

April 8, 2019

Call to Order & Welcome

Sister Jean Steffes, CSA called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Sister Laura Jean Spaeth, SSND welcomed the members to the Elm Grove site. She introduced Rob Frediani, the Administrator. Rob Welcomed the group.

Sister Jean invited the group to welcome new members. Congregations then introduced themselves.

Attendance (On File)

Prayer

Sister Karen Kappell, FSPA “Being God’s Instruments of Goodness”. (Radical Amazement-Judy Cannato)

Agenda:

Sister Jean reviewed the agenda.

Additions to the Agenda

LCWR 9 Website

Catholics at the Capitol

LCWR-CMSWR meeting in Chicago.

Sister Diana DiBruin Grief.

Wisconsin Religious Collaborative

Sister Pat Cormack, SCSC introduced Ms. Lyn Korte, Director of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative (WRC).

Lyn shared a power point (on file) on the purpose, mission, timeline and current initiatives of the WRC. She is working from home. Visiting congregations and setting up needed infrastructure including a website. She presented a matrix to decide what tasks are difficult, slow, fast and easy.

Early indications from her meetings prioritized Health Care and Wellness, JPIC, Ongoing Formation, Archives. Leadership and Finance have also emerged. The website can be a clearing house and a powerful tool. The board meets every other month.

Lyn took questions and comments from the group.

The 9 communities that make up the board members stood to be recognized.

Lyn will be visiting “non” members for an open-ended informal discussion to learn about these congregations.

Lyn explained her matrix. She looks at things from the perspective of execution.

Lyn explained her background and gifts that she brings to the position. In the forefront was working with group associations for almost 5 years. Mission focused. She has a degree in

Association Management. She has a great deal of experience in various roles. She attended Catholic schools for 12 years.

The future of the WRC and possible future expansion cannot be decided at this time. Board members have been giving talks about the WRC in many places but we must establish our own local project first in order to know how best to grow the collaborative if that is possible.

Sister Sharon Glumb, SLW explained the Sisters of the Living Word from Illinois became a part of the WRC. They could not find anything viable in Illinois.

RCRI Toolbox: For further information, there is information at the RCRI website regarding the WRC.

Emergent Planning Process from the National LCWR

Sister Jean Steffes, CSA began the discussion on “Emergent Planning”. Step one of the process was each Leadership Team sending their teams responses to the Design Team at LCWR. Step Two discussion at Spring Meeting.

Table reporting:

- Exercising leadership in the moment calls us to look at diminishment as a time to look at each sister to see her wisdom.
- Leadership of the future will emphasize a new model-not a business model. Collaboration is key. The challenge is to nurture the individuals to minister with joy.
- Be open to diversity and be willing to be sensitive to what it means to live interculturally. Keep growing and be willing to change.
- Serve the life and mission by helping all to thrive rather than sustain.
- Some younger members have leadership but do not focus on the common good. It is individualized toward their ministry .
- Newer leadership is less hierarchical, more collaborative, let everyone have a voice, be inclusive. Recognize differences, especially generational. Be open to the new. Inviting widows or rebounders to be in mission with us.
- Newness is realized in seeking what God’s dream is for us...deepen the contemplative.
- We are still exploring and being open to new forms of leadership and belonging make the effort to give confidence and hope for the life and the future.
- How do we hold the tension in the multiple paradigms that are involved in” the life” as rooted in the mission or gospel life? Two tensions, one in what the life is about for individuals and the second the many diverse aspects of leadership...working for the cosmic common good.

The responses of all tables were collected and will be collated and available on file. Sisters Cyndi Nienhaus, CSA and Susan Seeby, CSA will prepare the summary report for LCWR.

The report for LCWR will be sent to LCWR-9 members for comment and editing prior to being mailed to LCWR.

Catholics at the Capitol

April 30 in Madison. Jean has asked Sister Ruth Battaglia, CSA to represent LCWR-9 at the event.

The group voted to donate \$500.00 to Catholics at the Capitol event. The question arose as to what a “sponsorship” donation means. We have not been involved in the planning of the event. In the past, they have asked for resource people from LCWR-9 to assist with specific topics and sisters have done that. Specifically, we were very active with the Human Trafficking issue. Mary Ann McMahon, OP is the liaison to the Wisconsin Catholic Conference.

