Chuck does need help with estimating the cost of having a bishop in the region, so the members have that information when discerning whether to have a bishop.

The Council agreed with Chuck that the strategic plan is a useful tool in making sure the Council is following the directives of the Regional Delegates and that we are all on the same page. Everyone thanked Chuck for his hard work on it.

**Episcopacy:** Laura reported that the Council, with the leadership of Sheila and Chuck, was able to gather very helpful feedback on the issue of the episcopacy from the Regional Delegates at the meeting on October 31. Chuck developed a survey for that meeting and has distributed a summary of

the survey responses since that meeting. See attached "[Delegate Response to Bishop Survey.](#)" Sheila developed a historical timeline for the meeting, which was very helpful background. See attached "[Episcopacy: A Few Quick Facts on Bishops.](#)" They also distributed a document describing the pros and cons of having a bishop. See attached "[Bishop Pros and Cons; Reasons to call a bishop/Reasons to not call a bishop.](#)" After discussing the issue and reviewing the materials, most delegates agreed that calling a bishop is the right thing to do. They also prioritized the goals of the Council as 1) communicating the inclusive sacramental presence of the ECC to all on the Front Range seeking a spiritual home; 2) establishing administrative processes that will serve the needs of the region and either a vicar or bishop; and 3) calling a bishop in time for affirmation by the 2010 Synod. The priorities do not reflect a desire to delay consideration of the episcopacy; all three issues are high priority.

Laura said the next step is to educate the communities and get their feedback. Chuck and Laura will organize packets for distribution to the four communities in the region; organize presentations with facilitators to draw out ideas from members and recruit committee members from each community; and further refine the survey for use once the educational process is complete.

**Committees' Composition:** Tom said that the goal of the Council is to have at least one member on each committee from each of the four communities. It is hoped participation in committees can give all communities a role to play in Council matters, even when a community may not have a member on the Council.

## Follow-up Reports

**Filling Vacancies on RMRC:** Chuck reported that, as of that night, only 1 person, Father David, had said he would be willing to be considered for one of the two open clergy positions on the Council. However, after the meeting, the Council learned that there had been an email glitch so Chuck had not received an email from Mother Kae indicating that Father Paul has also stepped forward. Holy Family is sending 2 discerners; Light of Christ, 2 discerners; St. Augustine, 1 discerner; and Church of the Beloved, 1 discerner. Originally, when it looked like there was only 1 person to be considered for an opening, the Council questioned whether the day of discernment was necessary; however, with input from Teri Thompson and more consideration, all agreed discernment still makes sense. The day of discernment will be January 9 (not December 5, as originally planned) and it will be held at LOC. There is also a potluck in honor of Father Scott that night at LOC, so hopefully people who participate in the discernment can also stay for that event.

**Representation on RMRC:** Chuck reported that he had been contacted privately by COB about concerns related to not being represented on the Council and a request that the Council take the lead in addressing communication and relationship issues related to that issue. He also said he had received a letter from LOC that was sent to the Regional Delegates indicating that LOC was concerned about relationships between and among communities and that it would consider a change in the composition of the Council if that would address the damaged feelings. After discussion, the Council asked Chuck and Jude to draft responsive letters to COB and the Regional Delegates, explaining that the Council is not empowered to change its composition, and that the request to do so should be addressed to the HOP/HOL. The Regional Delegates discerned and agreed upon the process that was used a year ago to select the current Council and are the body to make any change. As a result, any change should be discerned and made only after a consensus building process by the Regional Delegates. The Council also felt that participation on committees is one way that a community can be included and have an impact on Council matters.

**Discernment Retreat Preparation:** Chuck and Laura will talk about preparations for the discernment on January 9. Toni Stone agreed to facilitate the discernment process and to work with Chuck on developing an agenda for the day.

**Joining ECC Process on Website** Jude reported that Bill Hanzel and Teri Thompson have figured out a way to make it easy for potential new members to find out how to join the ECC regardless of whether they start at the national website or a local community website. Bill and Teri will work together to get this done soon.

**Joint Regional Delegates and RMRC Meeting** Chuck reported on how well and how productive the joint Council-Regional Delegate meeting was. Since much of what was discussed has already been described above under the Business and Episcopacy committee reports, please review those reports for more detail.

### **Audience Feedback**

Teri Thompson urged everyone to be careful with email groups mailings and to contact her each time an email needs to go to the Regional Delegates, so an up-to-date list is used. She also urged the Council to go through the discernment process for new Council members, and the Council agreed that was the right thing to do.

Bill Hanzel needs the last two meetings' minutes. Jude agreed to forward those to him. The Council also needs to make sure Bill is on the distribution list for minutes of meetings held in the future.

Toni Stone explained that the letter from LOC was not a request that a change be made to the composition of the Council, but rather was an expression of concern for deteriorating relationships and a statement that LOC would consider changes if the changes would improve relationships.

Father Scott recommended preparing for an audit of finances. He also said his wife, Chris, can help the Council with information on how much to pay a bishop and related costs.

**Next Month's Topics:** Reports from each committee (Communications, Business and Episcopacy); a report on the day of discernment; and consideration of how to bring clergy together and to encourage communications, while there is no vicar in the region.

**Closing Prayer:** The meeting closed with a prayer of thanksgiving by Jude.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Next RMRC Meeting, Thursday 17 December 2009, 7-9 PM, at COB

Discernment of clergy members for Rocky Mountain Regional Council, Saturday, 9 January 2010, 1-5 PM, at LOC (time and place to be confirmed)

Celebration and thank you party for Father Scott, Saturday, 9 January 2010, 6:30 PM (or immediately after the regular service at 5 PM) at LOC

Regional Delegates Meeting, Saturday 23 January 2010, 9-1 PM (place to be determined)