



E.C.C. Leadership Council Meeting

January 10, 2018

Present on call: Bishop Francis Krebs, Jennifer Reyes Lay, Tom Wilding, Fr. Mike Bober, George Von Stamwitz, Rev. Kate Lehman, Therese Gabriel

Opening Prayer: led by Fr. Mike Bober

Agenda

- I. Synod Updates
 - a. Keynote speakers: there is one spot left open to fill and we want it to be a woman since the other three are men. One suggestion was Rev. Denise Donato since she will have been recently consecrated a bishop earlier in the year. Everyone was supportive and enthusiastic about her being a keynote speaker in the Wednesday morning slot.
 - i. Bishop Francis will invite Rev. Denise to be a keynote speaker.
 - b. Logistics: Rev. Kate is forming a small logistics committee with people from St. Michael and Guardian Angels to help calculate costs per person.
 - c. Yoga: Rev. Kate found a yoga instructor to lead the self-care sessions.
 - d. Website: Rev. Kate contacted Dariusz who designed the last Synod website and Fr. Dewayne said we would need to pay him this time around if he did it again. Kate has someone in her parish who would most likely do the website for free. The consensus was a desire to pay whoever works on the Synod registration website for their work. The preference was to hire Dariusz since he managed the last one. Rev. Kate will follow up with Dariusz to get a quote for his work.
 - e. There have been no floor nominations for presiding bishop. Bishop Francis remains the only candidate.
 - f. The workshops are currently set. There should be a notice that goes out that we are no longer accepting requests for workshops.
 - i. Br. Ray Knapp requested a time for a deacon workshop. There isn't a workshop slot open, but maybe there could be a separate gathering for those who are deacons or interested in the diaconate. One suggestion was to have them meet together over dinner on Tuesday night as a "topic table."
 1. Rev. Kate will follow back up with Br. Ray about the suggestion to meet over dinner.
- II. Constitutional Commission
 - a. The Commission met in early January. Tom pulled together all the comments from the previous draft of the Constitution for review at that meeting. An e-mail was sent out to the HOL and HOP with an explanation of the process going forward. The Commission will send out a few articles of the proposed revisions at a time and ask for comments from the delegates who are responsible for sharing it with their communities.



E.C.C. Leadership Council Meeting

- b. Articles related to members and diocese are going to be handled separately as amendments.
- c. Everything will be ready before Synod, hopefully by the end of March, for a vote at Synod on the entire revised Constitution, and then amendments will be taken up in a separate vote.

III. Auxiliary Bishop for OPB

- a. Consecration of Rev. Denise Donato will be February 9, 2018 in the evening in Rochester, NY at Spiritus Christi.
- b. Clergy attending should bring alb and stole for procession.
- c. Those from LC who confirmed attendance are Bishop Francis, Rev. Kate, and Jennifer.

IV. HOL Updates

- a. Tom has been working to get the delegate list updated. Jennifer is also going to be sending out an updated contact and information sheet for each parish which will include delegate information.
- b. They have also been discussing the budget for 2017. We are under expected income and are monitoring to see how year-end contributions go if we can make up that deficit.
- c. The chair of the Finance Committee resigned and Tom is currently serving as the interim chair until a new one can be found.

V. HOP Updates – tabled

VI. OPB/EC Updates – tabled

February 7, 2018

Present on call: Bishop Francis Krebs, Jennifer Reyes Lay, Tom Wilding, George Von Stamwitz, Rev. Kate Lehman, Therese Gabriel, Fr. Mike Bober

Opening Prayer: led by Tom Wilding

Agenda

I. Synod Updates

- a. The Arizona committee met last Saturday and assigned local responsibilities. They are working on calculating the amount for registration. Food will be served buffet style to accommodate various dietary needs. They are not going to have snacks available since few people were eating those last time and no drink tickets. There will be a cash bar available in the dining area.
- b. Rev. Sue is working on gathering musicians. Their cost will be absorbed into registration costs. She is also going to work on the logo. The theme is “Nothing shall separate us”



