

**Wisconsin Religious Collaborative
Board of Directors Meeting**

March 25, 2024

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
Rose Jochmann, OSF	Board Member	Present
Mary Ann Pevas, OP	Board Member	Present
Marie McKenna, SLW	Board Member	Present
Sharon Pollnow, CSA	Board Member	Present
Jean Schafer, SDS	Board Member	Present
Jeanne Tranel, OP	Board Member	Present
Julie Tydrich, FSPA	Executive Director	Present

Also Present

Julie Schwab, OP

Call to Order

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative was called to order by Pat Cormack, SCSC, via Zoom at 9:30 a.m.

Prayer

Sue Ernster, FSPA, led the group in prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Rose Jochmann, OSF, moved, and Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, seconded the motion, to approve the November 6, 2023 minutes. Motion carried.

Sue Ernster, FSPA, moved, and Sharon Pollnow, CSA, seconded the motion, to approve the January 22, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

Sharon Pollnow, CSA, reported on behalf of the Nomination Committee. She said that all four current officers are open to serving another term. She invited nominations from the floor. There being none, she said that her secretary would send out an electronic ballot this afternoon and asked board members to cast their vote by tomorrow morning. Sharon thanked the officers for their willingness to serve another two-year term (2024-2026) and also thanked Marie McKenna, SLW, and Mary Ann Pevas, OP, for serving with her on the Nomination Committee.

Treasurer's Report

Sue Ernster, FSPA, presented the treasurer's report. As of February 29, 2024, assets totaled \$477,441.69. There were no liabilities. YTD income totaled \$130,685.99 and expenses totaled \$50,948.26, for a net gain of \$79,737.73. We are ahead of budget mainly because we did not hire a Shared Services Director.

Fees for the next fiscal year will again be divided among participating congregations. Sue will send an email requesting NRRO figures and community censuses as of December 31, 2023, to use in preparing the budget.

Use of Remaining GHR Funds

Our GHR grant comes to an end with the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2024. The remaining funds of approximately \$17,000 must be used by then. Pat Cormack, SCSC, proposed prepaying some expenses and applying the remainder to the Executive Director's salary.

Following discussion, Sharon Pollnow, CSA, moved, and Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, seconded the motion, to use the remaining GHR funds to prepay St. Luke's Institute for an SLIConnect subscription for 50 persons for the period November 4, 2024–November 3, 2025, at a cost of \$1,200; to prepay St. Luke's Institute for 20 hours of consultation with Dr. Emily Cash and Sister Jane Becker for the period January 1–December 31, 2025; to prepay St. Luke's Institute for two joint education sessions with Dr. Cash in November 2024 and May 2025 at a cost of \$1,000; to prepay TeamLogic for cybersecurity services through December 31, 2024, at a cost of \$264; and to apply the remainder to the Executive Director's salary prior to the end of the fiscal year. Motion carried.

Organization of Ad Hoc Committees

Recommendations from Facilitators

Pat Cormack SCSC said that following our January 22, 2024 board meeting, Beverly Heitke, SDS, and Ellen Bartel, who facilitated the meeting, sent her the following suggestions:

- Identify the committees and have every board member serve on a committee.
- Have the committees meet between board meetings so that work is progressing.
- Create a charge specific to each committee, delineating the scope of its work and expectations for reporting back and completing its work.
- Examine how the Executive Director might be of service to the various committees and how that would shape the ED's job description and the board's expectations.
- Include time on each agenda for a free discussion of issues that are bubbling up.

Committee Charter Template

Theresa Sandok, OSM, presented a draft of a template for ad hoc committee charters, similar to the one used by LCWR for board committees (Att. 1). The template responds to the above recommendation to specify the purpose, scope, and task of each committee.

Following discussion, Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, moved, and Jean Schafer, SDS, seconded the motion to approve the template. Motion carried.

Guiding Discussion on Governance

Mary Ann Pevas, OP, reported on the work of the Canonical Governance Initiative Group, which was formed last fall in response to an invitation she extended to WRC members to address the topic of canonical governance. The leaders of five congregations participated in the Group: Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross, Sisters of the Living Word, Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, Servants of Mary, and Dominican Sisters of Racine. The Group met three times since November via Zoom. They discussed the current realities of their congregations and the need for attending to issues related to completion.

Data Collection

Mary Ann conducted a survey of the congregations in the Group and shared the results with the board. She said that the Group found the data helpful in understanding their individual and collective realities and recommended that the remaining WRC congregations add their data to that already collected. The board agreed, and Mary Ann will collect the data.

Appointment of Governance Committee

The Group also recommended that the board appoint a committee to continue the work the Group had begun. The Group was willing to serve as that committee if the board so desired.

Following discussion, Sylvia Ann Sheldon, OSF, moved, and Marie McKenna, SLW, seconded the motion, that the Canonical Governance Initiative Group become the ad hoc Governance Committee of the board, with the addition of Sharon Pollnow, CSA, as a member of the Committee. Motion carried.

