

**Wisconsin Religious Collaborative  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**July 18, 2022**

**Minutes**

**Roll Call**

Pat Cormack, SCSC	President	Present
Diana De Bruin, OSF	Vice President	Present
Theresa Sandok, OSM	Secretary	Present
Sue Ernster, FSPA	Treasurer	Present
Angelo Collins, OP	Board Member	Present
Sharon Glumb, SLW	Board Member	Present
Beverly Heitke, SDS	Board Member	Present
Rose Jochmann, OSF	Board Member	Present
Lisa Kane, OP	Board Member	Present
Jean Steffes, CSA	Board Member	Present
Julie Tydrich, FSPA	Executive Director	Present

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative was called to order via Zoom at 9:50 AM by Pat Cormack, SCSC. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Green Bay, but an outbreak of Covid among the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross necessitated change in venue.

**Prayer**

Sue Ernster, FSPA, led the group in an opening prayer.

**Welcoming of WRC New Member**

Pat Cormack, SCSC, welcomed new WRC Tier One Founder and Board Member Lisa Kane, OP, who represents the Racine Dominican Sisters. The members read aloud and affirmed the Covenant of the Tier One Founders of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative.

**Approval of Agenda**

Diana De Bruin, OSF, moved, and Rose Jochmann, OSF, seconded the motion, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Beverly Heitke, SDS, moved, and Angelo Collins, OP, seconded the motion, to approve the May 25, 2022 minutes. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Sue Ernster, FSPA, provided the balance sheet and income statement for May 2022. As of May 31, 2022, assets totaled \$306,550.98, and liabilities totaled \$922.00, resulting in total net assets of \$262,146.08. YTD revenues totaled \$128,197.62, and expenses totaled \$84,714.72, for a net operating gain of \$43,482.90, putting us ahead of budget by \$54,746.90.

Sue explained that we are under budget in revenues because we have not requested the entirety of the FSPA Venture Grant, and also because of unrealized losses on investments. We are also below budget on expenses because we have not traveled as planned and have not had the programming that would have drawn on the Venture Grant, FSPA has approved using the approximately \$45,000 remaining in the Venture Grant for programming in the next two years.

Jean Steffes, CSA, moved, and Angelo Collins, OP, seconded the motion, to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

### **Emerging Futures Collaborative**

The Emerging Futures Collaborative is a ministry of religious institutes in Australia established to support and serve religious institutes in transition, to provide access to a canonical delegate (i.e., commissary) if needed, and to provide shared services. Sharon Price, RSM, Transition Manager for the Emerging Futures Collaborative, was a speaker at a recent RCRI workshop in Chicago attended by some of our members. Pat Cormack, SCSC, contacted Sharon after the workshop, asking if she would be available to meet with us to share the experiences of the Emerging Futures Collaborative. The board expressed its support for the meeting, which will take place via Zoom at 7:00-9:00 PM CT, Thursday, September 8. The meeting is open to any team members who may wish to attend.

Linda Ferrington, RSC, Mission Integration Manager for the Emerging Futures Collaborative, will attend the LCWR assembly in St. Louis. Pat has arranged to meet with her for lunch on Thursday, August 11. Pat invited any board members who would like to attend to let her know.

### **GHR Foundation Grants**

Pat Cormack, SCSC, had a conversation on July 5 with Kathleen Mahoney, the GHR representative who has worked with us since the initial study grant and the current grant, which is scheduled to end on December 31, 2022. If we continue to pay a portion of the executive

director's salary from the grant and incur no other grant expenses, we will have about \$15,000 remaining at the end of the year. If there is money remaining, Pat will ask for a six-month extension. Kathleen has already indicated that GHR would be open to an extension.

Kathleen told Pat that GHR is winding down the grants for its Sister Support Initiative, the area of funding of which we are a part. GHR would like to give each group in the Initiative a small grant of no more than \$25,000 to solidify the sustainability of the organization.

Following discussion, Diana De Bruin, OSF, moved, and Beverly Heitke, SDS, seconded the motion, to request an extension for the current grant and to submit a grant proposal to GHR requesting funds to support our mental health initiatives, which may include a subscription to St. Luke Institute's online library of resources and access to the Institute's professional staff as need arises. Motion carried.

Pat and Julie Tydrich, FSPA, will contact Beth Davis, Director of Education at Saint Luke Institute, to explore the feasibility of access to the Institute's online resources and professional staff, and they will draft the grant proposal.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Julie Tydrich, FSPA, provided a written report prior to the board meeting (Attachment 1).

She announced that Agnes Fischer, OSF, archivist for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross, has joined the Archives Advisory Committee.

A question was asked about the status of the *ad experimentum* proposal that we had agreed to send back to the Governance Advisory Committee. Following discussion, the board decided that, rather than send the matter back to the committee, Pat Cormack, SCSC, and Julie would develop a proposal to present to the board on how we might engage canonists to assist us in determining next steps. Julie will inform the committee of LCWR's response and the board's decision.

Angelo Collins, OP, noted that her name was missing as the board liaison to the Technology Advisory Committee from executive director's list of board liaisons. Julie said that she would add Angelo's name to the list and that the committee had not yet been activated.

### **Lunch Break, 11:45 AM – 12:15 PM**

#### **Governance Scenarios: Discussion**

*This session was recorded.*

Prior to the meeting, Julie Tydrich, FSPA, distributed a document describing the top governance and management needs of each congregation, as presented by the congregation's board representative (Attachment 2).

The number of professed members and median age of each congregation were reported as follows:

<b>Religious Institute</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Median Age</b>
Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, Merrill	20	82
Servants of Mary, Ladysmith	27	83
Sisters of the Living Word, Des Plaines	43	80
Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross, Green Bay	44	82
Sisters of the Divine Savior, Milwaukee	46	82
Racine Dominican Sisters, Racine	88	85
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis	135	84
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, Fond du Lac	149	80
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse	162	82
Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, Sinsinawa	297	82

Each board member described her scenario, followed by suggestions from the board on how the issues might be addressed.

Among the general suggestions that surfaced during the discussion were the following:

- Perhaps such organizations as LCWR and RCRI can assist in helping international congregations understand the kinds of competencies that are needed when appointing leaders for their US units that no longer have members to serve in leadership. In such cases, it may be preferable to appoint a delegate from another US congregation rather than a member of the international congregation from another country.
- We could benefit from a program dealing with the distinction between administration and leadership. Tape it, and make it available on the website.
- We could benefit from a program addressing the question: What do you do to prepare for completion? What are the steps you need to take, and how do you bring the sisters along? Perhaps WRC could invite Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN, to speak to us on this topic. Rose Dowling, FSM, and Janice Bader, CPPS, would also be good resources. Perhaps LCWR or RCRI could create a consulting group of knowledgeable people to assist with this issue.

**Future Meetings: 9:30 AM–2:30 PM.**

Sept. 19, 2022 Green Bay (or Zoom, if needed). Prayer: Sharon Glumb, SLW  
Nov. 7, 2022 Zoom (or Green Bay, if Sept. is Zoom). Prayer: Rose Jochmann, OSF  
Jan. 30, 2023 Zoom. Prayer: Theresa Sandok, OSM.  
Mar. 20, 2023 Annual Meeting, La Crosse. Prayer: Diana De Bruin, OSF  
May 15, 2023 Joint Leadership Teams, St. Francis. Prayer: Lisa Kane, OP  
July 10, 2023 Location TBD. Prayer: SDS

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa Sandok, OSM". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end.

Theresa Sandok, OSM  
Secretary, WRC