

WRC Report from the Shared Services Director, Sharon Glumb, SLW LWRC Region 9 Spring Gathering 2025

On November 25, 2024, at the **WRC Board meeting**, Emily Cash from SLI offered a presentation on Transitions to all Leadership teams of WRC; it was well received. At that same meeting we reviewed the recommendations from the final report of the **Governance Committee**. From that meeting, I received suggestions for the new Survey of WRC Members, and recommendations for Bi-Monthly conversations with Board members on topics of crucial importance which could also build member relationships.

I used my beginning months to become better prepared for my role in providing resources for WRC members by researching and reviewing numerous **online presentations** from LCWR and RCRI that could be useful. I created an annotated list of these resources that can be shared when I meet with WRC leadership teams.

Also in December, I became aware that the **FSPA Venture Grant** funds needed to be utilized by June 30, 2025. Realizing that we had spent only a small portion of the \$50,000, I requested a one-year extension of the deadline. Some alterations in categories were made; we have until June 30, 2026, to spend the remaining \$44,000.

On January 27, 2025, at the **WRC Board meeting**, a draft of the new Survey was reviewed / revised. This **Survey** of congregations was completed by all 10 groups by the end of February, allowing time to begin a compilation. At a future Board meeting we will be using this compilation to determine some next steps in sharing resources.

The **Bi-monthly Conversations** on significant topics started with **Jenny Howard**, SP on the topic of 'Experiences of a Canonically Appointed Leader' on **February 24** and was attended by nearly 20 leaders. The next Bi-monthly Conversation is with **Amy Hereford**, CSJ on the topic of 'Developing a Legacy Plan', scheduled for **April 21**. A couple of options being explored for **future conversations** are 1) sharing management between congregations, 2) hosting a panel of a few current Finance Directors to explore ways of sharing a Finance director and 3) the Association of the Faithful Governance model being developed by the Upper Mississippi Valley Franciscans.

On March 24, 2025, at the **WRC Board meeting**, those future topics for the Bi-monthly conversations were supported; Pat Cormack also received recommendations for the Emily Cash presentation to all Leadership Teams scheduled for May 30. Budget plans are starting.

Leadership Team in-person visits have been completed with SDS (Jean) in Milwaukee, OSM (Theresa) by Zoom, CSA (Sharon) in Fond du Lac, Lake OSF (Sylvia Anne) in Milwaukee, OP's (Mary Ann) in Racine, FSPA (Sue) in La Crosse, and the OP's (Julie) in Sinsinawa. A wide range of topics were covered, providing a fuller and deeper understanding of each congregation now and into the future, naming emerging needs and possible sharing of resources. The next two WRC leadership team visits have been scheduled in May with the SCSC (Pat) in Merrill and the GB-OSF (Rose) in Green Bay.