



Wisconsin Religious Collaborative (WRC) Update to LCWR9

Submitted October 6, 2020 by Executive Director Lyn Korte on behalf of the WRC Board of Directors

The Wisconsin Religious Collaborative (WRC) continues to develop and explore options for collaboration across women religious institutes in our region. In the following report, we provide an overview of recent activities and developments.

- **Collaboration and partnership:** The WRC isn't just about implementing shared services to enable sisters to live fulfilling lives and ministries into the future and to ensure leadership can focus on ministry and care, but also to provide connection and support across communities. Our model develops a deep bond across member communities where sharing can occur unobstructed. Each community can learn from the other community experiences and create a deeper and more meaningful network.
- **IT Roundtable:** Earlier this year, we launched an IT Roundtable Call for WRC members. Each call shares an example of an IT solution or practice with open Q&A related to that topic, followed by all other topics as submitted by participants for discussion with the WRC IT Advisory Committee of experts and the larger group. We are in the process of publishing a section on our website with tools and tips for various IT functions, such as effective Zoom calls and security recommendations.
- **Formation programming:** We are launching an Ongoing Formation Roundtable Call in October, which will build on a collection of Recommended Resources solicited from sisters within member communities. These will be 90-minute teleconferences focused on a preassigned video or reading with a facilitated discussion related to that resource. Additional Recommended Resources are made available for our members on our website.
- **Service partners:** We are establishing preferred vendors in multiple service areas such as finance, HR, IT, and fleet management. We will have program overviews, vetted references, dedicated contacts, and preferred pricing models established for each preferred vendor, all available for immediate access by member institutes.
- **Resource identification:** We are in the process of identifying resources and/or tools available within member institutes that may be leveraged by other member institutes in need of a specific service.
- **Governance overview:** We are working on a comprehensive overview of existing governance models and the parameters that led to those situations. So many options are emerging, and it is a challenge for congregations to identify all the solutions, and, specifically, the solution that may be right for them. This collective examination of what is happening and emerging and the parameters related to each may be helpful for any community looking forward to their unique future. We will make this information available to others as broadly as possible through our website and continued collaboration and partnership with RCRI.



- **Nonmember and network development:** We continue to meet with nonmember institutes in our region to discuss current and future needs as well as building relationships with other collaborations throughout the United States (and Australia).
- **RCRI Panel:** Executive Director Lyn Korte participated in an RCRI Panel titled “Canonical Governance Options and Possibilities for Collaboration” to be shared as part of RCRI’s virtual conference programming on October 30.
- **Grants:** We continue to research and prepare for grant applications to enable broader program development.
- **Blog:** We launched a blog on the WRC website called “Better Together: Sharing Our Journey” (www.WRCollaborative.org/library/blog.cfm).

Please reach out directly to Lyn Korte via Lyn@WRCollaborative.org or 262-599-0814 with any questions. All conversations are welcome!