



MONTHLY MEMO
May 2022

MAY 26 ZOOM EVENT

Following on the news that Presentation Sisters, Tasmania had a canonical delegate and two consultors appointed, we offered an opportunity for interested religious to learn more about these two important roles and the role of community coordinator on Thursday May 26 from 1.30pm-3.00pm, to accommodate the different time zones across Australia. The EFCL team provided input about the roles of the canonical delegate, consultor and community coordinator and offered participants the opportunity to ask questions and make comments in real time. More than sixty sites registered for the Zoom event, and we estimate about one hundred people watched. We **recorded** the Zoom event and had it edited. Now it can be found on the Resources page of our website www.emergingfuturescollaborative.org.au Go to the website, then Resources, then Videos and it is the third video down: *EFCL Information Session on Canonical Governance and Community Coordination - 26th May, 2022* You can click underneath the video to view a PDF document of the slides in the presentation.

In a previous *Monthly Memo* I did provide some information about the role and responsibilities of the Canonical Delegate and Consultors and invited any religious with leadership experience to indicate their interest in being available to take up one of the roles.

The Community Coordinator role is a different and non-canonical role: a role about accompaniment and coordination, which is not decision-making. The responsibilities of the role include ensuring the wellbeing, spiritual support and pastoral care of each religious institute member; individual advocacy and companionship; community coordination; monitoring adherence to the wishes of the religious institute as set out in the Congregational Will and Distribution Plan; monitoring service provision. These responsibilities involve the community coordinator in providing practical on the ground support themselves; ensuring supports provided by others are appropriate to the religious institute members' needs; and reporting, and where necessary escalating matters, to EFCL management or the Canonical Delegate. When a religious institute is ready to appoint a community coordinator, they may choose to appoint a current member in the role in the first instance or they may choose to look outside the institute for a member from another religious institute or they may choose to have a lay community coordinator appointed.

We do plan to have at least one more Zoom event this year and if you have any suggestions about aspects of EFCL that you would like to hear about, please email me at sharon.price@efcl.org.au

Just this week Emerging Futures distributed to leaders and teams a document entitled *Explaining Emerging Futures Collaborative Limited*, a one-stop shop for the why, the what and the how of EFCL. We have had a very positive response to the provision of this document, which will also be

on the Resources page of the website in the near future, if you would be interested to read information about EFCL.

A reminder about some of the other items that you can find on the website that will assist you to learn more about EFCL:

- Under *About/Our People* you can find short video interviews with the directors of the Board of EFCL
- Under *News & Events* you will find all the back editions of the *Monthly Memo*
- Under *Resources* there are two other videos -one about the launch of EFCL and one about the 2021 Zoom event with the first three service partners
- Under *Resources* there are also many papers about religious institutes in transition and coming to completion.

Two weeks ago I was invited to speak about Emerging Futures Collaborative Limited at the Carroll & O’Dea Not For Profit Charity Law Day 2022: an opportunity to spread the word about the initiative beyond religious institutes. I did see some familiar faces, but also met a lot of people who were extremely interested to hear about the EFCL initiative. It was also an opportunity to hear from other presenters who may be of assistance to EFCL and to connect with some younger professionals who may become lay colleagues in the future.

We are taking the opportunity next month to gather with the Health and Well-Being Coordinators of four of our service partners when they come to Sydney to attend the CRA seminar *Creating a Culture of Supportive Care*. Currently four service partners have a Health and Well-Being Coordinator employed and/or managed through EFCL and one has a worker contracted from another religious institute. Serving members of a religious institute on behalf of EFCL means that it is important for the employees to have opportunities to extend their understanding of the landscape of religious life, to engage in professional development and to network with and support each other. As the number of service partners grow and more seek shared services, we plan to establish hubs in the various states, so that staff have local support and network opportunities.

EFCL’s networking with organizations around the world continues to be important. Consequently, the Board approved Linda Ferrington rsc representing EFCL at the LCWR Assembly in St Louis in August. Linda will take the opportunity to do as has been done in the past: meeting with the network of people with whom EFCL staff interact -Carol Zinn csj (LCWR), Patricia Murray ibvm (UISG), Alain Ambeault (CRC), Mary Pellegrino (Plante Moran), Amy Hereford csj (canonist), Sharon Euart rsm (canonist and RCRI), Nancy Bauer osb (canonist), Lynn McKenzie osb (canonist) among others. I am sure this will be an enriching experience for Linda and for EFCL.

Each time we meet with our service partners we begin with Acknowledgement of Country and prayer, chosen by Judy or Linda. This week Judy chose a prayer that concluded with

Thank you for our future: Before we know it, before we see it, before we enter it, in faith, we invite you to beckon us on, O God, that we may be your people and you may be our God. We commit ourselves to you as we enter this time and place and our brave conversations together. We will risk hearing each other, trust ourselves to each other in faith and await the presence of your Spirit among us, O God.

I was reminded of how important it is for us to be having brave conversations about all sorts of topics!

Sharon Price rsm
Transition Manager
May 31, 2022