



## E.C.C. Leadership Council Meeting

March 12, 2019

**Present on call:** Rev. Rosa Buffone, Paula Hayford, Jennifer Reyes Lay, Fr. Mike Bober, Tom Wilding,

**Opening Prayer:** led by Rev. Rosa

### Agenda

- I. Approval of February minutes
  - The minutes for February were approved unanimously
- II. MMS Updates
  - A. Jennifer gave an update that 7 people have agreed to serve on the advisory board so far and they will hold their first meeting March 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - B. No action has been taken yet to transfer the funds to another account.
- III. Website Update
  - A. Jennifer shared as far as she knows there are no updates on the new website and no concrete timeline of when it will be ready.
  - B. There were comments that the current website is very outdated and really needs to have a more modern and fresh look. It is not a good representation of the ECC. This needs to be a priority as a first contact many people have with the ECC. There was also a suggestion to hire someone local for pay who can do this and complete it in a timely manner.
  - C. The Leadership Council agreed to make the website a priority and take this off Bishop Francis' list of responsibilities. They will look for someone local (in U.S.) and if needed find funds to pay this person. If we are going to pay someone the priority would be to hire within the ECC. Then we need to have a communications team that can keep information updated and make changes as needed. Maybe whoever designs the new website can train a few people in basic upkeep.
    - i. Tom will send out an e-mail to the HOL listserv to see if anyone has skills in this area and is willing to help.
    - ii. Paula will follow up with Bishop Francis on behalf of the LC to see what work has been done already and how to get access to that work to move it forward and complete it soon. After this call then she will indicate if the message should go out to the HOL for volunteers.
- IV. Synod 2020 Updates
  - A. The planning team added in requests about weekend rates and availability as well, however neither city had options available for weekends for the best priced hotels.
  - B. Rev. Rosa gave an update on the different prices and packages for the hotel options in St. Louis and in Rochester. Two best options look like Riverside in Rochester and Drury Inn in St. Louis. Bonus with Drury Inn is that it includes hot breakfast and happy hour with room price so that takes some pressure off of ECC.
  - C. Follow-up questions for planning committee:
    - i. What would a budget look like for each hotel?



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- ii. What are the charges for AV?
- iii. Have local people go to each place to check them out in person.
- D. In the past the Leadership Council has met in person at the location for Synod to pick theme, discern workshops, set the agenda, etc. The planning team is wondering what if any involvement they might have in this process.
  - i. There was conversation about what the relationship should be between the planning team and the Leadership Council. The theme in the past has grown out of prayer, sharing, and discernment among the LC meeting in person. The workshops then were created around the theme with people either proposing them or being asked directly to lead something. The planning team would be interested in participating in this part as well if possible. There were also comments about how to get more communion wide feedback and participation in Synod planning, especially with a general call for workshops and shaping the schedule. It is important to remember we need adequate time for governance as well.
  - ii. There was a proposal to make Synod planning a major discussion at April's Leadership Council meeting. This was agreed to by all present. Focus on what are the goals and expectations of Synod and each part of Synod that has historically been included (ex. liturgy, keynotes, workshops, House meetings, etc.)
  - iii. There was also a proposal to have a special synod planning meeting at some point with the synod committee and Leadership Council together. This could be by Zoom rather than in person. Maybe have the LC meeting first and then a joint meeting together.
- V. Internal Communications
  - A. How do newly ordained/incardinated clergy get onto the different lists? There is not currently a unified process and new clergy want to know how to get plugged in. Would like to see more lateral communication of people talking between one another through listservs. The ECC Report is a one-way communication that is only sent every few months. New clergy don't know how to get on the ECC mailing list and the HOP list. The OPB Administrator does not manage either of these lists and shared she will forward them to the corresponding leaders of those listservs when she gets requests.
  - B. HOP created a closed Facebook page for all ECC clergy. They are trying to get the word out to ECC clergy to join and are beginning to share ideas and resources with one another.
  - C. Continue this conversation to next month to see about setting up a coordinated process.
- VI. Updates
  - A. HOL – there is a ballot out to delegates to vote on the proposed amendments to the Constitution. Based on that vote the amendments will or will not get put into the full version for the final up or down vote most likely in late April.
  - B. HOP – hold
  - C. EC – All the bishops are on retreat in Chicago next week so please keep them in your prayers.

Next Meeting: April 9<sup>th</sup> and Tom will facilitate for Bishop Francis



## E.C.C. Leadership Council Meeting

April 16, 2019

**Present on call:** Jennifer Reyes Lay, George VonStamwitz, Tom Wilding, Paula Hayford, Bishop Francis Krebs, Rev. Rosa Buffone, Fr. Mike Bober

**Opening Prayer:** led by Bishop Francis

### Agenda

- VII. Approval of March minutes
  - A. The minutes from March were unanimously approved.
  
