

Rocky Mountain Regional Council meeting – minutes
December 10, 2008
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Attending: Jude Biggs, Sheila Dierks, Kathleen Gorman, Chuck Howard, Scott Jenkins, Stan Manickam, Laura Strom

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM by Fr. Scott Jenkins opening with prayer and meditation

Fr. Scott –

Vicar's report - state of the ECC

- The regional council is the culmination of a dream.
- ECC central belief: our structure relies on a cooperative effort between lay and clergy.
- As the vicar – Thursday is the day during which business from the council with the vicar will be conducted. Cell number and email provided.
- Organizational strength is not where the current strength of the ECC lies due to the multiple responsibilities people take on.
- First Thursday of the month is set aside for a national leadership council conference call to conduct meetings and as approved at the last synod – vicars are invited to participate.
- Vicars serve at the behest of the Bishop and their terms end with the end of the Bishop's term.
- Fr. Scott is looking ahead to a new role with the national leadership council
- The Communion is growing:
 - Two new ordinations
 - New applications being made by groups wishing to join the communion
 - Several smaller communities (WI, PA, IL) expected to make application to join the communion
- Expectation that we will exceed 30-40 communities in the next 2 years
- Overall health of the communion is good
 - A new Vicar in the pacific NW
 - 2 new Vicars to be appointed (Palm Desert, St. Louis)
 - Las Cruces Vicar will step down to begin work in new role
 - Discussions with the Old Catholic Churches in both the US and Europe
 - The Old Catholic Church has contacted us. There is no talk of merger, but there is open discussion between our communion and theirs

Vicar's report – Wish list

- Bishop Peter requires increased assistance due to personal reasons
- 2009 Synod has been rescheduled and a retreat in Estes Park is being planned for June 24-27. The council will discuss the role it can take to facilitate this
 - Online registration and payment methods have already been worked out
 - Venue has already been established and secured
- Regionalization was initially seen as a way to facilitate the appointment of new bishops to relieve the workload on Bishop Peter. National leadership suggests that:
 - These Episcopal candidates be nominated by the time of the next Synod, so there is some need to explore and understand this process in a timely fashion
 - Leadership believes these candidates should be internal to the ECC
 - How does the regional council conceive of the need for Bishops for the region? (we have 4 churches) Future discussion topic
- Should we form a representative team to consider ministry projects
- Should we plan an annual youth retreat
- Should we establish a team to plan an annual ecumenical worship/fellowship event

Chuck – Housekeeping

I. Liasons to the communities were established to:

1. inform the separate communities of upcoming meetings of the regional council
2. provide minutes and reports to the communities
3. Members responsible for keeping communities informed are Laura Strom, St. Augustine; Jude Biggs, Light of Christ; Kathleen Gorman, Holy Family
4. Maryann Klasinski will be copied on agenda and minutes distributions in order to keep Church of the Beloved informed.

II. Term limits and staggering of term limits was discussed:

1. 2 year term limit with option of an additional term has already been established by the HOL/HOP delegates
2. In order to stagger the terms, four members agreed that their first term would be limited to one year. Those four people are: Chuck Howard, Sheila Deirks, Jude Biggs, Stan Manickam. To provide initial stability, these four people agreed to seriously consider an additional 2 year term.
3. we agreed to let this decision percolate and revisit it in 10 months time
4. term begins Jan 1 2009 and discernment of new membership for the following term will take place the autumn prior (as it did this fall)

III. Meetings

1. At this time, as we begin, meetings will take place monthly
2. We do not want to lose track of our need to “get to know” one another during this formative time. Face to face meeting agreed upon for now
3. Next four meetings (4th Thursday – St Augustine not hosting for now due to no evening hours at the cemetery in the winter months.)
 - a. January 22 at Holy Family
 - b. February 26 at Light of Christ
 - c. March 26 at Church of the Beloved
 - d. April 23 at Holy Family

Chuck and Sheila -

Organizational models

1. We plan to have Paula Staffeldt present/educate us on this point at our next meeting
2. Sheila Dierks presented insight from her sister’s long organizational experience
 - a. Hear all voices
 - b. If a facilitator is used at inception, this person removes themselves from the process and merely facilitates
 - c. Remain fluid at the beginning to avoid locking ourselves into decisions before we are ready
 - d. Recognize that some will crave process and some will crave closure – honor both.
 - e. At the end of process review: What we learn. What didn’t work. What we carry forward.

All – Tentative topics for next meeting

1. Regional council role in planning the 2009 Estes park retreat
2. Bishop assignment task
3. education on models of organization
4. What is our “commission” our mission statement, what will be our focus

All - Basic structure of meetings while we are educated and find our way

1. Council will create the agenda
2. at the meetings, council will discuss agenda items fully
3. at the end of the meeting, time will be allotted for questions and comments from visitors

Sheila –

Closed with a reading from Thomas Merton:

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and that I think I am following your will does not mean I am actually doing so.

But I believe the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all I am doing.

I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you will never leave me to face my perils alone.