Board members on the Governance Committee are Rose Jochman, OSF, Marie McKenna, SLW, Sharon Pollnow, CSA, Mary Ann Pevas, OP, Theresa Sandok, OSM, and Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF. Executive Director Julie Tydrich, FSPA, will serve as an ex officio member of the Committee. Non-board leadership team members may participate in Committee meetings, as they did in meetings of the Group.

The board agreed on the following provisions regarding the Governance Committee:

- The purpose of the Governance Committee is to explore options for canonical governance and to propose ways that the Collaborative might be able to assist participating congregations in providing for their future governance needs.
- Although the Governance Committee's primary purpose is to address the topic of canonical governance, the committee may also deal with the topic of internal management insofar as the two are intertwined. (The board will consider whether to appoint a separate committee to address internal management.)
- If the Governance Committee requires funds to carry out its work, it may submit a request to the Executive Committee.
- The Governance Committee will keep minutes of each meeting. Minutes will be sent to the Executive Director for posting on the WRC website.
- The Governance Committee will report on its progress at each board meeting, beginning with the July 2024 meeting.

Theresa Sandok, OSM, will draft the Governance Committee Charter, incorporating the above provisions, and send it to the Committee for review prior to presenting it to the board for approval in July.

Executive Director's Report

Julie Tydrich, FSPA, presented a written report prior to the meeting (Att. 2). Julie asked the board to consider the following proposal:

That the WRC President or Executive Director be authorized to sign onto justice oriented positions, letters, petitions, etc., on behalf of the WRC Board of Directors if so authorized by email affirmation (or other documentation) from a simple majority (one over half) of the Board.

Mary Ann Pevas, OP, moved, and Sue Ernster, FSPA, seconded the motion, to approve the proposal. Motion carried.

May 13 Joint Teams Meeting

The schedule for the May 13 meeting is as follows:

- 9:30 a.m. Board convenes
- 9:55 a.m. Opening prayer with joint teams
- 10:00 a.m. Presentation by Dr. Emily Cash
- 11:00 a.m. Discussion with joint teams
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch break; board meeting continues
- 2:30 p.m. Adjourn

The board discussed possible topics for the educational session with Dr. Emily Cash. We agreed to ask Emily to address the topic of dealing with group dynamics in decision-making situations. Specifically, she may provide assistance with aspects such as these: Working with community members in important decision-making situations, such as chapters, assemblies, elections, etc. Helping members to build the kind of self-awareness that connects them to accurate judgments of their capacity for leadership and leadership tasks. Working with members who are resistant to change, to considering other ideas, to being open and willing to listen and learn from others. Helping leaders think through and prepare for difficult interactions and meetings where challenging dynamics can derail the agenda of decision-making. Suggesting tools to help leaders identify capacities, interaction styles, and decision-making styles.

Future Meeting Dates

Date	Time	Place/Type	Prayer Leader	Notes
5/13/2024	9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	Zoom	Marie McKenna, SLW	Morning: Joint Leadership Teams with Emily Cash
7/29/2024	9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	Lake OSFs	Rose Jochmann, OSF	

In order to schedule the September and November meetings, Pat Cormack, SCSC, asked members to send her dates when they are not available. The September meeting will be in person if possible, and the November meeting via Zoom.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Theresa Sandok, OSM
Secretary, WRC

Template for Ad Hoc Advisory Committees of the WRC Board

Purpose

A simple statement of why the committee was formed and what the board's expectations are for the committee.

Members and Meetings

Number of members, and whether a majority must be directors.

How the members are appointed (e.g., by the board, by the president with the approval of the board, etc.).

Whether the chair is appointed by the board or selected by the committee members.

Whether a quorum is required and, if so, what constitutes a quorum.

Whether the executive director is an ex officio member of the committee without vote.

Who calls the meetings, how often they will be held, etc.

Duties

The duties of the committee should be as detailed as possible, including every aspect of the assignment given to the committee.

If the committee is to contact third parties or perform research it should say so in this part of the charter. The duties may include whether the board wants information or documents gathered.

If the committee requires funds to carry out its task, the charter should specify who approves those funds.

If the board wants the committee members to consider certain things in coming to their recommendations, those things should be noted.

Record Keeping and Reporting

If the committee is expected to keep minutes, the charter should require it. The charter should also explain when the minutes should be provided to the board or board secretary.

Whether minutes are expected or not, the charter should require a written report, summary, or recommendations from the committee.

The charter should specify when that report should be provided to the board for consideration.

Date Approved

The charter should be dated and included in the board meeting minutes.

Equally important is disbanding the committee once the committee has finished its assignment. This should be done formally, at a board meeting, and documented in the minutes.