Contemplative Conversation on the Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Church

Sister Jean Steffes, CSA called the group to the discussion.

Table reports: (All table reports are on file)

- Needs to call church leadership to transparency and to truth. Authentic actions must be developed.
- abused members who are suffering need many, many opportunities to heal from the abuse. After effects need to be addressed and healed.
- Many experiences/stories were shared.
- The erosion of credibility. Looking at the Bishops, how can they teach on Justice? Lack of trust in the hierarchy and some apathy.
- Much time was spent discussing power. How do we stay honest with our power how are we using our voice for the faithful? Our voice needs to be heard.
- Contemplative dialogue served us well during the investigation and the church hierarchy participated. We to must acknowledge where we failed along the way. Invite the hierarchy into a contemplative dialogue about this experience to move things forward.
- support people who have walked away from the institutional church and support people have been wounded but continue to stay in the church.
- Pastoral response is lacking and the silence continues. There needs to be the ability to address the grief.
- Acknowledging the pervasiveness of the situation. We acknowledge that there are reactionary responses that are chilling the ability to work with people.
- loss of moral authority of the Bishops. How do we help people to continue to be nourished by the Faith?
- how do we help change and challenge the culture of clericalism that must start in seminary formation. How can we challenge and change it?
- Help to educate humanity regarding human sexuality. Can LCWR members build a greater trust in the church? Address the LGBTQ issue and clarify that they are not the cause of this crisis.

- Things were happening and we had no words for them in the past. Now we are in a position where relatives and friends are leaving the church. We are staying. This is a difficult place to be.

- What is our responsibility for the sexual abuse in our own communities? Could LCWR share resources and policies on the sexual abuse of sisters within the congregation? There is silence around this and how much of our silence is healthy? What do we do when it is our members? When this happens what support does a team have to help us out? “Don’t expect it to be over quickly-take each step slowly” - how do we find the best people to assist with the process?

- Watch the video from the USCCB when Terre Maya spoke to the Bishops and called them as brothers to be honest. LCWR needs to do this sort of challenge as well.

- We need to see how the women’s voice can filter down to the faithful. It needs to go to the next level to empower laity.

-Read some of the interventions at the Vatican Summit. They are examples of speaking truth to power but respectfully.

-How to deal with situations within our own congregation? Oftentimes it is a power situation and not abuse of a minor.

The table reports that were submitted will be collated summarized and sent to LCWR by Sister Susan Seeby, CSA after comments and editing by LCWR-9 members.

Website

Sister Jean Steffes handed out a proposal for the website (On file). Emily Townsend, the manager of the website, notified LCWR-9 that they are no longer able to host or manage the website. She herself has had health problems and is also facing surgery.

Proposal- LCWR-9 share the website with the WRC. The first year cost will be \$788.49. Subsequent year \$424.50 +16.49 every other year (if the fee stays the same.)

Lyn Korte requested a consultant from LCWR-9. A question was raised about the purpose of the website. What are some of the possibilities for the use of the website? Do we want a website that is focused on a public audience? The website is not very user friendly. Currently it has a member log-on. There would need to be something of this nature to maintain a restricted part of the website. Following the discussion the decision was that the website will continue as an internal communication forum for LCWR-9.

Collaboration with the WRC for the website passed unanimously. Sister Eileen McKenzie, FSPA will assist Lyn Korte with the website.

The meeting adjourned for the day at 5:00 PM.

April 9, 2019

Sr. Jean Steffes, CSA convened the meeting at 8:45. Sister Karen Kappell, FSPA led the group in prayer, “A Blessing for One Who Holds Power” (John O’Donohue from *To Bless the Space Between Us*.)

Fr. David Couturier, OFM, Cap (Presentation on file)

Sister Ellen Sinclair, SDS Introduced Fr. David. His topic “The Hidden Motives and Expectations of Congregations.”

Following questions and conversation with Fr. Couturier the meeting adjourned for lunch at 11:30.