- VIII. Episcopal Vacancy in Colorado
  - A. The Rocky Mountain Region has submitted a letter to the Leadership Council and OPB asking for a recognition of their episcopal vacancy and permission to begin the process to elect a local bishop. Every parish in their region voted in favor with more than a 2/3 majority vote. There was affirmation of their deliberate and faith filled process to arrive to this point.
  - B. George reviewed the Constitutional responsibility of the Leadership Council in approving the formation of diocese and calling local bishops.
  - C. Bishop Francis moved to officially recognize an episcopal vacancy in the Rocky Mountain Region. Everyone on the call voted in favor of approving the episcopal vacancy.
    - i. Bishop Francis will send an official letter back to the Rocky Mountain Region with the decision of the Leadership Council.
  - D. There was a follow up question about if they will also be forming a diocese and if all regions will have to call themselves a diocese or if other language can be used to describe local church with a local bishop. There needs to be clarification around this in the Constitution.
    - i. Bishop Francis and George will put a small group together to clarify the language around diocese and regions.
  
- IX. ECC Constitution updates
  - A. Bishop Francis brought up a concern about one of the proposed changes from the HOL delegates to change the Episcopal Council's name to the House of Bishops in the Constitution. This is a content change, not just an organizational change which was the original intent of the revised Constitution. The vote for revising the Constitution was originally supposed to just be an up or down vote on the revised structure, not changing content or policies. If there is going to be a change to the name of the Episcopal Council the bishops would like to have a voice in that conversation as well.
  - B. Once the HOL has taken their final vote (voting closes Friday) they will present their approved version of the Constitution to the HOP and a joint committee will meet to find consensus. Bishop Francis would like to have an episcopal presence on that committee to share their thoughts as well.



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- X. ECC Treasurer
  - A. Susan Hunt has resigned as treasurer of the ECC for personal reasons. Bishop Francis is currently looking for a new treasurer and is open to suggestions from others about people to approach. Tom will ask the Finance Committee for suggestions.
  
- XI. Website updates
  - A. Bishop Francis asked for a chance to complete the new ECC website by Pentecost before the Leadership Council takes it over. He shared the url for the updated website for everyone to review and make comments. The basic design and look is finished and they are working on uploading content.
  
- XII. Synod Updates
  - A. Bishop Francis shared that Sts. Clare & Francis has not been asked to host the Synod in St. Louis yet. The parish council will be discussing this tomorrow night and Bishop Francis will let everyone else know what they decide. He did go check out the hotel with Therese though and thought the location was good (heart of downtown), includes breakfast and evening meal with two drinks (including alcoholic) which keeps cost down but will be mixed with other hotel attendees, food options are basic but there are nearby restaurants with more expansive options, and the conference rooms are nice. They did not see inside a guest room, but everything in the hotel was nice and clean.
  - B. There was discussion about how to meet together for just a Synod planning meeting whether in person or virtual. In the short term there was agreement to have a separate ad-hoc meeting to discuss only Synod items and planning. For that first meeting have only Leadership Council and then the second meeting could include the Synod planning team as well.
  - C. Jennifer will work to schedule this separate meeting time.
  
- XIII. Continuing conversation about internal communication – tabled for next month
  
- XIV. HOL/HOP/EC updates – tabled for next month

Next meeting: May 14, 2019



## E.C.C. Leadership Council Meeting

May 14, 2019

**Present:** Bishop Rafe Adams, Tom Wilding, Paula Hayford, Fr. Mike Bober, Rev Rosa Buffone, George von Stamwitz, Jennifer Reyes Lay

**Opening prayer:** Rev. Rosa Buffone

### Agenda:

- I. Approval of April minutes
  - All approved the April minutes.
- II. Continuing conversation on internal communications
  - A. HOL – increasingly difficult to get information from communities about current delegates so the listserv is not necessarily accurate. Communities aren't sending in when delegates change and then the leadership is being accused of not communicating.
  - B. Newsletter – this used to be monthly, then went to bi-monthly, and is now quarterly. That isn't keeping people updated with information but not sure what to do about it.
  - C. HOP – new pastors and clergy of new communities aren't sure how to get added to the listserv and communication lists. There needs to be an organized, streamline process for this. HOP has been working on getting an updated list of all clergy and are still waiting on some responses to complete that. They are also looking at creating a closed Facebook group just for ECC clergy.
    - i. There was a request for HOP to send out an e-mail to their listserv to have each parish send in their updated HOL delegate information to Tom and Paula and ask them to please keep this information updated. Every community has a different cycle for delegates and elections. It would help if there was a set time every year that delegates switched out.
    - ii. HOP steering committee will take these action items back to their meeting.
  - D. There are different sites of communication and it does not seem very coordinated: Facebook, website, Newsletter, e-mails, regional and local websites and Facebook pages, and regional newsletters. Rev. Rosa said she would consider helping out Rev. Sue Ringler again with the Newsletter.
  - E. New Communities and Clergy – it would be helpful to have a manual for new communities that on-boards them into the communion, explains all the requirements, communication procedures, finances, delegates, etc. There are still a lot of questions and confusion both for clergy and communities when they join the ECC.
    - i. HOP will pull a group together to start working on this.
  - F. Listservs – a listserv was set up for finance chairs and parish council chairs but we don't have the contact information for each church to populate those. There isn't much lateral communication between churches right now.
- III. HOL/HOP/EC check ins



