



## **E.C.C Office of Presiding Bishop Meeting**

January 17, 2018

Present on call: Bishop Francis Krebs, Rev. Sue Ringler, Rev. Rosa Buffone, Rev. Kedda Keough, Jennifer Reyes Lay, Bishop Rafe Adams,

Opening Prayer: led by Bishop Rafe

Agenda:

- I. Auxiliary Bishop Consecration
  - a. Rev. Denise Donato will be consecrated a bishop on Friday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at Mary Magdalene Church in Rochester, NY. If people want to attend there is limited housing available through the parish.
  - b. Bishop Francis, Bishop Rafe, and Bishop Peter will be present at the co-consecrators.
  - c. Rev. Denise is coming to St. Louis next week to spend some time in preparation for her new role with Bishop Francis.
  - d. Rev. Sue Ringler will also be in attendance. Rev. Rosa reported four people including herself will be attending from Holy Spirit. Rev. Kedda and others from the Pacific NW unfortunately will not be able to attend but are keeping her in their prayers.
- II. Constitutional Commission
  - a. A message was sent out to the HOL and HOP with updates about revised sections of the Constitution being released periodically up to Synod. As each section is received, delegates are asked to take them back to their communities and send in their feedback to the Constitutional Commission for any additional revisions. The first batch was sent mid-January and then next batch will be sent in mid-February.
  - b. Articles 2 & 9 require more significant changes, so those will be presented last as amendments.
  - c. The hope is that the delegates who are receiving and reviewing this information are the same delegates who will be attending the Synod.
    - i. Vicars will follow up with their regions to make sure that each community has chosen their Synod delegates. Rev. Sue offered to draft a short e-mail that others can send out.
- III. Community information surveys/updates
  - a. Jennifer reported that this survey will be going out to all HOL and HOP delegates at the end of this week. This will be an annual update going out every January in the future. It includes basic contact information and tithe and delegate information.
  - b. There was discussion about if we need to ask for parish council information as well. Most people on the call felt the delegates can be the points of contact and they could pass on any information that needed to go out.
- IV. 2018 Synod updates



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- a. Jennifer reported back on Synod updates. All of the workshops and keynote speakers have been decided. She will put an announcement in the next ECC report to let people know the LC is no longer accepting requests. Rev. Kate is working with Dariusz on the website and we hope to have it updated by the end of February. No one has sent in a request for tables yet so please think of great projects or initiatives of your communities and share that information with a table at Synod. Send all ideas/requests to Jennifer.
- b. Rev. Sue reported there is local group working on details on the ground in Arizona who will be meeting later this month.
- V. Changing OPB meeting day/time
  - a. Jennifer requested a change in date/time due to her class schedule for the Spring.
  - b. There was agreement to keep it the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month and move the time to 12pm central.
    - i. Jennifer will follow up with Fr. Michael to confirm this works for him too.
- VI. Regional Check Ins
  - a. Bishop Francis will be visiting a community in discernment in Louisville, KY this coming weekend to share about the ECC and visit their priests.
  - b. East Coast
    - i. Had their second regional conference call last week. There is a lot of enthusiasm to have a retreat during Lent in Pennsylvania either at or near All Souls. Communities are sharing more on Facebook. Everyone had a great Christmas celebration. Rev. Rosa has asked each community to put up a wall of information from the East Coast in a public place in their church space. This is really helping to build community in the region.
  - c. Mid-America Diocese
    - i. Bishop Rafe is looking at continuing education for clergy, and reaching out to parish councils to have an R&D commission in the Diocese. They would like to do more research to get a better picture of the diocese in order to set concrete goals for the coming year. There are monthly conference calls happening to help move these agenda items forward. He also recommended a book that clergy in the diocese have been reading together called, "Celebrating Church" by Matthias Ploeger (sp?)
    - ii. Bishop Rafe offered to share a short document on how to develop a diocesan culture with all of the Vicars. Some are practical matters and some are more general.
  - d. Pacific NW
    - i. Took a break in December and will be joining back together for a regional conference call next week.
- VII. ECC Report Winter edition
  - a. Rev. Sue requested photos and updates from Advent, Christmas, or other holiday celebrations from the various regions to share in the ECC report.
- VIII. Annual Appeal



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- a. Vicars asked for how much had been donated from the Thanksgiving appeal. Jennifer reported that received to date is around \$4,500. She will follow up with individual vicars to let them know which communities from their region contributed.
- IX. Deacons Forum
  - a. Bishop Rafe shared he has really been enjoying meeting with the deacons in this group. They have been using Zoom to video conference and he highly recommends that platform. They have just a few meeting left in their scheduled program.
  - b. Rev. Kedda shared that her two deacon candidates have also had very positive feedback on the calls. She has sat in and also really supports the forum and use of zoom for the meetings.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 12pm central

