

Minutes: January 22, 2009

Rocky Mountain Regional Council

Vicars Report: Fr. Scott Jenkins (discussed his report)

- I. Need for regional bishop
 - a. Bishop Chuck Lee (FL) has made application to the ECC
 - b. Bishop Rick Hollingsworth has made application to the ECC
 - c. Neither mentioned above can immediately “step into the role” of being an ECC Bishop, given ECC Constitutional requirements; ECC constitution delineates the process for electing a bishop http://www.ecumenical-catholic-communion.org/eccpdf/2008_ecc_constitution.pdf pages 18-20 Canons 62-62, 67. provide details on this process.
 - d. Members of the RCC shall familiarize themselves with these canons
 - e. Fr. Scott Jenkins will provide comparative documents from another fellowship about the process of electing a bishop.
 - f. We discussed the issue of whether we should begin determining a process for selecting a Bishop for this region, given the potential that Bishop Peter may need to take a leave of absence. We discussed generally what options may exist to selecting a Bishop and whether vicars could assist with bishop duties, i.e., empowering them to take up regional duties. We also discussed how the regional council may help Bishop Peter while these decisions are made.
- II. Budget: this was a brief discussion and served to air concerns about how budget concerns in general will influence how we proceed as a council. We will need to take issues about budget to the separate ECC communities. The topic of tithing was discussed briefly.

Retreat: Kathleen Gorman

- I. Retreat proposal was discussed and areas of special need were identified:
 - i. We need a large welcoming committee in order to greet attendees
 - ii. ECC communities will be invited (volunteer) to take prayer sessions morning and evening.
 - iii. The small group discussion times will be used to deepen understanding of what takes place in the general session.
 - iv. Bjorn has been contracted so prices for the retreat will now be posted on line.
- II. A committee list awaits chairs including:
 - a. welcome committee,
 - b. medical alert team,
 - c. prayer groups – Thurs AM/PM & Fri AM/PM,
 - d. liturgical music team,
 - e. liturgical environment team,
 - f. social activity team,
 - g. outdoor activity team.
- III. A list of the committees should be presented to the communities in order to appoint chairs.

RC Self Governance – education on organizational models – Chuck and Sheila

- I. We have postponed the discussion with Paula who was scheduled to discuss models of self governance
 - a. Chuck:
 - i. addresses the topics of the need to make some short term decisions/housekeeping decisions for *now*.
 - ii. Opines that all should participate equally on the council to avoid creating a defacto leader, while we continue to organize ourselves into a self governing group
 - iii. Suggests that we have a “go-to” person for Church of the Beloved (COB) on the council – Jude volunteers to be the RC contact person; Maryann Klasinski is the COB liaison
 - b. Sheila:
 - i. Addresses the topic of long range goals for self governance *Beyond Robert’s Rules* strive to be inclusive,
 - ii. Presencing is a model we can explore as a model which will allow /encourage us to imagine for the future by “looking back” and discovering how we would get to that future point.
 - iii. Presents the information about the class – Capacity Building \$280. Fr. Scott and Terry will take this course
 - iv. Sheila will meet with Mary Pierce Brosmer/Women Writing for (a) Change writing group and bring a report back to the RC at next meeting.
 - v. Link given for www.thoughtpile.com for ideas about how to generate and explore ideas.

Defining RC MISSION – Chuck

- I. Defining strategic v. tactical approaches – lays groundwork for a common vocabulary for council members to use
 - a. Fr. Stan queries: Who do we dream that we are?
 - b. Tom feels it is will be more practical to be tactical, as envisioning and strategizing is not something that can be done in ½ hour per month.
 - c. Consensus is for a planning retreat

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

- I. T. Thompson (Holy Family – HOL) summarizes ECC structure:
 - a. Vicar in our region is funded regionally by 2 of our communities
 - b. Other communities nationally do not employ vicars
 - c. Synod of 2007 – Bishop Peter articulated desire to be replaced as he was serving longer than originally planned
 - d. Teri feels that these facts point toward the need to strategize rather than use a strictly tactical approach.
- II. Wayne Parent (Light of Christ – HOL)
 - a. Asks, “What happens without a bishop and what is the urgency?”
 - b. Suggests that we establish a “seat” for the Bishop – Fr. Scott explains that this process is already in place – we need our own bishop.

- III. Fr. Don Ricard (Light of Christ – HOP)
 - a. What are the assumptions about what = bishop? We should do some presencing about this
 - b. Simply replacing the Presiding bishop perpetuates the status quo, we need to model a different vision of what = the Bishop's roles are sanctifying, governing, teaching
 - c. Fr. Scott offers: that the Colorado model works, that we have strong people with strong voices in the lay and clergy working together. But that we hear the "cry" of the nation.
- IV. Bill Hanzel (holy Family – HOL)
 - a. We are not Roman Catholic, we are ECC; therefore, why can't the bishop empower Vicars to ordain
 - b. Fr. Don replies to this query invoking apostolic administrators can fill this role.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

- I. Fr. Scott – presencing – is this workable?
 - a. Explore how we communicate our vision with our communities?
 - b. Is appointing a bishop what we *need* to do?
- II. Laura – presencing
- III. Tom – clarify the issue of Bishop, i.e. is this part of what we can do to "reach out" to ECC nationally?
- IV. Stan – discernment is needed about our purpose: reaching out v. self-discernment. What will be good for all, after all the ECC "gave us birth."
- V. Jude – devote a portion to strategic planning and what will lead us there, could we retreat about this in June as a group in Estes?
- VI. Sheila – asks that Terry and Scott present >10 minutes about their class on presencing, asks that we pray as a group about the notion of Bishop.
- VII. Kathleen – Presencing is our rudder, advises that we read the book which Sheila provided
- VIII. Chuck feels we need to SLOW down and trim the agenda for next time.