Sr. Jean Steffes, CSA called the meeting to order at 1:00PM

Sisters were invited to consider to ideas from the morning presentation, what are the hidden expectations that are active in our congregations? How can we implement “attentive listening”?

Jean invited comments from the group the following were shared:

-Carol Gilligan’s idea of inclusion. Given the difficulties of an aging community, how can all sisters can be included in chapter? What about Inclusivity when someone moves into the motherhouse? What about Associates? How do we include them? Inclusion is challenging.

-How communities float up and down on the spectrum of being totally together and totally apart. There has been a development of trust in our community because of the process of learning to talk to each other and it is rooted in the contemplative process and civil dialogue. This may be the gift that we have to give to our country at this time.

Liaison Reports

Minutes

A correction is noted to page 1 of the October minutes, Sister Kathy Slesar, OP raised the question regarding the percentage of the donation, it is changed to 5%.

Treasurers Report

Sister Rose Jochmann, OSF presented the report. From now on, Sisters Without Borders account will be kept separately. The LCWR-9 account is holding the funds.

Because we will be moving to stay in retreat centers, we will use our extra funds to pay for the extra cost incurred by staying at retreat centers. The \$10,000 will be invested.

The handbook states that LCWR-9 may donate up to 5% of the funds for donations. Membership needs to consider and request these donations.

Corresponding Secretary

Sister Ann Rehrauer, OSF is completing her term as Corresponding Secretary. Sister Toni Harris, OP will be assuming the role.

Topics, Dates, and Places for Future LCWR-9 Meetings

Sister Ellen Sinclair, SDS shared results of the survey for meeting locations. Hosting at retreat house sites was preferred by membership. She presented the costs of the retreat centers.

Possible host retreat centers were eliminated for not having elevators or lack of space. Some of the retreat centers charge extra for the room space. Additional refreshments at retreat centers will lead to additional charges. However, retreat centers chosen will allow for snacks to be brought in.

The Executive Committee recommended that LCWR-9 alternate between the Jesuit Retreat Center and Siena Center. Pros and cons of this proposal were discussed including the higher cost of the Jesuit Retreat House & the fact that Siena Center books quickly. The question was raised of the possibility of using Sacred Heart School of Theology in the future. Benet Lake, Wisconsin was also discussed but neither was chosen for the 2020, 2021 dates.

A retreat center does not need to be Catholic to host the LCWR-9 meeting. One Ecumenical center was considered during the survey.

No members raised their hands when asked to show if they can host at their motherhouse. There is ongoing conversation at the national level regarding the future configuration of the regions our member groups may change geographically.

The Fall 2019 meeting we will be at the Siena Center in Racine. The Spring of 2020 will be in DePere at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality. Tony Gittens has committed to the Fall of 2020 - the topic is Interculturality/Mission. Place and time: The Siena Center October 26-28.

Spring Meeting, April 19-21, 2021 The Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh.

Hosting Responsibilities-Planning

It was decided that the Executive Committee will handle the reservations and contact with the retreat centers.

Hosting groups provide snacks if the Retreat Center does not provide them.

Festive Meal: Prayer for the meal, Extras to make the meal festive: these include wine, gifts if they are to be given to the participants, ambiance, decorations.

Fall of 2020

School Sisters of St. Francis (SSSF) will be the hosting community. Prayer will be provided by the Holy Cross Sisters (SCSC).

Spring of 2021

Jesuit Retreat Center-Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA) Hosts - Prayer provided by the Sisters of St. Agnes (CSA).

The cost of the Festive Dinner will be on the registration form.

Assembly Resolution for 2019-2020 Creating Communion at the intersection of Racism, Immigration & Climate Change

Sister Toni Harris, OP gave the background for the resolution followed by personal reflection and group discussion time.

Sister Toni reminded the members that the resolution is a three- year commitment.

Insights from the tables:

Editing of the statement: "Responding to God who loved us and all of creation" Change to read, "responding to God who loved all of creation." Otherwise it sounds as if we separated from creation.

-The final sentence is too long, change it to read, “We recognize a sense of urgency and pledge prayer, education, and advocacy. We commit to using our collective voice, resources, and power in collaboration with others to establish justice which reflects God’s love.”

-The group appreciated the inclusion of racism, immigration, and climate change as well as the call to work with others beyond women religious.

