

**LCWR Region 9 Legislative Network**  
**May 18, 2022—1:00-3:00 pm.**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Chair:** Sr. Dorothy Pagosa  
**Prayer:** Sr. Barb Thomalla  
**Minutes:** Jill Haberman

**Attendance:**

Tracy Abler, Lisa Catheline, Tim Dewane, Sr. Deb Fumagalli, Jill Haberman, Sr. Reg McKillip, Sr. Dorothy Pagosa, Beth Piggush, Sr. Mary Jo Selinsky, Sr. Barb Thomalla, Sr. Julie Tydrich, Sr. Kris Vorenkamp, Sr. Kathy Wiesneski

**Unable to Attend:** Sr. Toni Harris, Sr. Rose Jochmann, Sr. Ellen Sinclair, Sr. Kathy Slesar

**Prayer:** Sister Barb led prayer “That Which Holds All” by Nancy Schaffer (Franciscan Spirituality Center)

**Introductions and check-in**

We welcome new members Beth Piggush, Integral Ecology Director for FSPA and Lisa Catheline, JPIC for the US Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph, New York. (Lisa works remotely in Milwaukee).

**Minutes** from January 18, 2022 meeting were accepted.

**Quick Reports**

- Tracy re-shared the resource list. All of us have editing privileges on this doc.
- Jill will send a reminder to Legislative Prayer Partner participants in June (= halfway mark)
- Jill will re-share Leg-Net Membership Contact Information with these minutes

**Defining Leg-Net Collaboration with WRC Topics for Discussion**

**Immigration (Tim):**

- SSND began immigration legislation at the state level, but now has expanded nationally and internationally.
- Justice For Immigrants is the leading resource for action
- Examples of what might be helpful shares for Leg-Net:
  1. Annunciation House in El Paso’s call for volunteers in light of 120 single adult refugees released to the streets.
  2. Wisconsin Council of Churches info on resettling Afghan refugees
  3. American Immigration Council’s Title 42 webinar

(immigration, cont'd)

- Calls to Senators are an 80-1 ratio of anti-immigrant to pro-immigrant comments
  - "Replacement Theory's" negative messaging needs to be countered with pro-immigrant positivity
  - World Refugee Day is June 20<sup>th</sup>
  - We need immigrant workers to curb inflation. We bemoan the worker shortage, but must take care not to put immigrants at risk of unfair wages and treatment.
  - Arise Chicago is helping immigrants
  - The pandemic slowed everything, but also xenophobic leaders shamefully did not plan long term to reform immigration laws
- Action → Our congregations could call Senators weekly throughout summer with positive, pro-immigrant messaging

### **Racism (Tracy):**

- SSND uses raceandfaith.org by Rhonda Hill and Dr. Sharon Chubbeck to educate themselves about white supremacy culture and myths.
  - White Christian Nationalism is a frighteningly strong movement
  - NETWORK's presentation by Fr. Bryan Massingale on White Supremacy and Christianity is a good resource available on their website.
  - LCWR published a response to Buffalo, NY hate crime, "Violence and White Supremacy Cannot Stand"
- Action → Share the LCWR statement with our congregations and post on Facebook.

### **Human Trafficking (Reg):**

- Currently no Wisconsin legislation to act on
- Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Consortium is a resource
- Topic for Future Discussion: Hotel Worker Education on Trafficking
  1. Iowa has had success training hotel staff to recognize signs of trafficking.
  2. Iowa? proposes that State workers traveling must stay at hotels where staff has completed human trafficking recognition training
  3. Leg-Net could purchase a "Bus Wrap" ad about anti-human trafficking to increase awareness. LCWR did this and it was effective.

Juveniles without Parole/Restorative Justice (Wisdom Groups) (Tracy or Mary Jo):

--No new info

### **Laudato Si' Updates:**

- Laudato Si' week is next week; CSA's platform announcement video will be featured (congratulations, Tracy!)
- Leg-Net member communities who have signed on the LS Action Platform:
  - Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes (Tracy)
  - Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa (Sr. Reg)
  - Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (Beth)
  - School Sisters of Notre Dame (Tim)
  - School Sisters of St. Francis (Sr. Deb)
- Not all of these have shared their goals or action plans; that takes a lot preparation.

(Laudato Si' Update, cont'd)

--All are encouraged to be a part of this world wide movement—do what you can!

--Sisters of the Living Word (Sr. Kris) has developed their own variation focusing on one goal for each year. This year's focus is "Simplicity of Life" in which they'll identify and act on ways to live simply.

--St. Joseph Third Order of St. Francis (Sr. Dorothy) created 10 minute videos on each chapter of the Laudato Si' encyclical which sisters are viewing in monthly installments.

--Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross (Sr. Kathy) is a small congregation. Sr. Kathy is attending webinars and sharing information with her community of twenty sisters.

--Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi (Jill) is tracking existing actions, particularly convent garden sustainable practices that align with Laudato Si' goals.

--Sowing Hope for the Planet has LS advocacy training with Sr. Sheila Kinsey

--Catholic Climate Covenant: Tomorrow (May 19) Sr. Ruth Battaglia, Lisa, Beth, and Jill will participate in Catholic Climate Covenant's Encounter for our Common Home by meeting with Annie Chestnut, aide to Senator Ron Johnson to prayerfully, respectfully urge him to support the \$555 Billion budget for climate provisions. We are working to get a meeting with Senator Baldwin as well.

--Leg-Net should stay aware of environmental action groups beyond those of faith traditions (e.g., Sierra Club) to see how their work connects to our efforts.

Action → Tracy agreed to draft a thank you letter to Governor Evers about the newly created Environmental Justice Council. We would offer this for LCWR9 leadership to sign.

### **Roe v. Wade**

--Catholic Sisters must say something on this issue or our silence will be misinterpreted; we need "Pro-life" defined our way

--If Roe v. Wade is overturned, we must push for legislation that makes it easier for children to live. We must challenge the Wisconsin Catholic Conference to advocate robustly for healthy pregnancy from birth and throughout life.

Action → Lisa agreed to inform Leg-Net of impacts on the State level.

Action → Sr. Reg will ask Sr. Toni (our Leg-Net liaison to LCWR9) about the LCWR9 executive team creating a common statement or at least touch points we can all use to make a public statement. This may require them to call a special session.

### **Moral March on Washington**

--Tracy is considering joining this bus trip

--Cost from Madison is \$185; deadline is fast approaching

--Sr. Reg's community is considering financing college students to attend

### **Legislative Actions underway in Leg-Net Member Communities**

--Title 42: reinforce message in our communities about the importance of revoking this.

--Since we now meet quarterly, we could consider legislative action around Season of Creation in September.

--OSF represented at Voces de la Frontera "Days without Latinix and Immigrant" May 1 & 2. This included in-person meetings with representatives and senators at the Capitol.

--Over 60 OSF Sisters signed NETWORK's letter asking Congress to reinstate the Child Tax Credit

**Additional Announcements:** none

### **Next Meeting**

Chair: Tracy Abler

Prayer: Sr. Kris Vorenkamp

Minutes: Tim Dewane

Date: The week of August 15-19; Beth will send out a Doodle poll.