E.C.C. Leadership Council Meeting

- c. Rev. Kate has yoga leaders lined up.
- d. Speakers: Fr. Rick Klaich – to be confirmed (by Bishop Francis), Art Maines – confirmed, Martha and Jetty – confirmed, Deacon David Dunn – to be confirmed (by Fr. Mike), Rev. Denise Donato – to be confirmed (by Bishop Francis)
- e. Bishop Francis is the only candidate for Presiding Bishop. He will still introduce himself on Monday evening of Synod. Before the Synod it would help to have him send a resume and some ideas on his plans for the future for all the new delegates. He also agreed to record a short video presentation.
 - i. There was discussion about when to have the vote. Each house will take their vote first thing on Tuesday at 3:00pm when they meet.
- f. MMS Dinner – there was feedback from the last Synod that the MMS dinner last year was elitist in having extra options and alcohol included. The planning team would like to recommend the dinner being the same as everyone else and people have to purchase their own alcohol if desired.
 - i. Bishop Francis shared that most people will have already given by the Synod so it will be less a fundraising dinner and more an information and community gathering for those in MMS.
 - ii. Bishop Francis will also discuss these plans with the MMS board.
- g. Dariusz is working on the updated website. This cost will also be included in the registration.
- h. AV details are still being decided.
- i. Announcements have gone out requesting table displays. Jennifer and Bishop Francis have the list together for the OPB Panel and are working on confirming those presenters.
- j. Therese has list of people who are willing to volunteer at Synod and will coordinate with Rev. Kate about what is needed.

II. Constitutional Commission

- a. The hope is that with all the work done before Synod to review and revise the Constitution that this will be a smooth voting process at Synod. However we need to plan enough time for discussion if needed. The first few sections of the revised Constitution have already gone out for comment. Everything will be out by the end of April. There hasn't been much feedback received yet, so please encourage your communities to review and respond and have LC members respond as well.
- b. There are two sections that will be treated as amendments, independent of the approval vote for the revised Constitution.

III. Communications

- a. There is a new ECC Magazine available online via the Flipboard platform. This has been created and generated by John Kerans our PR contractor. A link has been sent out to



E.C.C. Leadership Council Meeting

the HOL and posted on our Facebook page. Articles include both ECC and other religion articles.

- b. Bishop Francis will be recording a Lenten message to pin to the top of the Facebook page and take down the Christmas message.

IV. Rev. Denise's Episcopal Consecration

- a. In attendance from the Leadership Council will be Rev. Kate, Fr. Mike, Tom, Bishop Francis, and Jennifer.
- b. There has been really good press coverage locally so far and the NCR will be sending Jamie Manson to report on the ceremony.
- c. Bishop Francis is excited about having the liturgy in Spiritus Christi's church, including Rev. Mary Rammerman who is an ECC priest as well as the other clergy of Spiritus Christi. Rev. Denise is also very close to women priests and bishops from RCWP who will be in attendance and Bishop Francis is hopeful for building a closer relationship with RCWP and ARCWP.
- d. This is going to be a wonderful celebration for the ECC and is a really positive step forward toward gender inclusion in all areas of our polity in the ECC, living into our values and beliefs.

V. HOL Updates

- a. HOL Steering Committee is looking for new candidates to join and have not receive any interest yet. They have one potential candidate so far for Vice-Chair of HOL.
- b. There needs to be more education of the wider ECC in our local churches, especially as new members join so they realize the different structure, roles, and needs for volunteers at a national level. The few people who get involved have so much to do that it can lead to burn out. Would be better to have a larger group of volunteers to help divide up the work.
- c. They are also keeping an eye on finances and are waiting on the 2017 books to close to see how we fared last year, but think things went ok.

VI. HOP Updates

- a. Rev. Denise's consecration is getting good media exposure.
- b. Most of the meetings are focused on preparing for Synod and working on by-laws. There is also productive discussion on just sharing what is going on in local communities.
- c. HOP is looking for candidates for Vice-Chair. They have one interested person, but would like to have at least three to choose from. If anyone has other recommendations please send to Fr. Mike.

VII. OPB/EC Updates



E.C.C. Leadership Council Meeting

- a. The Episcopal Council is going to be working on drafting some guidelines and policies they are responsible for in the Constitution. The House steering committees also serve as helpful advisory committees for reviewing said policies/guidelines.
- b. Bishop Francis met in person with Rev. Denise in St. Louis in January to prepare for her new role as auxiliary bishop. They will continue to work closely together to serve the communities of which Bishop Francis is ordinary (those without a local bishop/diocese).

NEXT MEETING: March 14th

March 14, 2018

Present on call: Bishop Francis Krebs, Jennifer Reyes Lay, Rev. Kate Lehman, Rev. Sue Ringler, Tom Wilding, George Von Stamwitz, Fr. Mike Bober,

Opening Prayer: led by George

Agenda

- I. Synod Updates
 - a. Review of tasks and responsibilities
 - i. Workshops confirmations – Bishop Francis confirmed with Br. Rick Klaich. Fr. Mike is in conversation with Deacon David Dunn. All other workshops confirmed.
 - ii. Keynote speakers – Bishop Francis confirmed Bishop Denise is willing to give the keynote. All other keynotes are confirmed.
 - iii. Rev. Sue has the local music coordinators for the liturgies. Musicians are available for prayer at the hotel as well, just need to bring a keyboard.
 - iv. Bishop Francis – liturgy planning team
 - 1. Bishop Francis has a committee that is preparing guidelines for communal ECC liturgies which will be shared with the local planning team.
 - 2. Rev. Sue will help lead the planning team for both liturgies at Guardian Angels. Bishop Francis will preside at the Wed. liturgy for the 15th anniversary. He will oversee the creation of that liturgy. Rev. Sue will coordinate the other liturgy with the liturgical guidelines committee.
 - a. We will use a physical worship aid for both liturgies. Deadline to submit all liturgy information will be September 1st for printing.