-What is at issue is the power differential, the use of power and white privilege that connects racism as well as sexual abuse.

-Sister Toni Harris, OP, recommended attending the White privilege Conferences. The main office of this group is located in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

-Gratitude for the intersectionality of the issues within racism.

Support to adopt the resolution was unanimous.

Sister Susan Seeby, CSA will send the response sheet along with suggested edits and comments to LCWR.

Regional Reports

Because the Communicators will be meeting on April 10 - Sister Diana DeBruin, OSF did not have a report.

Legislative Network (On file)

Sister Toni Harris, OP highlighted the Contemplative Mindfulness Earth Day prayer planned for April 22. She asked LCWR-9 to encourage participation of their members.

The Legislative Network Committee asked if the region to follow-up on the requests from the national office regarding assistance at the border. This is a response to the letter that sent from Annunciation House requesting assistance. Could the region support this request in collaboration with one another? Discussion focused on the many actions currently being taken by congregations. These actions include sending sisters and associates to work on the border, opening “casitas” at the border, making donations, in addition to congregations which also have permanent missions working on the border.

Recommended to encourage all regions to donate funds for hiring a volunteer person on the border. We also encourage that we continue to send people to assist at the border.

Recommended to support people with follow-up assistance when they return from the border.

Sister Toni Harris, OP will ask Sister Dusty Farnon, OP and Sister Reg McKillup, OP, two sisters from the Legislative Network, to contact Annunciation House to see if it is feasible to have a paid supported worker at the border. The 5% donation from LCWR-9 will be given to this program and an invitation will be sent to other regions to donate as well. Legislative Network will work through Sister Ann Schulze at LCWR.

Sister Ellen Sinclair, SDS suggested that congregations contact one another if they are sending members to the border for informal collaboration. Sister Laura Jean Spaeth, SSND asked if there would be sisters willing to assist the Notre Dame sisters who have rented a house at the border.

Congregations were encouraged to have a member at the Legislative Network meeting. They can attend the meeting via ZOOM>

Anti-Human Trafficking Report (On File)

Sister Toni Harris, OP shared with the Anti-Human Trafficking Consortium the work that the region has done.

The link for the Anti-Human Trafficking toolkit is hosted at the Green Bay Franciscan site.

A question was raised about a so called, Milwaukee “pimp” school. Is there a way for LCWR-9 to put pressure on to close that site? More information is needed. Sister Toni will take the question back to Legislative Network to see if there is a way to address this issue.

Sister Toni encouraged the members to send in information to Legislative Network regarding what they are doing on the topic of Anti-Human Trafficking.

The Wisconsin Public Radio program Adalante interviewed a sister of Notre Dame and a School Sister of St. Francis. The program is available on their website.

Wisconsin Catholic Conference (On File)

Sister Diana DeBruin, OSF spoke to the group on the topic of Grief, transformation and loss. She recommended Dr. John Olesnavage. Sister Eileen McKenzie, FSPA shared that they are currently working with Dr. John Olesnavage and the consultant group “Action Pact” based in Milwaukee. This group is assisting them with the impact that the renovation of their motherhouse and the transition in living is having upon their sisters.

Governance Reports

Sister Jean Steffes gave an update from LCWR on the nomination process and thanked the members for their participation. May 15 the names of nominees will be posted on the LCWR website. Elections will take place at the August assembly. More information is available at the LCWR website.

Prayer

Sister Kathy Slesar, OP requested that the members put the source for prayers on the papers that are used at the meeting.

Closing Prayer/Ritual

The meeting closed with the members gathering in a circle around the sisters who will be leaving LCWR-9 since their terms of leadership are completed. Each congregation offered a blessing for the sisters that is traditional to their congregation. The following sisters were a blessing to LCWR-9 and now continue their journeys:

Sister Karen Kappell, FSPA, Sisters Carol Rigali, SSSF, Deb Fumagalli, SSSF, Marilyn Ketteler, SSSF,

Sisters Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF, and Marcia lunz, OSF

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM and was followed by a Festive Meal.

Respectfully submitted,

Sister Susan Seeby, CSA

Recording Secretary

DRAFT