

LCWR Region 9 Virtual Fall Meeting Minutes October 26 – 28, 2020

Monday October 26, 2020 Call to Order & Welcome

Sister Sharon Glumb, SLW, called our virtual meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Attendance (On File)

43 members were in attendance along with Megan, Newt and Adam from CTI-Conference Technologies Inc. who provided our tech support.

Prayer

Sister Pat Cormack, SCSC, led our opening prayer

Agenda (On File)

Additions to the Agenda

None

Check-in Activity:

Sister Kathy Slesar, OP, led a check in activity that included both small group and large group sharing around how we were coming to these days.

LCWR Matters: Global Concerns Committee

S. Toni Harris, OP facilitated the process. It included a YouTube by Carrie Newcomer, *Lean in Towards the Light* along with some scripture. We discussed the LCWR Resolution on the intersection of Climate Change, Racism and Immigration. We then watched the LCWR Assembly presentation given by 3 younger women who shared their hopes for the future and some things they wanted to say to women religious. We then had small group discussion on these two questions: 1) In light of our larger global realities -- climate change, racism, forced migration, and the reality of COVID-19, what is ours to do now as women of the Gospel for Earth and for the women, men, and children who are deprived of their rights even in the midst of the pandemic? 2) Are there any specific actions that come to mind as a result of your small group discussion that could be initiated by your region?

Actions: some of our ideas are: offer a Billboard Campaign to highlight Black Lives Matter (BLM) and actions to take; ask congregations, that offer micro-loans, to offer loans that help small business who work with undocumented people; use our collective voice; share how sisters are working for BLM and/or to end racism; use social media as another means to promote ending racism

Adjournment:

We adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Tuesday October 27, 2020 Welcome

Sister Sharon Glumb, SLW, welcomed us to our virtual meeting at 9:00 am

Attendance (On File)

43 members were in attendance along with Megan, Newt and Adam from CTI

Prayer

Sister Kathy Wieseneski, SCSC, led our opening prayer

Stories of Hope from Region 9

Sister Sharon Glumb facilitated Stories of Hope along with questions for reflection. Sisters Mary Diez, Diana DeBruin, OSF and Eileen Mackenzie, FSPA, shared their stories followed by small group and large group sharing. Some of our reasons for hope are: creativity and possibility, able to arrange zoom rooms to share ideas with various communities on different issues, share our voices, life is like a puzzle, we are putting the pieces together so they fit, takes the help of others, through interactions, to create space for one's piece, it is frustrating to find what is missing, need to dive into the waves and not resist them, go with it

Introduction to Regional Reports:

Sister Ellen Sinclair, SDS was the moderator for this section

LCWR Legislative Network Report (on File): Sister Toni Harris

LCWR Legislative Network Proposal (On file): Sister Toni Harris

Discussed proposal asking that the director of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative (WRC) be part of the LCWR 9 Legislative Network. Lyn Korte, the Executive Director of the WRC, is willing to be part of it; this action will help avoid duplication of efforts; clarified that justice efforts include climate change as well as racism and immigration

Poll: took a poll of all the participants and the proposal passed unanimously

LCWR Legislative Network Announcements: Sister Toni Harris

Nuns and Nones Car Caravans: Nuns and Nones have contacted some WI religious congregations about organizing "car caravans" to be present at key polling places in the state. Sisters in cars would drive-by polling places with signs about being a "prayerful presence" on Election Day. Other congregations may be invited to participate.

Representatives to the LCWR9 Legislative Network may be contacted about this.

They'd like LCWR9 Members to be aware of this effort.

Nuns and Nones Sign-on letters: they are collaborating with LCWR9 Legislative Network to encourage LCWR9 Members to sign onto a letter to the Wisconsin Secretary of State to approve a timeline that will assure that all votes received can be counted. LCWR9 Members may be contacted by their Legislative Network reps.

Finance Report (on File)

Sister Rose Jochmann, OSF reviewed the report. Since we did not meet in Spring 2020, did not have any expenses; our deposit to the Norbertine Center was returned to us. Some of the balance of funds may be used to help defray future expenses at Retreat Centers, if we resume in-person meetings. We hope this will help congregations to be able to send their entire leadership team to our meetings

Donations: each year 5% of the prior year's budget is available for donations which is about \$900.00 for this year

Recommend that we donate \$500.00 to Sisters' Program South which helps women who are being trafficked.

Poll: took a poll of all the participants and the requested donation passed unanimously

Recommend that we donate \$400.00 to EMBRACE, a group in Northern WI that lost funds because donors protested their support of Black Lives Matter

Poll: took a poll of all the participants and the requested donation passed unanimously

Additional Expenses for Oct. 2020 meeting: to cover costs for additional IT support, we asked for an additional donation. Sr. Rose thanked the communities that made the extra donation.

The Financial Report was accepted.

WI Council of Churches Report (On File)

Sister Sue Seeby, CSA, reviewed the report; she has completed her role on this committee. Sister Cyndi Nienhaus, CSA, agreed to be the new liaison

Communicators Report (On File)

Sister Diane DeBruin, no questions

Anti-Human Trafficking Report (On File)

Sister Toni Harris, no questions

WI Catholic Conference Policy Group Report (On File)

Sister Maryann McMahon, OP, no questions

Lunch Break: We took a break for lunch from 11:15 am – 1:00 pm

NATIONAL LCWR BUSINESS

-Sister Rose Jochmann facilitated the process, from the National LCWR Office, on the national discernment of the emergence of future religious life. Based on our conversations at the national assembly and our team conversations about where we found ourselves in the CARA report and what it says to us:

What insights and observations were meaningful for us and why?
What questions and/or concerns were raised for us and why?
What implications might this have for organizing for mission in our region?