February 21, 2018

Present on call: Rev. Rosa Buffone, Rev. Sue Ringler, Bishop Francis Krebs, Jennifer Reyes Lay, Fr. Michael Nicosia, Bishop Denise Donato, Rev. Kedda Keough, Bishop Rafe Adams

### **Agenda**

- 1) Welcome Bishop Denise
  - a. Bishop Denise will be working with Bishop Francis in collaboration with the local Vicars who will stay in place. In this new role she will be part of all future OPB/Vicar calls.
- 2) March on Washington to End Racism
  - a. NCC is sponsoring a national rally and march in Washington DC April 4<sup>th</sup>. Events span April 3<sup>rd</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Francis is organizing one or two buses to go from St. Louis. He encourages everyone else to help promote and organize ways for their parishioners to attend. Deacon Joan Crawford is one of the ECC representatives to the planning team and will be flying out from Phoenix.
  - b. In the next couple of weeks the Vicars will reach out to their areas to see if there is any interest in attending and how the ECC could help make that happen.
  - c. There was a question about local solidarity marches in other areas. Fr. Michael mentioned the CCC had been talking about it but don't want to organize; they would promote the event if someone else is organizing it. Rev. Kedda also said she would ask around the area about possibly organizing a march on the Washington capitol in solidarity.
- 3) Synod Updates
  - a. Constitution revisions



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The Houses have been sending the proposed constitutional revisions to both HOP and HOL delegates for review and discussion among their communities. Please encourage these reviews and send suggestions back in to the Constitutional Commission (Tom Wilding). Synod delegates should also be confirmed so that those who are in these discussions are prepared for Synod discussion on approving the revised Constitution.

**b. Community survey forms**

A reminder to get these back in to Jennifer asap. Only 7 have been returned so far. Jennifer will follow up with each vicar/bishop about communities in their region who haven't responded.

**4) Thanksgiving Appeal report back**

- a. 12 churches and 11 clergy donated in response to this special collection, raising \$5,120. There is one additional community known who will still be turning in a check. The original budgeted amount from this was \$13,000 total, so it was around \$8,000 short.
- b. One idea mentioned that perhaps wasn't well communicated was if each member of the ECC contributes just \$1-2 then it wouldn't be on any one community to meet this goal.
- c. There was a request for Bishop Francis to include a note about the thanksgiving appeal in his next ECC Newsletter message.
- d. There was also discussion about the HOL needed to come up with a plan for how to respond and how to plan ahead for 2018 to try and meet the goal of \$16,400 currently budgeted. One suggestion was to start the appeal at Synod and end it at Thanksgiving this year. The end of year timing was bad for many communities, on top of donating for disaster relief as well.

**5) Time for future OPB Meetings**

- a. There is no longer a schedule conflict with the later times so everyone agreed to move the call back to the original time (2pm Pacific, 3pm Mountain, 4pm Central, 5pm Eastern) for all future calls.

**6) Regional Check Ins**

- a. Pacific NW
  - i. There is a new community interested in joining from Idaho. The Spokane community is the closest and has been in communication with the developing church.
  - ii. Regional meeting was Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, all the community representatives said they were in favor of moving forward with electing a bishop and wanted a diocesan bishop not an auxiliary bishop. There are now community conversations about hopes and expectations for a bishop.
  - iii. There are 4 people in preparation for holy orders (2 deacons and 2 priests). They are really excited about having deacons from their participation in the



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deacon forum and understanding that vocation. Rev. Kedda strongly recommends continuing this program for all future deacons.

1. There was a question about having a workshop on the diaconate and deacon forum at Synod. This was requested by not approved because the LC had already approved the workshops. Bishop Rafe will follow up with Br. Ray Knapp about hosting a dinner table discussion on this instead.
- b. Rocky Mountain Region
  - i. St. Paul's Lutheran and Catholic Community has finished their constitution and Fr. Sutton's paperwork is completed for incardination. Fr. Michael is working on the evaluation team right now. Possible incardination in May (Pentecost) or June 3rd. They would like either the presiding bishop or auxiliary bishop to be present to welcome in this community and priest.
  - ii. Fr. Sutton has a psychotherapy degree and would like to talk with the ECC formation team, especially around the psychological exam because it is a big burden for many candidates with the cost. It could be streamlined and used in ways that would be more useful to the candidate for growth.
    1. There was a suggestion to call together a commission to look at these needed revisions. There was also a suggestion to have a dinner table discussion on this at Synod as well.
- c. East Coast
  - i. Rev. Rosa met with a young man (early 30s) who is interested in being ordained into the ECC. He was previously pursuing ordination with the ELCA and then connected with Fr. Teri Harroun (both Illif grads) who told him about the ECC. She is really excited about him and sent Bishop Francis an e-mail with his information to get connected because he is really excited too.