Approved by the Board: March 25, 2024

WRC Executive Director Report - Julie Tydrich FSPA

For March 25, 2024 WRC Board Meeting

Since my last report for the Nov. 6 Board meeting report to you main highlights have been:

- Refreshed the photos on the home page of our website with photos of Leadership Teams and newer photos of their members enjoying life
- Submitted most recent minutes of Board meetings and Financials to webmaster for posting to website
- Updated other website items as much as possible, and removed out of date items related to recruiting a Shared Services Director, etc.
- Updated our list of the vendors we utilize for WRC so S. Pat Cormack has access info: User I. D and passwords (which require frequent updates) to ensure she has access if ever needed
- Happily handled the request from Sinsinawa Dominicans to keep their WRC membership seamless into the new fiscal year, their July 1 dues are already prepaid
- Referred Sinsinawa's request, to possibly have 2 Sisters present at our 3-25 Board meeting to exercise their one vote if both are able to attend, to the Executive Committee. Request was approved and granted. Both Sisters Jeanne Tranel and/or Julie Schwab may be present at the 3-25 board meeting.

More routine duties addressed have been:

11-16-2023 Attended Leg.Net 9, Justice Promoters of Region meeting via Zoom.

12-11-2023 Attended Upper Mississippi River Valley Franciscans (UMRVF) informal collaborative meeting. They reviewed outline of statutes required for creation of a canonical association. It is their task force's goal to have statutes drafted by Fall 2024 and ready for review and feedback by all five congregation's Leadership Teams. When approved by all five congregations it may be translated to Italian and then sent to Rome. They had collected their demographics/TRENDS information into chart form and reviewed it together. .

Jan. 21-22, 2024 at CSA, Fond du Lac. Honored executive committee request that I silently attend the strategic board planning meeting for the future of the WRC, facilitated by S. Beverly Heitke and Ellen.

2-12-2024 Attended UMRVF-Some shared their processes used regarding the question of continuing acceptance of new members to help others who have not yet made that decision. Reviewed the progress of their task force working on canonical statutes. Their task force meets in between board meeting months.

They identified their future discussion topics as:

-How are you exploring leadership capacities and responsibilities that need to change given your congregations population? What is the most essential work of leadership?

-What processes are in place for decisions regarding land/buildings? What are possible ways to collaborate with other groups?

-What is ours to do as religious leaders to face the political reality as we approach 2024 elections?

2-21-2024 Attended Network Webinar via Zoom: "Choosing Community Over Chaos – Our Work in 2024." (Presidential election related –getting our neighborhoods out to vote.)

3-1-2024 Received and shared CSA's letter to Rep. Tom Tiffany received from Tracy Abler. Many WRC Board members signed on in behalf of their congregation's leadership teams. I was authorized to sign-on with my own name and WRC position title. As a result formulated the proposal for consideration to establish a process for doing sign-ons in behalf of the Board of Directors of the WRC if desired, if approved by the full board.

3-4-2024 Met with the WRC Governance subgroup chaired by S. Mary Ann Pevas on Zoom. Also attending were: Theresa Sandok, Sylvia Ann Sheldon, Rose Jochmann, and all of their respective Leadership Teams.

Am scheduled to attend these webinars before our board meeting:

3-21-2024 SLI -- Trauma & relationships

3-22-2024 RCRI –Human Resources Principles

Between these highlights, and FSPA leadership work, performed routine duties for WRC with phone calls, bill payments, and checking e-mails 2-3 times per day. I have faithfully given half-time to WRC work, when necessary it falls into evening and weekend time.

FSPA Half-time role: Recently my Leadership work including efforts to sell our Villa St. Joseph building has been heavy. We are in the process of hiring a realtor for the near future. Numerous private sale parties that have indicated interest/taken tours but are not following through with an offer or continued interest. Gratefully we are now in process of considering realtors for hire.

Personal health will impact future availability to both roles: Due to increasing pain in my left knee joint I expect to be a candidate for a total left knee replacement by summer. Severe degenerative osteoarthritis to the entire joint and kneecap has been diagnosed and under injection treatments at Mayo - La Crosse the past ten years. I am now being referred to an orthopedic surgery specialist that addresses special restoration of the kneecap at Mayo- Rochester, for an exam visit Thursday, April 11. Hopefully surgery can be scheduled at or soon after that exam date. I will need some downtime after surgery, dates off to be determined. Your prayers will be appreciated for successful surgery and quick recovery.

March 18, 2024

For 2024-3-25 WRC Board Meeting

To: WRC Board Members

From: Julie Tydrich FSPA, WRC Executive Director

Subject: Proposal for authorizing WRC Board Sign-Ons (for your consideration)

I propose that the board consider this or a similar motion:

I, _____, move that the WRC President or Executive Director be authorized to sign onto justice oriented positions, letters, petitions in behalf of the WRC Board of Directors if so authorized by e-mail affirmation (or other documentation) from a simple majority (one over half) of the Board of Directors, after having received information about the justice issue by the person seeking authorization to sign-on.

Seconded by _____.