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- A. HOL – Have mostly been focused on the constitutional process since the HOL vote. They have reached out to the HOP to share the approved HOL version and see how they would like to proceed. 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financials have been reviewed by the finance committee. Good news is that we've taken in a higher percentage of tithes this year than last year, but there are still some concerns about solvency.
  - B. HOP – Steering committee has been discussing the constitutional changes from the HOL. They have also been discussing how to improve their internal house communication including starting a closed facebook group to build community and conversation to support one another. They have also been discussing the role of the pastor, expectations, and the need for more clergy. Most clergy are 60+ so there could be a crisis in 10-15 years of not having clergy to serve our communities. Need to think about how to encourage new clergy and also how to pay a decent wage so younger people can serve as clergy.
    - i. It was brought up that supporting new/younger clergy is part of the Mary Magdalene Society priorities.
    - ii. There was also a question about the youth immersion program. Jennifer reported that there will not be an immersion trip this year but there are funds available to local youth groups if they would like to do something locally. Jennifer will send information to Rev. Sue Ringler for the next ECC Newsletter to let communities know.
  - C. Episcopal Council – The bishops met this past week and shared about what is going on in each diocese. In Mid-America they are also looking at how to develop a new generation of clergy and lay ministers, using techniques of participation. Emmaus in Oshkosh just celebrated their 10 year anniversary. Bishop Denise will be attending the installation of the new Episcopal bishop in Denver and will also be meeting with the region to help them as they prepare to call their own bishop. In the Pacific NW Deacon Teri McKenzie was ordained to the presbyterate. Bishop Kedda will be calling together a symposium on ECC ecclesiology for the Pacific NW and anyone else who wants to join.
- IV. Constitution updates
- A. The HOL approved an updated version of the Constitution and that was sent to the HOP chairs and they shared it with the steering committee. The HOP steering committee discussed it and is proposing to go back to the original document as presented at the 2018 Synod and ask all delegates (HOP/HOL) to vote just up or down on that original document or by articles. Any changes/edits could then be brought to the 2020 Synod for debate and vote.
  - B. There was discussion on the HOP proposal.
    - i. Tom said it should not be voted article by article but rather should be up or down on the whole document because if something isn't approved what happens? Does it just get taken out?
    - ii. There are also the guidelines and procedures to consider. What happens to those? These are currently left outside of the revised Constitution to be their own separate documents and have not been changed.
    - iii. Any changes to the document seem too important to be done online and should be debated with everyone together in person. However if we wait to do anything until



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Synod 2020 then whatever is approved would have to wait again until 2022 for any amendments to the revised Constitution.

- iv. Delegates have already been vocal about what they want and do not want from the original proposal. Why do we think that putting the original document back to a vote will pass? Are we expecting people to change their minds after all the work they've already done and discussed?
  - v. The HOL delegates have worked really hard to get here and taking it backwards and presenting it for a vote is not going to change anything. We already know the delegates don't support the document as it was. Going backwards would be a waste of time.
  - vi. Bishop Rafe gave a summary of the work of the constitutional commission and affirmed there is still a constitutional commission. The work prior to the 2018 Synod in collaboration with George was to try and create consensus among the delegates for a revised constitution. Part of the work was to separate out the different parts that are not actually constitution material and have them be their own documents. Let's try to keep moving forward with a focus on consensus and we don't need to feel rushed. The 2014 Constitution is still in place.
  - vii. The original proposal was to have a reconciliation commission between the HOL and HOP based on the HOL version to find consensus. Why was this taken off as a consideration? The HOL affirmed moving forward this way. The HOP felt like the actions taken so far to change it have strayed from the original purpose and process and should not continue like this electronically.
  - viii. There are currently two proposed versions of the revised Constitution: the HOP and HOL version. The heads of houses could get together, George is willing to work with them as well, to see if they can reconcile these two versions into one to be proposed to both Houses. The HOL leaders and George were in favor of this procedure.
  - ix. Rev. Rosa clarified that in the HOP they did not actually make all the changes everyone wanted to because they realized going line by line like they started was not what they were supposed to do, so they stopped debate and just took an up or down vote on the document with the proposals that had already been made.
  - x. The final decision and agreement was to move forward with the reconciliation committee made up of three members each from HOL and HOP leadership to present a final document to HOL and HOP delegates for an up or down vote. They can consult the bishops or commission members if they find it necessary. By June's meeting they will have the members confirmed and possibly a first meeting.
- V. 2020 Synod
- A. St. Louis agreed to host the 2020 Synod. Need to think about how to get this information to all the communities with dates and hotel information.
  - B. There will be a separate meeting to discuss Synod details and planning. Please respond to the Doodle poll.
- VI. ECC Website – tabled for next month      Next meeting: June 11<sup>th</sup>