

**Wisconsin Religious Collaborative  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi  
St. Francis, Wisconsin  
September 15, 2025**

**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             | Excused |
| Mary Ann Pevas, OP       | Board Member             | Present |
| Sharon Pollnow, CSA      | Board Member             | Present |
| Jean Schafer, SDS        | Board Member             | Present |
| Julie Schwab, OP         | Board Member             | Present |
| Sharon Glumb, SLW        | Shared Services Director | Present |

**Call to Order**

Pat Cormack, SCSC, called to order a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative at 9:35 a.m.

**Prayer**

Julie Schwab, OP, led an opening prayer.

**Approval of Agenda**

Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, moved, and Sharon Pollnow, CSA, seconded the motion, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes of May 30, 2025, and July 21, 2025**

Jean Schafer, SDS, moved, and Sue Ernster, FSPA, seconded the motion, to approve the May 30, 2025 minutes. Motion carried.

At the request of a board member, the board agreed to remove confidential information from the July 21, 2025 minutes. Going forward, board members will specify any information they do not want to be included in the minutes. Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, moved, and Julie Schwab, OP, seconded the motion, to approve the July 21, 2025 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Sue Ernster, FSPA, presented the Treasurer's report.

July was the first month of the new fiscal year. As of July 31, 2025, assets totaled \$559,197.10, and liabilities totaled \$6,716.41, leaving a fund balance of \$533,660.69. YTD income totaled \$26,175.31 and expenses totaled \$7,355.31, for a net gain of \$18,820.00.

The \$25,000 in contributions on the income statement was the annual donation from FSPA. Member dues will be recorded as income in August. The \$1,545.25 in Venture Grant expenses represents the reimbursement for Ellen Bartel and Beverly Heitke, SDS, who facilitated the July board meeting.

Theresa Sandok, OSM, moved, and Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, seconded the motion, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

To prevent future situations like the one in July where Sharon Glumb, SLW's salary and reimbursement had to be split into two payments, a motion was made to raise the daily ACH limit. The previous daily limit was \$5,000.

Sharon Pollnow, CSA, moved, and Julie Schwab, OP, seconded the motion, to increase the daily ACH limit to \$7,500. Motion carried.

## **Shared Services Director's Report**

### ***Follow-Up on Priorities***

Sharon Glumb, SLW, outlined a follow-up plan based on the priorities identified at the July 25, 2025 board meeting. She organized the priorities into four categories – human resources, financial management, healthcare for Sisters, and communications – and gave an update on the progress made on each priority. (See Attachment 1)

Priority 3 under human resources, which focuses on the relationship between the WRC and the LCWR 9 Legislative Network (LegNet), sparked considerable discussion.

Sharon, who is WRC's liaison with LegNet, attended the regular bi-monthly meeting of LegNet on August 7. She said they seemed to lack clarity about the purpose of the organization and how it relates to the WRC.

Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, who serves on the LCWR 9 executive committee, said that LegNet members have been invited to the October LCWR 9 meeting for the purpose of clarifying the respective roles of LCWR 9 and LegNet.

A board member raised the question of how LCWR's transformative justice initiative, where leaders, justice promoters, and LegNet work together, aligns with the previous separation of roles.

Another board member raised the concern that justice promoters have proposed political actions that could jeopardize the tax-exempt status of religious congregations. To ensure a productive and amiable discussion at the October meeting, it would be helpful if everyone was familiar with the legal restrictions on 501(c)(3) charitable organizations beforehand.

Pat Cormack, SCSC, recommended that those attending view the RCRI Timely Topics webinar recorded on August 8, 2025 and presented by Sharon Euart, RSM and Christopher Fusco: [“Politics, Protests, Posts and Prayer: What Can a Religious Institute Publicly Say and Do \(Or Not\) In a Polarized Climate?”](#)

Theresa Sandok, OSM, located the minutes of the March 22, 2021 WRC board meeting at which the subject of collaborating with the Legislative Network first arose and sent them to Sylvia Ann.

Pat Cormack, SCSC, recalled a memo from Toni Harris, OP, outlining the proposed relationship of the WRC and Legislative Network. She will send it to Sylvia Anne as background for the LCWR 9 meeting.

#### ***May 4-5, 2026 Joint Teams Meeting***

Sharon handed out two documents: an outline for the joint teams meeting on May 4-5, 2026 (Attachment 2) and a list showing the leadership team term endings for the nine WRC congregations (Attachment 3).

The meeting will take place at the Best Western Hotel & Conference Center in Portage, beginning at noon on Monday, May 4, and ending at noon on Tuesday, May 5.

The focus of the meeting will be how to keep the momentum of WRC going during team transitions. This topic is particularly relevant since four WRC congregations will hold elections within six months of the May meeting.

