

Minutes
Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting
December 17, 2009, 7-8:30 pm at Church of the Beloved

In attendance: Chuck Howard, Stan Manickam, Sheila Dierks, Tom Stumpf, Laura Strom and Jude Biggs.

Opening Prayer/Meditation: Sheila led the group in the opening prayer with “Psalm of the Emerging Emmanuel.”

Instruction to Visitors/General Facilitation: Tom facilitated the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Jude reported the communications committee has made progress in gathering information for the first newsletter, which is still scheduled for early 2010. Some of the articles in the national newsletter can be re-used in the regional newsletter, particularly articles on the graduation and ordination of Sheila Dierks and Teri Harroun. Sheila has sent in photographs of those events. Committee members are gathering information on the highlights of 2009 and key upcoming events in 2010 from the four communities. Linda Garrity and Sharon Taylor will take the lead on editing/layout of the newsletter. Laura offered to send material on the episcopacy, to help with educating the region on that issue. The newsletter can be used during the year to inform the communities about the purpose of the Synod, the roles of the council and delegates, fundraisers, and other matters. Distribution will be to delegates of the communities, which will then distribute to the members of their communities. If individual members want to opt into direct distribution through Constant Contact, they can do that in the future.

Strategic Plan/Business: Chuck reported that the strategic plan has been updated and posted on the regional website. He is revising it as needed when tasks are completed. In January he will identify the advisors he needs. Jude said the communications committee can work on an external message plan by March. Laura said she is adapting the episcopacy survey based on what was learned at the delegates meeting and is working on figuring out the cost of a bishop; both tasks will be done in January. Don Rickard and Chris Jenkins will also assist with determining the cost of a bishop. Chuck indicated that regional fundraising needs to be addressed in the plan. He added that he has a concern that the national proposed budget has a \$7000 deficit and that the HOL believes a \$5000 fundraiser will mitigate that deficit. The Council needs to get organized to reach out to the four communities in the region and to explain what the region needs, for what, and how much per person needs to be raised for regional purposes.

Episcopacy: Laura reported that the Episcopacy Committee has been formed and includes Laura (St. Aug.), Bill Wycoff (COB), Sheila Dierks (LOC). Teri Thompson is looking for a member from HF to participate. In addition, a couple of members of St. Augustine have indicated interest. Laura is updating the survey and PowerPoint for use in educating the communities. All agreed that it is critical to make sure everyone understands that the issue is not already decided and that the input from members is needed and valued. Sheila, Laura and Chuck will meet in January to finalize the survey, PowerPoint and other materials in the education packet.

Follow-up Reports

ECC Synod Survey: Tom said the Synod survey was sent out to delegates and responses are due January 5. The Council discussed whether and how the council might have input into

the agenda for the Synod. Several said it would be helpful if additional topics were included in the agenda: how to build a region, how to build a congregation, external messaging (a 60-second elevator speech), and possible models of regional governance. Tom said that if anyone had other ideas to send them to him by January 3.

Subsequent RMRC Meetings: Meetings in the first half of 2010 will be on the following dates (4th Thursday of every month) and at the following locations:

January 28 – LOC
February 25 – HF
March 25 – COB
April 22 – LOC
May 27 – HF
June 24 – COB

Clerical Collegiality sans Vicar: Stan said that the HOL is doing well but that the HOP is not active or visible. Without a vicar, nothing is happening, and he finds it helpful and meaningful to have monthly pastoral meetings and opportunities to exchange ideas with other pastors. It is important for pastors to have a sense of belonging but there is nothing and no one facilitating that function in the region at present. The Council did not come up with a solution but suggested that any pastor could email the others and organize a meeting. The Council will revisit the question in a few months.

Audience Feedback and Other Issues:

The Council thanked Stan for his service over the past year and wished him well in the future. He has always had a thoughtful approach and will be missed.

Don Rickard said he will write down his thoughts on the episcopacy issue and share them with delegates and the Council in January. He pointed out that the ECC may soon have 4 Bishops, so some of the pressure on the region has eased.

Teri Thompson urged the Council to work towards stronger communications with the leadership council and delegates; the Council does not have an official role regarding the Synod. Without a vicar, it is imperative that everyone work harder to communicate. As an example, Teri said she understood it to be the role of the Council to organize the January 23 delegates meeting but delegates have heard nothing about it. The Council had not realized that it should organize the meeting. Kae Madden offered to contact David Kenney to form a planning group, to develop an agenda, organize food etc. for the next delegates meeting. One of the agenda items may be to define what delegates do and what the Council does, so confusion can be avoided in the future.

Next Month's Topics: Will include reports from each committee (Communications, Business and Episcopacy). Tom will organize it.

Closing Prayer: The meeting closed with a prayer by Sheila and a warm round of hugs to all in the room, each expressing hope for a Merry Christmas.

Upcoming Events:

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 at St. Aug.