

LCWR Region 9 Spring Virtual Meeting Minutes April 20 – 21, 2021

DRAFT

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Attendance (Posted on our website)

44 members were in attendance along with Brittany Koteles, Diana Marin and Katie Gordon from *Nuns and Nones*, Brittany facilitated and all three provided tech support.

Call to Order & Welcome

Brittany Koteles, our facilitator, reviewed Zoom etiquette and called us together, using an image of the State of Wisconsin and our connections to one another.

S. Sharon Glumb, SLW, called our virtual meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Prayer

S. Cyndi Nienhaus, CSA, led our opening prayer about Trasná, the Crossing Place.

Agenda (Posted on our website)

Additions to the Agenda

None

LCWR Matters Part 1: Spirit Call within A Call: Racism

S. Sharon Glumb shared the efforts LCWR is doing, as an organization, to dismantle racism step by step and little by little. The board, regional chairs and national office meet monthly with Kathy Obear. All of her materials, including her book, But I Am Not a Racist and *Suggested Competencies for White People*, are available for all LCWR members to use with their own congregations. (See LCWR website). After watching two YouTube clips, we met in small groups and shared our thoughts and feelings around the materials. Then we met in large groups and shared insights. Our responses will be summarized and sent to LCWR.

Summary of our responses is posted on our website.

LCWR Matters: Global Concerns Committee

S. Kathy Slesar, OP facilitated the process. We discussed the LCWR Resolution on the intersection of racism, migration and climate crisis. We watched a video from the LCWR Global Concerns Committee that shared trends from the Fall 2020 LCWR responses along with some current initiatives and possible conclusions. We then had large group discussion on these two questions: 1) What key reflections can you share from your discussion on the intersection of these three areas? 2) Where does our region go from here? Share specific actions, networks, structures, conversations occurring now or in the works.

Actions: some of our ideas are: work with the *Laudato Si* Initiative; learn more about the Catholic Climate Webinar which spoke about the intersection of the Native experience of colonialism; ask LCWR to speak to the Vatican about renouncing the Doctrine of Discovery; learn to dialogue about difficult and divisive issues; LCWR 9 share our priorities with the LCWR Region 9 Legislative Network; discuss the book, But I Am Not a Racist; take actions on behalf of the oppressed; make public statements as needed. Our responses will be summarized and sent to LCWR.

Summary of our responses is posted on our website.

Lunch Break: We took a break for lunch from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

LCWR Matters Part 2: Emerging Future of Religious Life

S. Toni Harris, OP facilitated the LCWR process for discerning our emerging future. We reviewed the LCWR document, *What We Are Seeing* and discussed the three themes: identity/culture/charism/Interculturality; younger/newer members/Interculturality and collaboration. We had small group discussion on what resonated with us and what challenges and what possibilities we saw. We then shared our insights in the large group. Our responses will be summarized and sent to LCWR.

Summary of our responses is posted on our website.

LCWR National Business

LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award (OLA)

S. Ellen Sinclair, SDS facilitated our conversation about the first step in the process for the 2022 OLA. We suggested the following names to consider: S. Simone Campbell, SSS for her work with Network; S. Nancy Sylvester for her work on conflict and dialogue; S. Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, for her assistance to many congregations with numerous canon law and legal questions; S. Kateri Mitchell for her work with Native Americans and the Tekawitha Conference; S. Pat Murray, IBVM, for her work as UISG President and her broad vision of religious life. Individuals or leadership teams were requested to submit names to the LCWR National Office by April 29, 2021.

Announcement: The Chauvin Trial Verdict was to be announced at 4:30 pm and we paused and prayed for peace.

Annual Report of Region 9 Activities

S. Kathy Slesar facilitated our conversation about our region's annual report for LCWR. Some items to consider are: our work for the 2020 Election, letter to Cardinal Dolan, making sure every vote counted; letters offering support and prayers to elected officials; WI Religious Collaborative (WRC) ongoing efforts, learning more about Native

Americans; working on the borders; staying connected during COVID; our actions to help implement the LCWR Resolution

The annual report and photos are posted on our website.

Happy Hour: we shared a brief virtual Happy Hour and raised a toast to many significant people

Adjournment

We adjourned at 3:30 pm

Wednesday April 21, 2021

Attendance (Posted on our website)

42 members were in attendance along with Brittany Koteles, Diana Marin and Katie Gordon from *Nuns and Nones*

Call to Order & Welcome

S. Sharon Glumb called our virtual meeting to order at 9:00 am.
Brittany Koteles, our facilitator, called us together

Prayer

S. Rhea Emmer, CSA led us in prayer, using the song *Room at The Table* by Carrie Newcomer and then reflecting on who needs to be at the table

Presentation “Understanding Indigenous People”

S. Ellen introduced our speakers, Adrienne Thunder, Division Manager, Ho-Chunk Language Division and JP Leary, Asst. Professor UW Green Bay, both Native Americans. They shared many stories from their experiences, especially on the need for more education about Native Americans, their history, rights, their lands, their practices with regards to fishing and hunting, their ongoing oppression, and the wide gap in access to resources, especially for health care and treatment of mental health issues, trauma, alcohol/drug addiction and meeting some very basic needs. They offered many helpful resources and encouraged us to keep learning. What do we already know? What do we need to know?