Mark Clarke, a senior consultant at CommunityWorks, Inc., will help the group explore the topic and develop a five-year vision for the WRC.

Laura Nettles, FSPA, and Pat Cormack, SCSC, will join Mark and Sharon for an upcoming Zoom meeting to finalize plans for the event.

The FSPA Venture Grant will cover the full cost of the May meeting, which means there will be no cost to team members for food or lodging. The grant will also cover the cost of Mark's services, which includes \$1,500 for the May meeting and an additional \$200 per hour for Zoom meetings.

Board members are asked to inform their team members about the event.

**Hour of SLI Consultation Available**

Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, said the Lake Franciscans are not using their third hour of consultation with Dr. Emily Cash, so it is available for anyone who would like to use it.

**Future Meetings**

*Bimonthly Conversations: Zoom 10:00-11:30 a.m.*

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Presenters</b> | <b>Topic</b> |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 10 Dec 2025 | TBD               | TBD          |

**Board Meetings**

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Time</b> | <b>Location</b> | <b>Prayer Leader</b>    | <b>Notes</b>   |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 27 Oct 2025  | 9:30-2:30   | Zoom            | Sue Ernster FSPA        |                |
| 5 Jan 2026   | 9:30-2:30   | Zoom            | Rose Jochmann OSF       |                |
| 2 Mar 2026   | 9:30-2:30   | Zoom            | Theresa Sandok OSM      | Annual Meeting |
| 4-5 May 2026 | noon-noon   | TBD (in person) | Sylvia Anne Sheldon OSF | Joint Teams    |
| 13 July 2026 | 9:30-2:30   | La Crosse       | Mary Ann Pevas OP       |                |

**Adjournment**

Mary Ann Pevas, OP, moved, and Sharon Pollnow, CSA, seconded the motion, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Theresa Sandok, OSM  
WRC Secretary

## Follow-Up Plan for July 21, 2025, WRC Board Meeting

### A. Human Resources (HR)

#### #1 HR Priority: CAL availability with non-WRC Congregations

- a. SSND: Contact with Mary Kay Brooks – **July 2025**
- b. SSSF: contact with Kathy O'Brien – **August 2025**

#### #1a. HR Priority: Administrative Staff Sharing

- a. SSND: Contact with Mary Kay Brooks
- b. SSSF: contact with Kathy O'Brien

#### #1b. HR Priority: Research into how Congregations are preparing their members to serve as CAL / Commissary for other Congregations

#### #2 HR Priority: Research Legacy Documents

- a. Contact Hertha / other experts about Financial Documents
- b. Contact Mary Jo Nelson about Legacy Statements
- c. Gather Leaders who need help (SCSC, Lake-OSF, SDS, GB-OSF)

#### #3 HR Priority: Enhance functioning of LegNet system

- a. Contact CL liaisons for 4 main congregations
- b. Dialogue about purpose / effectiveness of LegNet
- c. Suggest changes

#### #4 HR Priority: Archival Guidelines

- a. Secure OP-S guidelines
- b. Post Guidelines on WRC website as sample

### B. Financial Management (FM)

#### #1 FM Priority: Explore with current Finance Directors

- a. Calling a meeting of CSA, OP-S, & SCSC – **October 6, 2025**
- b. Explore various outside resource agencies / companies they find helpful
- c. Learn how their management of financial matters is organized
- d. Consider how WRC might create a method of 'sharing' / collaborative financial management for smaller congregations who need assistance

#### #2 FM Priority: Secure assistance for congregations who need to create legacy trusts

- a. Participating with congregations beginning such a search – **October 8, 2025**
  - 1) SDS
  - 2) SCSC
  - 3) OSF-Lake
- b. Gathering information, making recommendations, supporting with interest

## **C. Healthcare for Sisters (HCS)**

### #1 HCS Priority: Explore 'Palliative Care for all sisters'

- a. Gather information on Interim Health – **September 4, 2025**
- b. Explore available speaker for Bi-Monthly Conversation – **No Results**

### #2 HCS Priority: Connect Leader Resources to Leader Needs

- a. FSPA 'Aging in Place' geriatric staff person in Wausau to connect with OSM in Ladysmith
- b. OSM employee job description for 'Aging in Place' to be shared with FSPA
- c. Information about 'Elder Span' company in Madison to be shared by Sharon Pollnow with the Board
- d. FSPA sends Krista Mendyke contact information about her company to GB-OSF as they might be able to purchase the GB-OSF facility and allow sisters to continue living in it
- e. Lake-OSF to provide concrete information about 'Franciscan Shores' to the Board
- f. FSPA could share the form of their agreement with Mayo in LaCross with the Board
- g. SCSC could recommend BMT as a resource for anyone needing oversight of government programs involving Sisters' coverage

