

**Wisconsin Religious Collaborative
Board of Directors Meeting
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin**

September 18, 2023

Minutes

Roll Call

Pat Cormack, SCSC	President	Present
Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF	Vice President	Present
Theresa Sandok, OSM	Secretary	Present
Sue Ernster, FSPA	Treasurer	Present
Angelo Collins, OP*	Board Member	Present
Rose Jochmann, OSF	Board Member	Present
Marie McKenna, SLW	Board Member	Excused
Mary Ann Pevas, OP	Board Member	Present
Sharon Pollnow, CSA	Board Member	Present
Jean Schafer, SDS	Board Member	Present
Julie Tydrich, FSPA	Executive Director	Present

Call to Order

Pat Cormack, SCSC, called to order a regular meeting of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative at the motherhouse of the Congregation of Sisters St. Agnes, Fond du Lac, Wis., at 9:45 AM.

Prayer

Sharon Pollnow, CSA, led the group in an opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Rose Jochmann, OSF, moved, and Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Sharon Pollnow, CSA, moved, and Jean Schafer, SDS, seconded the motion, to approve the July 10, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

* Representing the Sinsinawa Dominicans in place of Jeanne Tranel, OP.

Treasurer's Report

Sue Ernster, FSPA, presented the treasurer's report. As of July 31, 2023, assets totaled \$422,859.34. There were no liabilities. YTD income totaled \$34,642.46 and expenses totaled \$9,487.08, for a net gain of \$25,155.38.

July income included \$25,000 from the FSPAs and a contribution from the Holy Cross Sisters of Merrill, as well as member dues.

In July we showed a net profit of slightly over \$25,000. The budget was built on the assumption that the Director of Shared Services would be in place in July.

Sue Ernster, FSPA, moved, and Rose Jochmann, OSF, seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Julie Tydrich, FSPA, presented a written report (Attachment 1). There was no discussion.

Follow-Up Conversation to May and July Presentations

Mary Jo Nelson, OLVM, spoke to the board in May and Janice Bader, CPPS, and Lynn Jarrell, OSU, in July on matters pertaining to governance and completion. The presentations are posted on the website.

Pat Cormack, SCSC, invited members to respond to the presentations. Questions and comments included the following:

- Lynn Jarrell, OSU, said she was offering one of a three-part presentation on governance. Can we get the other two parts?
- Bonnie MacLellan, SSJ, Lynn McKenzie, OSB, and Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, spoke to us last year. Their talks are all available online.
- The challenge to WRC has been that we're all at different places in terms of what needs to be done.
- Our main purpose of joining WRC was governance. Is this group interested in working together collaboratively on that issue?

Board of Review

Angelo Collins, OP, presented a revised draft of "Review Boards During the Investigation of Allegations of Sexual Abuse" and described how the process would work. She said a contact person for the WRC would be responsible for implementing the policy. A congregation in need

of a review board would call the contact person, who would work with the congregation to create the review board. Angelo said that, with her prioress's approval, she would be happy to serve as the contact person. Julie Tydrich, FSPA, suggested that Fran Ferder, FSPA, might be open to working with Angelo to develop a procedure to implement the policy. Angelo said she would like to do some editing of the policy to make it a little clearer. She invited members to send her ideas or concerns that they would like to have considered in the next draft.

Update on Search for Shared Services Director

Pat Cormack, SCSC, updated the board on the search for a Shared Services Director. Earlier this year, the search committee (Pat Cormack, SCSC, Theresa Sandok, OSM, Jean Schafer, SDS, and Julie Tydrich, FSPA) identified two candidates, neither of whom turned out to have the qualities we are seeking. Last Friday Pat got a lead on another potential candidate, and she will ask Therese Malm to have an initial conversation with that person. If that lead does not work out, Pat suggested that we reopen the search and invite Therese Malm to submit a proposal to have someone from her company assist us with the search. This person would be at a lower pay rate than Therese and would be able to devote more time to the search than Therese is able to provide. The position would be paid from our GHR grant. The proposal would go to the Executive Committee. Sharon Pollnow, CSA, moved, and Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, seconded the motion to accept Pat's recommendation. Motion carried.

Open Forum

Sharon Pollnow, CSA, said her congregation plans to pilot the "Hear My Voice" program with their sisters. The program's founder, Kate, is a hospice chaplain. She works with brain cancer patients to get them to tell their spiritual story before they die, and then gift it to someone. The CSAs are working with Kate to adapt the interview questions to religious life. In November they will have a training session for their spiritual directors and leadership team on how to conduct the interviews. Sharon offered to send information about this program to the WRC group.

Sue Ernster, FSPA, asked how congregations had the conversation with their community about receiving new members. Jean Schafer, SDS, said they took a survey and found that their members are not of one mind and heart on the issue, even on the leadership level. Pat Cormack, SCSC, commented that it's one thing when you don't have any people interested, and another when you do. She explained how her community addressed the issue in a visual way, by having people stand together in five-year cohorts according to age, and then moving to where they would be in the next five years. One of the sisters moving into the 105 range said: "I'm in heaven." The process released the anxiety in the room, and the following year the community made the decision not to accept new members. Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, said her community agreed that they would not actively seek new members. If someone applies, they will ask whether there is someone willing to live with the new person. Angelo Collins, OP, said that the Sinsinawas have two houses of hospitality. The mission of those who live in them is to be there

for women who might be interested in entering. Sharon Pollnow, CSA, said they haven't had a vocation in 20 years. They plan to have a conversation next January with the community about accepting new members. She offered to send the a copy of their discernment process to Sue.

Pat said she would include an open forum on each agenda in order for members to be able to raise topics of concern and engage in basic sharing in order to learn from one another. She invited members to send her topics in advance to give people time to think about them.

St. Luke Institute

Pat Cormack, SCSC, reminded members that our agreement with St. Luke Institute includes three elements: (1) Twice a year, an opportunity for input from Emily Cash. (2) Access to SLIconnect for WRC team members and one person from each non-WRC leadership team in LCWR 9. (3) Thirty hours of consultation over the course of a year, divided among WRC leadership teams. WRC members who do not use all their hours may make them available to other members. The board agreed to keep the consultation hours at 30 for next year.

On November 6 from 10:00 AM to noon Emily Cash will address the topic of helping those who live with sisters with memory issues. Leadership teams are welcome. The session will include an hour of input and an hour of process.

Future Meeting Dates

Date	Place/Type	Prayer Leader	Notes
11/6/2023	Zoom	Angelo Collins, OP	Education session with Emily Cash
1/22/2024	Zoom	Pat Cormack, SCSC	
3/25/2024	Zoom	Sue Ernster, FSPA	Annual Meeting
5/13/2024	Zoom	Marie McKenna, SLW	Joint Leadership Teams in AM
7/29/2024	Lake Franciscans	Rose Jochmann, OSF	Location tentative

Adjournment

Rose Jochmann, OSF, moved, and Sue Ernster, FSPA, seconded the motion, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Theresa Sandok, OSM
Secretary, WRC