Their PowerPoint presentation is posted on our website.

Lunch Break: We took a break for lunch from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Introduction to Regional Reports

Britany Koteles was the facilitator for this section

NOTE: The minutes and all reports are posted on our website.

Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes Oct. 26 – 28, 2020

S. Kathy Slesar reviewed the minutes, no questions; Minutes were approved

Finance Report

S. Rose Jochmann, OSF reviewed the report. The Financial Report was accepted.

Funds from Sisters for Justice

S. Rose shared a request from the FSPA's. They have held funds for the Sisters for Justice to use for lobbying efforts. No funds have been used since 2012; current balance is \$510.00. They asked if the funds could be transferred to LCWR Region 9. Before we could decide, need more information regarding any fees or licenses that may need to be paid from this fund. S. Rose will follow-up. The decision on their request was deferred until our October 2021 meeting.

WISCONSIN RELIGIOUS COLLABORATIVE REPORT

Lyn Korte, WRC Executive Director, presented her report. She clarified that the annual May meeting is for the entire leadership team of member congregations, not just the one representative on the WRC board. The May meeting builds relationships, helps newer members to learn more about the WRC, offers more accountability and enables the WRC to hear more voices. Besides offering presentations to member congregations, S. Kathy Slesar shared that Lyn offers very insightful presentations to non-member congregations as well.

LCWR Legislative Network Report

S. Toni Harris shared her report. She is our regional liaison to the Legislative Network. In addition, Ss. Rose Jochmann, Ellen Sinclair and Kathy Slesar are also members. We are invited to send ideas to S. Toni for issues for the Legislative Network to consider. Some areas are: Native Americans and mining rights and land use; Catholic Climate Covenant group and *Laudato Si* efforts and education; issues related to racism. Note: Catholics at the Capital offered a virtual advocacy day this year on Apr. 21 instead of an in-person event.

LCWR 9 Officer Election of Corresponding Secretary

There were two nominees: S. Cyndi Nienhaus and S. Toni Harris, current corresponding secretary. After taking a poll of members, S. Toni Harris was re-elected to serve as our corresponding secretary.

Regional Reports

WI Council of Churches Report

S. Cyndi Niehaus shared the report. One additional activity to include is that many churches are encouraging people to get vaccinated. We need to take care of one another.

Communicators Report

S. Diane DeBruin, OSF shared the report, no questions

Anti-Human Trafficking Report

S. Toni Harris shared the report. She is currently our representative and asked if another LCWR 9 member is willing to take that role. Many congregations have a team working to stop trafficking. S. Rhea Emmer shared a new resource about the “Dirty Dozen” that names several large businesses involved in trafficking. We will share the link on our website.

WI Catholic Conference Public Policy Advisory Committee

S. Maryann McMahon, OP, shared the report, no questions

Topics and Dates for Future Meetings

S. Ellen Sinclair led the discussion.

October 2021 Meeting: We are scheduled to meet in Racine from October 11 – 13, 2021. Right now we do not know if we will meet in person or virtually. If we meet in person, it will be on Monday Oct. 11 afternoon, all day Tuesday Oct. 12 and Wednesday Oct. 13 morning. If we meet virtually, it will be for 2 full days on Oct. 12 and 13, like our Spring Meeting. Choice of speakers also depends on how we meet; not all want to offer a program virtually. We will take a survey of members and ask their preference for our October meeting.

Prayer: Bay Settlement Sisters and A New Genesis

Host: The Lake Franciscans

Speakers/Topics raised: Process COVID and being apart; with LCWR's five-year focus on racism, continue to explore the topic - e.g., Father Joe Cheah on anti-Asian sentiment; Dan Horan OFM, at CTU, offers a great program on Beyond *Laudato Si*; a program on the future of religious life; S. Sheila Kinsey on the launch of *Laudato Si*; S. Carol Zinn and S. Pat Murray: What West needs to learn from the East? Offer both some sharing on the impact on COVID and a larger focus; have a panel on Multi-Cultural experience

Dates for Spring 2022 Meeting: members are asked to send dates for their Chapter so we can avoid those dates when we set the date. Once we have that information, we will send a doodle poll to determine the date of our Spring 2022 meeting.

The Executive Committee will discuss options, based on the results, at their next meeting.

Looking Ahead: What Gives Us Hope?

S. Sharon Glumb facilitated this discussion, with both small and large group sharing, on what gives us hope. Our answers included: ways we meet face to face, learning the “essence” of a person; we stop, are patient and give others time; the way we stopped and prayed for peace before the verdict; ways to expand racism beyond Black people, include Native Americans and think more broadly; important to be together, we are still

in solidarity on a screen and are present to each other; gifted to have Brittany, she did more than technology, helped us learn more about Nuns and Nones, her love and appreciation for us was a gift, she brought lots to us; we had fun-music and dance-will remember that; since October, it is evident that there is still “fire in these ashes,” congregations are doing many things, Spirit is moving, we are going to fulfillment, not completion.

Closing Prayer and Blessings

S. Sue Seeby led our closing prayer about going forward, with hopeful energy in our emerging future and offered blessings for members, especially Carol Haanen, from New Genesis, since this is her final meeting with us.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

S. Kathy Slesar, OP

Recording Secretary

Changes made after LCWR 9 members' edits
Draft June 21, 2021