## **D. Communications (COM)**

### #1 COM Priority: assist SDS Website issues

- a. OSM can provide contact information for Christian Brothers website services
- b. OP-S could ask their website person to offer some consultation to SDS

Drafted / Created / Finalized  
August 20, 2025  
Sharon Glumb  
WRC Shared Services Director

**Planning for Joint Teams Meeting:**  
Sharon's thumbnail sketch

**May 4-5, 2026**

1. Following May 30 WRC Board meeting, reservation made at Best Western, Portage: Monday, May 4 at noon through Tuesday, May 5 at noon.
2. Consideration of topic for meeting, gleaned from review of current teams ending terms, especially within the remainder of 2026 (see chart)
3. Early July communication with Pat Cormack around proposed focus of Joint Teams Meeting: "Keeping organizational momentum moving forward during times of leadership changes."
4. Sharon's outreach to Community Works, Inc to schedule Zoom meeting with Donna Fyffe and Pat; July 8 conversation about needs, concerns and hopes for May, 2026.
5. Subsequent recommendation from Donna Fyffe is that we utilize Mark Clarke from their organization for the Joint Teams meeting because of his extensive experience with religious congregations.
6. July & early August, Sharon's emails with Mark Clarke; initial information on Mark given to Executive Committee, their responses; setting meeting with Mark during LCWR in Atlanta.
7. On August 13, Sylvia Anne Sheldon & Sharon met with Mark for 2-hour lunch further clarify WRC history & purpose. Both offered insights on current WRC moment, leading to outline possibilities for the Joint Teams Meeting.
8. Follow-up meeting on Zoom between Mark & Sharon on September 5, with more concrete planning emerging; cost estimates provided. Possible planning process outlined.

*Presented to WRC Board at September 15, 2025 Meeting*

| <b>Congregation</b>             | <b>Leaders</b>      | <b>End of Term</b> | <b>Rank</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Congregation of St Agnes        | Sharon Pollnow      | 27-Aug-26          | #3          |
|                                 | Peg Spindler        | 27-Aug-26          |             |
|                                 | Madeleine Gianforte | 27-Aug-26          |             |
|                                 | Lael Niblick        | 27-Aug-26          |             |
| Dominicans-Sinsinawa            | Christina Heltsley  | 30-Jun-28          | #7          |
|                                 | Chris Feagan        | 30-Jun-28          |             |
|                                 | Julie Schawb        | 30-Jun-28          |             |
|                                 | Jeanne Tranel       | 30-Jun-28          |             |
|                                 | Betsy Pawlicki      | 30-Jun-28          |             |
| Fransicans: Perpetual Adoration | Sue Ernster         | 31-Oct-26          | #4          |
|                                 | Georgia Christensen | 31-Oct-26          |             |
|                                 | Julie Tydrich       | 31-Oct-26          |             |
|                                 | Marie DeJarlais     | 31-Oct-26          |             |
|                                 | Laura Nettles       | 31-Oct-26          |             |
|                                 | Paulynn Instenes    | 31-Oct-26          |             |
| Dominicans- Racine              | Maryann McMahon     | 30-Jun-26          | #2          |
|                                 | Chris Broslavick    | 30-Jun-26          |             |
|                                 | Agnes Johnson       | 30-Jun-26          |             |
|                                 | Mary Ann Pevas      | 30-Jun-26          |             |

|                         |                       |           |    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----|
| Franciscans-Green Bay   | Rose Jochmann         | 13-Jun-26 | #1 |
|                         | Mary Sabat            | 13-Jun-26 |    |
|                         | Jane Riha             | 13-Jun-26 |    |
| Servites- Ladysmith     | Theresa Sandok        | 15-Sep-28 | #9 |
|                         | Barbara Thomsella     | 15-Sep-28 |    |
|                         | Sean Fox              | 15-Sep-28 |    |
| Franciscans-Lake        | Joanne Schatzlein     | 13-Jun-27 | #5 |
|                         | Charlotte Roost       | 13-Jun-27 |    |
|                         | Sylvia Anne Sheldon   | 13-Jun-27 |    |
| Savatorians             | Jean Schaefer         | 1-Jul-28  | #8 |
|                         | Mary Eveylyn Zimbauer | 1-Jul-28  |    |
|                         | Grace Mary Croft      | 1-Jul-28  |    |
| Mercy of the Holy Cross | Pat Cormack           | 1-Jun-27  | #6 |
|                         | Pam Hobson            | 1-Jun-27  |    |

*11-Sep-25*