

Leadership Meeting Minutes: Jan 14, 2020

Facilitator: Mike Bober

Secretary: Paula Hayford

Attendees: Mike Bober, Tom Wilding, Rosa Buffone, Paula Hayford, +Francis, George Von Stamwitz

Absent: Erin Outson

Prayer led by Tom Wilding

December minutes approved

Website Update: Rosa and +Francis reported a zoom with Thomaz and things are ready soon for go live

ECC Winter Newsletter Report: Rosa reported that Sue Ringler is waiting for items from Mike Bober (HOP) and a Finance report. Paula stated that a report of 2019 finances should be ready 1.16.2020. She will talk with finance chairs about a report for the ECC Newsletter.

Finance Discussion: 2020 has a revised budget approved by the HOL Steering Committee. It will be sent to all HOL delegates soon along with a letter from Tom Wilding, HOL Chair explaining the changes.

Also, the Finance Chairs John O'Grady and Leo Champaign, Treasurer David Hayford and +Francis will be having a letter sent to Pastors about the importance of timely tithing, a system to report tithes, our annual survey to update leadership and parish budgets. The letter is ready to be sent this week.

New business: Committee members brought up the discussion item that there is really no documentation as to the # of parishes and missions we have in the ECC and their leadership/budgets. This will hopefully be available after the Parish surveys are returned to the OPB.

This led to a discussion of what is required of a parish or mission to become a member of the ECC and who does the vetting. +Francis proposed that a standing 'Committee on Communities' be formed in the HOL to create a document of requirements for membership. The HOL has previously discussed this and also want a 3 year(?) evaluation created. It was suggested we investigate what other denominations use for best practices. (Constitution, finances, leadership, theologically, etc)

Leadership Meeting Minutes: March 10th, 2020

Facilitator: Rosa Buffone

Secretary: Erin Outson

Attendees: Mike Bober, Tom Wilding, Rosa Buffone, +Francis, George Von Stamwitz,

Absent: Paula Hayford

1. Approval of February minutes (if available)
 - a. Mike Bober took minutes for February and sending them to Erin Outson
2. Check in on Synod Planning
 - a. Rosa Buffone reported there has been a lot of planning, she pointed to her email she sent last week noting how Ray Knapp was able to budget in all the costs mentioned for the leadership and for this Synod and the 2022 Synod. Things are going well. The next meeting will be March 25th. The minutes from these meetings are up on DropBox. Drury Inn is the most cost effective of the hotels. Rosa started posting the Key Note speaker onto the Facebook event page. Rosa Buffone has not announced the registration fee yet. Rosa Buffone proposed that by April there should be a general format that is posted, an agenda, letting people know there is a different format (there will not be any workshops for this Synod).
 - b. Bishop Francis asked if there was a place within the Synod for musicians to gather.
 - c. March 25th is the next Synod planning meeting.
3. ECC Website
 - a. Bishop Francis talked with Tomasz about the problem with the site crashing.
4. Constitution
 - a. Tom Wilding emphasized this constitution was sent out so everyone could look at and bring their concerns/edits before being published.
 - b. George asked if there is a red line compared to what the HOP did and the version that was sent. Tom said anything marked in grey is a change to the original version. If it isn't in grey it did not get changed from the HOP version. Bishop Francis is going to find the hard red lined version. Bishop Francis thanked the committee and Tom for all the work they did. After talking with them he is going to talk with the Leadership Council again. The ideal date for these concerns to be brought forward will be by March 15th (a soft deadline). Tom wants to get this out by March 30th.
5. Anything else?
 - a. Mike Bober brought up a parish survey that was being drafted by the OPB office and by the Leadership Council. George echoed this idea by emphasizing we need to know who is coming to the Synod. Tom brought up that most communities do their elections in July and so HOP and HOL leadership need to grab ahold of this now. Send out a form from the OPB office or LC council that asks for general information. Then the HOL and HOP take that information and then go after the inefficiencies so we know who to send things to.
 - b. Mike Bober emphasized there should be a routine for sending out the constitutional letter to communities and then send them out. Bishop Francis brought up the importance of leaders gathering ahead of time to provide good boundaries and parameters knowing some of the issues that will most likely be addressed.

The next meeting is April 14th, 2020

Leadership Meeting Minutes: April 14th, 2020

Facilitator: +Frank Krebs

Secretary: Erin Outson

Attendees: Mike Bober, Tom Wilding, Rosa Buffone, Paula Hayford, George Von Stamwitz, +Frank Krebs

1. Approval of March minutes (see attached)
2. Check in on Synod Planning-Meeting during the pandemic
 - a. Frank brought forward whether or not we are proceeding full bore with Synod Planning. There can be people who are data driven and more inclined to wait until we have to make a decision and people who decide with their guts saying there is no way we can make a decision. He presented these choices from other national organizations he is a part of as examples.
 - b. Rev. Rosa said she is hoping to have financial figures from Drury Inn if we do decide to not go forward with hotels, and what the cancellation rate would be.
 - c. Bishop Francis concluded that we need to start planning contingencies and to talk more about this at the next Synod Planning meeting.
3. ECC Website
 - a. It will be done by the end of the month, April 24th. They are deeply affected by this pandemic as we are.
4. Constitution
 - a. Tom Wilding and Mike Bober gave Frank the latest from the reconciliation committee. Frank shared this with Bishop Rafe and George to make sure they are on the same page, and then they are scheduling a meeting with George on April 16th. After they discuss the constitution on Thursday they will contact Mike and Tom ASAP.
5. Deficit and Fund Raising
 - a. Art Bavaso brought up the need for local communities to be empowered and aware in how they fundraise on a local level that helps the national entities that support local communities. This could serve as a model for the ECC. He acknowledged a goal set by the national office that coincides and unites with Mary Magdalene Society.
 - b. Rev. Rosa brought forth some questions about this plan. Art responded that there needs to be an annual united appeal between the ECC/MMS. Art in the workshops he runs for the ECC asks communities to look at what they are already doing and then working with what they are doing to amplify and help elevate these efforts. And depending on the size or needs of the community, doing the best you can to tithe is enough and great.
 - c. Art expressed the idea to expose communities more to the needs of the ECC and the needs of the endowment, without asking for money. It's not just about sending out a letter but it is also about using different tactics, laying out a plan, that will be approved by the leadership council.
 - d. Mike Bober offered up the idea of hosting zoom sessions with multiple community leaders or regions with Art Bavaso to offer up suggestions that are representative of ECC. To offer up his services and expertise, not as definite solutions but to help give advice during such a difficult time for everyone, especially congregations. Art Bavaso mentioned a podcast that he gave that he would be willing to share with people as an example of what he does. Rosa lifted up inviting Art to the regional meetings that are happening right now.

- e. Bishop Francis is going to communicate with MMS committee members to create a plan that will be presented to the Leadership Council. This idea will be presented on May 12th at the next meeting. MMS is meeting on the 21st. Bishop Francis emphasized working in complete unity with MMS and so this is a permanent part of our culture that will be for generations to come.

Next Meeting: May 12th 2020