**March 21, 2018**

**Present on call:** Rev. Sue Ringler, Rev. Kedda Keough, Jennifer Reyes Lay, Fr. Michael Nicosia, Bishop Rafe Adams, Rev. Rosa Buffone, Bishop Francis Krebs

**Opening Prayer:** led by Bishop Francis

### **Agenda**

- 1) March on Washington to End Racism
  - a. Bishop Francis reported there are a few people from St. Louis and a few from Phoenix who are planning to attend. He asked if there was anyone else planning to go.



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- i. None of the vicars know of anyone else from the ECC planning to attend.
  - b. Regional marches
    - i. There may be a local solidarity march in Denver, but it's still TBD.
    - ii. There may be a local march in Washington but it's not confirmed yet.
  - c. Rev. Sue requested photos of all the ECC people together at the event that we can share in the ECC Newsletter and on social media.
- 2) Synod Updates
  - a. Rev. Sue reported back we have musicians confirmed. They are still trying to confirm the final cost for Synod, but should have final numbers soon. They are working on the Synod Logo.
  - b. The Synod will be at the Double Tree by Hilton Phoenix/Tempe. They tentatively have a block of rooms, but are not ready to be reserved yet. That will come out at the same time as registration costs are finalized.
  - c. If anyone has someone they would like to recommend to help plan the closing prayer service/ritual on Thursday to close out Synod please send along their names and contact info to Jennifer who is helping to coordinate that.
- 3) Regional Check Ins
  - a. Mid-America Diocese
    - i. The clergy from Mid-America met the first week of March in St. Louis for two days of meetings, relationship building, and a Chrism Mass. This gathering also included some of the seminarians and those in discernment for ordination, as well as Deacon Trish Vanni from Minneapolis. The first part was just getting to know one another better, and the second was setting up more practical logistics and policies for the diocese to run well.
    - ii. The Mid-America Diocese also signed an agreement with St. Stanislaus to walk together for the next year and continue building closer relationships. They will send some representatives to the Synod. There will be monthly meetings with with a small group from St. Stans and Sts. Clare & Francis to maintain better communication.
    - iii. There was also conversation about the recent diaconal ordination at St. Stans that was done by Bishop Ken Corbin and why it wasn't an ECC bishop.
  - b. Communications
    - i. There was discussion about the ECC Facebook group and the ECC Facebook page. The page is new and not many people have liked it yet. There aren't many posts. The group has consistent posting, but many of those posts are from non-ECC people which can be confusing. Is there a way to make sure only ECC members are part of the group? We don't want people mis-representing the ECC and its views/values. Could we have one designated person from each



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ECC parish have posting privileges on the ECC Page, and then not allow visitors to post, just view?

- ii. Bishop Francis will discuss these concerns and ideas next week with Tom Wilding who is heading up PR for the ECC. They will try and come up with some guidelines for both the page and the group.
- iii. There is also an ECC Magazine which is another way to share news stories and posts. It is on the Flip Board platform, and pulls from news stories. There was also discussion about if this should only include ECC articles or other related religion/faith articles as well.
  - 1. There was feedback that there are so many different pages now that it is confusing about where to find what information, which is most important, etc.
  - 2. Bishop Francis will also address this with Tom Wilding.
- c. Meeting with Bishop Fuentes
  - i. Rev. Rosa Buffone recently met with Bishop Fuentes while on a trip out in California. She had a wonderful visit with him. The ECC is looking at deepening its relationship with TOCCUSA which is the jurisdiction Bishop Fuentes pertains to. Rev. Rosa also offered to meet up with Bishop Rosemary from TOCCUSA who is closer to her out east as well.
- d. Rocky Mountain Region
  - i. Church of the Holy Family is still searching for a pastor so please forward on any names of interested clergy or those qualified to be ordained.
  - ii. Fr. Michael requested a video recording of Bishop Francis' presentation that he gave to the RMR at his last visit talking about the ECC. Bishop Francis will review his notes and work on this.
- e. Pacific NW
  - i. They are moving forward with a committee to discuss forming a diocese, made up of representatives from all 3 churches and a mission.
- f. Benedict Feast Day
  - i. Today is the feast day of St. Benedict and we have a Benedictine Order in the ECC so keep them in your prayers today or send them some love.

NEXT MEETING: April 18, 2018