

# CRAGC MONTHLY MEMO

APRIL 30, 2020

As the Covid-19 situation continues, CRAGC is forging ahead on work with the five religious institutes we have as service partners. The journey from congregational leadership to governance by a commissary involves a number of phases and we are currently working with two institutes moving from phase one to phase two.

Transition phase	Transition outcomes	
	Religious Institutes	CRA Governance Collaborative
<b>1. Pre-Transition Phase</b> The final leadership team is in sight and traditional governance, care, ministry, or administration models are unsustainable.	Congregation Will and Distribution Plan and future planning are in deep development and owned by RI leaders and members. Commencement of new models, inclusive of others, in governance, care, admin, and/or ministry.	Provide guidance and support to RI transition planning, on request.
<b>2. Transition Phase</b> Leaders work with others in governance, administration and ministry.	Congregation Will and Distribution Plan and future plans are documented. Evolution of new governance, care, admin, and/or ministry models. Petition Ecclesial Authority to request the appointment of a particular Commissary, i.e. Canonical Leader.	Provides a suite of (civil) governance, care, admin, and/or ministry related support. Service mix to each RI is tailored and evolving.
<b>3. Congregational Administration Phase</b> There are no longer RI members to constitute Canonical leadership.	Ecclesial Authority appoints Commissary and decree of appointment details the scope of the appointment. Governance, admin, care and/or ministry models fall under Commissary's authority.	Undertakes the role of appointed Commissary. Provides canonical and civil leadership, governance, care, admin. and/or ministry related support.
<b>4. Completion Phase</b> The RI is being completed.	Congregational Will and Distribution Plan directs Commissary.	Administer completion procedures.
<b>5. Post Completion Phase</b> The RIs stated legacy is taken into the future.	RI completes.	Ensure wishes of the RI as set out in the Congregation Will & Distribution Plan are carried out into the future.

While not being able to work in person with the leadership groups of these two institutes does present some challenges, we have made steady progress over the month thanks to Zoom and a lot of goodwill and good humour!

As we expected due to the Covid-19 situation, we have heard nothing from CICLSAL since President Peter Carroll fms delivered our petition on February 27. Given that we have no idea how long the current situation will extend, particularly in Rome, we have begun to consider interim alternatives for commissaries. There are other models for commissary provision used in other countries and CRAGC will explore those other models and find the best for our Australian circumstances.

On Monday May 4, the Executive Team of CRAGC have a planned Zoom meeting with the CRA Council Executive to consider how to assist religious institutes in need of a commissary before CRA receives a positive response to its petition to CICLSAL.

The first meeting of the CRAGC Transition Committee occurred by Zoom on April 8. A reminder that the members are Anne Lane pbvm Chair; Monica Cavanagh rsj Deputy Chair; Mrs Bobby Court; Catherine Brabender rndm; Clare Nolan rsc; Des Powell AM; Prof Gabrielle McMullen AM; Gabrielle Morgan pbvm; John Spillane; John Thompson fms; Stancea Vichie mss.

Anne Lane led a 'getting to know you' session to begin our meeting and then Judy Lawson invited us into reflection and prayer around the central vision of the Governance Collaborative. Peter Cranko stepped us through the history, the set-up plans and focus areas, the work occurring with service partners and the next steps. A discussion about possible work parties for the Transition Committee led us to schedule some conversation Zooms: with fourteen people on screen at a Committee meeting, it's quite difficult to have conversation, so we will be meeting in much smaller groups to explore some possible working party ideas prior to our next Transition Committee meeting on May 5.

One of the ideas from the Transition Committee meeting is being rolled out this month. John Thompson suggested that we create a simple newsletter each month that leaders may distribute to their members to begin to inform the general membership of institutes about the issues facing religious life in Australia and the response of CRA through CRAGC to those issues. Consequently, we have put together a two-page newsletter that we hope you will send out to your congregational members. I will provide one newsletter a month at the same time as the Monthly Memo to leaders and team members.

We invite you to be in contact with us for any queries about this second Monthly Memo and we would be pleased to hear from you with any questions about the services that CRAGC is offering. Judy's number is 0417 272 030 and her email is [judith.lawson@cragc.org.au](mailto:judith.lawson@cragc.org.au) and my contacts are 0429 070 561 and [sharon.price@cragc.org.au](mailto:sharon.price@cragc.org.au)

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