We met in small groups and discussed these questions.
Report of our Responses is on our website

LCWR Regional Business

Sister Ellen Sinclair, SDS was the moderator for this section

WISCONSIN RELIGIOUS COLLABORATIVE REPORT (On File)

Lyn Korte presented her report; question was asked if the WRC can provide suggestions for IT companies to assist with zoom meetings; yes. Report was accepted.

LCWR 9 Officer Nominating/Election Committee

Incumbent is Sister Toni Harris, corresponding secretary; is eligible for a second term.

Volunteers for Committee: Sisters Cyndi Nienhaus, CSA and Barbara Kraemer, OSF

Topics and Dates for Future Meetings

Sister Ellen Sinclair led the discussion.

Spring 2021 Meeting (April 19 – 21, 2021) will be held virtually. Both Anthony Gittens and S. Janet Mock have declined to offer their program virtually. Following ideas were presented and a poll was taken and 34 sisters replied:

No Guest Speaker - 6%, Pre-recorded Guest Speaker-47%,

New Guest Speaker- 24%, Share among ourselves- 9%

Shorten meeting by only having regional/national business -3%,

Other- 12%

Other ideas included: pre-recorded speaker; a panel around climate crisis/land and racism focus; essence of religious life (video with Carol Zinn and Pat Murray)- What does the East have to say to the West?; Transformative Grief (St. Luke's Institute); what helps us move forward? (not go over same materials); PTSD and its impact on people in these days of pandemic

Comment: be sure to allow sufficient time in small groups so all can share

The Executive Committee will discuss options at their next meeting.

Happy Hour: we shared a brief virtual Happy Hour

Adjournment:

We adjourned at 3:15 pm

Wednesday October 28, 2020 Welcome

Sister Sharon Glumb, SLW, welcomed us to our virtual meeting at 9:00 am

Attendance (On File)

43 members were in attendance along with Megan, Newt and Adam from CTI

Prayer

Sisters Linda Songy, SCSC and Carol Crosby, SCSC, led our opening prayer

Nomination and Election Process for LCWR National Board and Offices (Copy on File)

-Sister Kathy Slesar explained the process for nominations. We will surface names for our use to help us identify potential candidates. Comment: was different to name people since we did not have any in-person interaction at the LCWR virtual assembly. We had small group and large group sharing and surfaced these names:

2021 Leadership Positions open:

President-elect and Board Members

Names of possible candidates for President-elect:

Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP

Maureen Geary, OP

Christine Garcia, SSND

Toni Harris, OP

Deb Sciano, SSND

LCWR Board

Sangeeta Ayithamattam, SCM

Marykay Brooks, SSND

Patricia Chapell

Rene Daigel

Diana DeBruin, OSF

Eileen Feucht

Sharon Glumb, SLW

Maryann McMahon, OP

Eileen McKenzie, FSPA

Cateri Mitchell

Cyndi Nienhaus, CSA

Kathy Sheean

Either

Maureen Shaunessy, Sister of Charity

Announcements:

From S. Kathy Slesar: New Ways Ministry Zoom Presentation, Dec. 5, 2020, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, *Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Why Does It Matter?* Presenter Susan Turell. Visit the New Ways Ministry Website for more information.

From S. Kathy Slesar: For Sisters in the Milwaukee Archdiocese: annual meeting with the bishops and religious leaders has been postponed, not sure when we will gather face to face; will keep you posted.

Yahoo Groups: Yahoo has decided to end Yahoo Groups in December, 2020. We are looking at Google Groups. Sister Rose Jochmann will provide updates on this change.

LCWR Next steps on the National Discernment of the Emergent Future of Religious Life Initiative. All LCWR members received an email about this on Oct. 12. Some comments on this initiative: it is a process, LCWR facilitates the discussion, offers resources, they do not tell us what to do; conversations are happening on many levels- congregational, regional and national and among charisms; it is a messy process; concern about how much can we ask people to do? If it is too much, can ask a few sisters, not all, to participate or tell LCWR if we are not able to participate; also wonder how much has already been done on this, i.e. completion, it is confusing; need both a regional and congregational emphasis, the regional approach does not work in all regions; foster religious life, need a bigger perspective

Justice Issues Communication Clarification: when Sister Toni receives justice actions from the Legislative Network, she forwards them to our region as well as the Justice Promoter. Our communicators also help in this regard.

Minutes from the October 14 – 16, 2019 Fall Gathering

Reviewed the comments from the April 2020 survey of LCWR 9 members and, via a poll, all members accepted the minutes with the corrections

Looking Ahead Reflection

Sister Sharon Glumb facilitated this discussion, with both small and large group sharing, on what helps us as we leave today

Closing Prayer and Blessings

Sister Pat Cormack led us in the closing prayer and blessings for members

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am

Respectfully submitted,

S. Kathy Slesar OP

Recording Secretary
FINAL January 12, 2021