

## MONTHLY MEMO July 2022

July has been an interesting month here at Emerging Futures! There have been comings and goings and the whole team contracted Covid from an in-person meeting mid-July. We have been fortunate to have experienced mostly mild symptoms and we took sensible steps to cancel meetings for seven working days and ensure that we recovered from our symptoms. It was challenging to reschedule all those meetings and we are grateful to all our service partners who worked with us to pull that off.

Luke Stevens, the Services Delivery Manager, left our employ on July 15 to take up a post with the Sisters of St Joseph. Luke worked mostly with the employees of EFCL who provide services to our various congregations across Tasmania, Victoria and NSW, establishing good relationships and supporting them in their service to congregations. We wish Luke all the best as he begins this new chapter in his life.

Mrs Rosemary Young AM, previously Director of Operations, Sisters of Charity of Australia, will begin in the position of Shared Services Manager in mid-September. Rosemary is highly qualified and experienced, having been National Director, Frontier Services (Uniting Church in Australia); Executive Officer/Chief of Staff to the Hon John Hannaford, MLC; and having worked on systems establishment for the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption before beginning her position at Sisters of Charity nine years ago. We look forward to Rosemary joining our team and the expertise and experience she will bring to us.

EFCL is also looking for a new part-time Finance Manager, as Greg Costello who has worked with CLRI(NSW), CRA and EFCL for the past almost twenty years is wanting to retire. Greg was planning to finish at the end of the 2021 financial year and was coaxed into staying until July 2022 to bed down the new Company. We hope that Greg will be able to finish by the end of August/September if we can source a replacement. It is a completely work from home role, about 8-10 days a month, with responsibility for general finance tasks working in Xero, budget and audit preparation and reporting to the Finance Committee of the Board. If you have an appropriate person working part-time in your religious institute please let them know of this opportunity.

Brad Hannagan began work as the Chief Executive Officer of EFCL on Thursday July 28. Brad was chosen by the Board for the skill and personality that will see him being able to work well with the current team and religious institutes and be a leader for the future development of EFCL. Most recently CEO of Lifeline Macarthur and Western Sydney, Brad has held other CEO and CFO positions in corporate and not for profit organizations in Australia and overseas and was educated by the Sisters of St Joseph and the De La Salle Brothers, at Macquarie University and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Brad joined Anne Lane and the Transition Team on July 28 to begin the orientation to EFCL. We prayed together, shared our early story, our mission and values, our company structure, the processes of canonical governance, transition support and shared service provision. I think we all came away from that day confident that Brad is a great addition to the team and in his understanding of mission at the heart of EFCL's ministry. For the next few weeks Brad will be joining the Transition Team on Zoom meetings in order to meet our service partners and see at first hand how the process works in each of the service partner settings.

On July 29 the Board had its first in person meeting since it was established in July 2021. It was the seventh meeting of the Board and all the previous meetings, including the inauguration of the Board, the launch of EFCL and a day's formation in February have been on Zoom. So we did enjoy meeting together at Mary MacKillop Place.

The meeting began with two hours of formation with Elizabeth Dowling rsm, the theologian who in 2018 helped EFCL articulate its mission and values, its scriptural and theological underpinnings. Liz led a three-part process that encouraged the Board members to

- consider that Governance is a ministry in itself, consistent with Church teaching and tradition;
- recall the importance of interconnectedness and interrelationships, of *communio*;
- remember *God as up ahead*, calling the whole universe into a new future brimming with hope;
- reflect on Exodus 18 -the story of Moses and Jethro and their discussion about leadership;
- refresh our memory about the values of Catholic Social Teaching that inspire Emerging Futures, along with synodality; and
- call to mind the Emmaus story which continues to be of significance for EFCL.

For all of us, the words of the Spanish poet, Antonio Machado, are key:

*Pathmaker, there is no path, you make the path by walking. By walking, you make the path.*

During the rest of the meeting Board and team continued the process of getting to know Brad and dealing with the matters at hand, before spending time socialising at lunch, appreciating the opportunity to continue to develop EFCL as a ministry of religious institutes in Australia.

EFCL continues to build ties with groups and individuals overseas who are interested in the area of religious institutes coming to completion. Linda Ferrington and I recently met on Zoom with Bonnie MacLellan csj, canon lawyer, Superior General of her Canadian institute and facilitator of a group of institutes in western Canada looking to the future. We plan to continue discussions about how we can work together, particularly in approaching CICALS in 2023. It is really encouraging to connect with others viewing the future of canonical governance in much the same way as EFCL.

Linda leaves on August 3 to travel to the States to represent EFCL at the LCWR Assembly and to meet with many of our connections: canon lawyers Amy Hereford, Sharon Euart and Lynn McKenzie, LCWR's Carol Zinn, Canadian Religious Conference's Alain Ambeault, Pat Cormack from Wisconsin Religious Collaborative, Mary Pellegrino from Plante Moran and some religious ministering as canonical delegates to religious institutes in America. She will have a lot to report on her return and we wish her a safe and successful trip!

Sharon Price rsm  
Transition Manager  
July 31, 2022