E.C.C. Leadership Council Meeting

3. Reminder to make the liturgies bi-lingual – both in readings, responses, and songs.
- v. Jennifer is heading up the closing ritual and will be soliciting people interested in that via the Newsletter and personal invitation. She will also get Rabbi Shmuley's contact information from Rev. Sue to incorporate his closing remarks.
- vi. The Budget is still in the process of being created.
- vii. Rev. Kate and Tom are working with Dariusz to get the website registration live. We want to make sure that everyone gets the information and are still waiting on some of the community information surveys so Rev. Kate and Jennifer will work on following up with communities to get these back.
 1. Tom would like to have a synopsis and title for each workshop to include on the agenda schedule on the website.
- viii. Synod Logo
 1. Rev. Sue sent a few examples of possible logos.
 2. Feedback:
 - a. Bishop Francis liked the one of just the wording "nothing shall separate us" with nothing repeated in the background. Also enjoyed the other images, especially of a border wall – maybe have these as larger images around the room where we meet?
 - b. Tom brought up that the logo needs to look clear small because it will mostly be used small, not large. Like the wall image but don't do a picture/scene but more of a graphic (clip art).
 - c. Jenn: need to design something that can have both the English and Spanish together on the same image. Maybe a wall with a heart in the middle breaking it apart?
- b. Anticipated Costs
 - i. \$39,000 for food with taxes.
 - ii. \$500 for Rabbi Shmuley
 - iii. \$800 for music ministers
 - iv. A/V – do projector, computer, podium, microphone for 3 main rooms and microphones in other rooms. Est. \$5,500. We will provide our own tech for the workshop break out rooms.
 - v. Given above costs, registration will be around \$375 for delegates before Aug 15th. \$400 after August 15th. At Synod \$425. Not at hotel \$425. \$100 per day for day observers with meals.
 1. There was discussion about the cost since it is higher than previous synods. However this seems to be the cost to cover anticipated expenses, and it is a nice locale. Synod has to pay for itself, not take money out of the general operating fund.
 2. Rooms however are a lower price than the previous Synod. \$129 per night before tax.



E.C.C. Leadership Council Meeting

II. Constitutional Commission

- a. The first two revisions have been sent out. The third batch of revisions will be going out next week. They have received some feedback so far but not a lot. They are looking at being able to send out the complete revision in its final form by mid-June at the latest.

III. HOL Updates

- a. Finance Committee met last night to review 2017 finances and look ahead at the 2018 budget and anticipated income and expenses. Key points: About \$4500 shortfall from 2017 due to income being well under anticipated, expenses were also less which helped cut the impact. Almost all the communities met 100% of their pledge and many were able to give more. Two largest problems: overstating anticipated tithes and general collection (clergy and general appeal). Currently have about \$46,000 in undesignated funds in our account, so we do have at least 6 month operating reserve. 2018 budget we anticipate a deficit as well due to lower pledges/tithes than anticipated.
- b. General Appeal
 - i. Did not raise the money needed in 2017. Would like to combine the clergy and general appeal into one appeal in 2018 and do it earlier in the year: maybe April or May. There was also an idea to have 2 appeals: one in Spring and one in Fall. If everyone gave \$1.50 then we would make the appeal (a little from a lot of people).
 - ii. We need a solid structure in place for the appeal to work well – not just OPB/LC but get vicars, bishops, and local pastors involved. Make sure everyone has an opportunity to give.
- c. However can't depend on appeal for general expenses in future years. Need to create a budget that reflects actual income. One suggestion was to change the constitution to raise the tithe to 5.5 or 6% of undesignated income for each community to meet our operating expenses.
 - i. There was conversation about raising the percentage of tithes. There will probably be pushback on this, especially from new communities joining who feel this is a large amount out of their budgets. Maybe it would be better to stick with the appeal and everyone can give what they're able.
 - ii. Also if we get in more communities there should be an increase in income.

IV. HOP Updates – tabled

V. OPB/EC Updates – tabled

NEXT MEETING: April 11, 2018