

MONTHLY MEMO

November 2021

Our Zoom event on November 8 was very well-received! 150+ congregational members spent 90 minutes with the leaders of our first three service partners -**Gabrielle Morgan pbvm from Presentation Sisters Tasmania, Stancea Vichie mss from Missionary Sisters of Service (Victoria) and Timothy Graham oh from the Brothers of St John of God (NSW)**. Gabrielle, Stancea and Timothy shared their reasons for coming to EFCL and their experience in working with the Emerging Futures Collaborative to secure the future of their congregational members. After enlightening and inspiring presentations, our speakers answered the questions that our audience provided.

As the Team discussed the presentations after the Zoom event, we thought that there were some invaluable points made:

- It is important to start the journey to completion at an early stage while the congregation still has energy and capacity for the tasks involved;
- The journey to completion is one in which all the members need to participate as much as they can, so that every member is heard and feels heard;
- This is a process that requires letting go of the leader and leadership team model to allow for a new model of canonical governance;
- The new model of canonical delegate and two consultors is different model and they are not congregation leaders. They are trustees with the responsibility of oversight who fulfill the canonical governance requirement and create a space for the congregational members to live in their own identity and charism until the last member;
- In discussions that accompany the creation of the Congregational Will and Distribution Plan, the members of the religious institute decide how they wish to live their religious life, how they will exercise their agency as individuals and together as community members;
- The discernment of and authority for all decisions rests with the religious institute. EFCL exists to provide service to religious institutes, it is not a decision-making entity;
- The role of community coordinator is the most important one for the religious institute, as this is the role of accompaniment, of pastoral and spiritual care and advocacy for each individual member and the community as a whole.

We so appreciate all the feedback we have received, and some of the comments were:

It was really inspiring to hear Stancea, Gabrielle and Timothy speak of their journey. I felt privileged to participate. (the presenters) in sharing the experience of their respective communities, raised the consciousness of a 'positive' transitioning phase of congregations' movement into a 'secure future'. On a 'feeling' level, I sensed a calmness re facing a future of declining numbers and increasing frailty with acceptance and deep hope. Some uplifting words staying with me include: changing Congregational Leadership Structures peacefully; facing facts graciously and without fear; walking each other home and for overall sense of well-being, "gratitude, gratitude, gratitude!".

It is encouraging to hear the process that they have followed so **all members** were involved in the decision.

I was quite struck by the sense of each group travelling together with all the members and the joy which came through at the prospect of bringing life to conclusion so positively.

It was great to hear the different approaches of the three religious institutes who are well on their journey with EFCL.

EFCL's tireless work is enabling us as Congregation to move forward. There is a real sense of the Spirit at work within the minds and hearts of all involved.

It is evolving in such a positive way and hearing about it from the three leaders is a great way for us to 'widen the tent.'

I thought Stancea, Gabriel and Tim made it very human and real with good insight and honesty.

This edited video is now on our website, and you can watch it by clicking on the following link: <https://www.emergingfuturescollaborative.org.au/videos>

EFCL is extremely grateful to Gabrielle, Stancea and Tim who selflessly speak on behalf of the service partners on so many occasions: with individual religious institutes, in groups that gather in various states and so often, in Zoom events. We call on their time and their experience and they so generously always opt in to share with others.

EFCL appreciated being included in the timetable and being given the chance to share something of the growth and development of EFCL on Thursday November 25 at the CRA Assembly. Anne Lane led a process that involved information sharing, breakout room discussions and a Q &A time.

A reminder that you can explore other aspects of EFCL on our website -click and follow the link www.emergingfuturescollaborative.org.au In the About/Our People section, there are short video interviews with all the Board directors -a good way to learn a little about those guiding the future of EFCL.

At our Christmas lunch on December 15, we will be farewelling Angela McKay who has been with us as a consultant Operations Manager since late last year. Our service partners have appreciated Angela's caring and supportive manner and her work beginning the delivery of shared services in Tasmania, Victoria and NSW. Angela leaves EFCL to take up the role of the CEO of the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation. Recently, we welcomed **Luke Stevens** to the team at EFCL in the role of Service Delivery Manager. Luke's background in creating a for profit enterprise in a not-for-profit company, in managing the practice of a law firm and as Deputy CEO of CatholicCare has provided a great base for his role in delivering shared services to our service partners and building up the necessary frameworks so that EFCL can continue to grow.

This will be the final *Monthly Memo* for 2021. We plan to finish work on December 15 and the office will re-open on January 24, 2022. The team has been stretched this year as more service partners than anticipated arrived and while we have so enjoyed the journeys begun, we are looking forward to some down time. Also this year we have handled all the work to begin a new company Emerging Futures Collaborative Limited, inducting new Member Representatives and beginning to work with a new Board and Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. So many people have been involved in the success of EFCL: the original Transition Committee members, along with the Governance and Finance Working Party members, the eight religious institutes who became the Members of the Company and the current Member Representatives, Board Directors and Finance, Audit and Risk Committee members. We are truly blessed to have such incredible support. For the members of the Team at EFCL: Judith Lawson op, Linda Ferrington rsc, Luke Stevens and Peter Cranko, and Angela McKay as she leaves the Team -I am indebted to you for all the hard work and care for our service partners.

Best wishes to all our readers for the blessings of the Advent and Christmas seasons and we look forward to connecting with you again in 2022!

Sharon Price rsm
Transition Manager
November 30, 2021