



MONTHLY MEMO
February 2023

FROM THE TRANSITION MANAGER

It seems a little late to be still saying Happy New Year! So I'll say instead welcome to another year of the *Monthly Memo* from Emerging Futures! Summer holidays seem distant as we have dived right into a very busy February with lots of service partner meetings on Zoom and in person in various locations around Australia. A couple of new religious institutes have approached us for a presentation about Emerging Futures: one contemplative congregation and an Anglican congregation of nuns. We have begun to work in earnest with two institutes who connected with us at the end of last year: the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands and the Patrician Brothers. Quite a number of our service partner institutes have had Chapters already this year or have one coming up in the next few months and Chapters lead to change, so we expect to be busy for the remainder of the year.

In view of the need to provide more access to canonical governance through a canonical delegate and consultants, we held a Zoom meeting at the end of January with some religious who have broad connections to numerous religious institutes. The aim of the meeting was to invite this group to nominate (religious and lay) people to become part of a group of canonical delegates and consultants who would work together collaboratively in a canonical delegate and consultants structure. Since that meeting we have received some nominations and we plan to gather that group on Zoom in March. If those nominated are interested in continuing, they will then be gathered to workshop their Terms of Reference and procedures. We hope in this way to create a structure that supports institutes seeking canonical governance as well as the individuals who will take up the responsibility of canonical governance. If there are religious reading this who are interested in becoming a canonical delegate and consultant please contact me and if there are leadership team members with recommendations, please let me know. That Zoom meeting is planned for March 14.

In mid-February, Anne Lane, Linda Ferrington and I met on Zoom with Carol Zinn ssj, Executive Director of LCWR in America about the meeting in Rome for English-speaking Conferences in December. LCWR held two Zoom sessions with their members on December 20 because it is LCWR's manner to be in conversation with their members and they continue to hold numerous Zoom sessions with/for members through the national discernment process they're facilitating. We had heard from Carol that the conversations in Rome were quite engaging and filled her with hope for the way in which Dicastery members evidenced that they had carefully studied the reports provided by Conferences prior to the meeting, listened to participants during the meeting and wanted to know the reality being faced by religious around the English-speaking world. So we were grateful for the opportunity to talk in person with Carol and hear her experience of the December meetings. There is a follow-up meeting in Rome in March for the Conferences.

Attached to this *Monthly Memo* is an invitation to the May workshop days. It was envisaged at the initiation of Emerging Futures that everyone connected to Emerging Futures would experience *communio*, collaboration, inter-connectedness; share experiences and learnings; participate in formation and find support. Covid definitely put a damper on doing that any other way than by Zoom, but this year, we have planned two **in person workshops**:

- In Melbourne at the Treacy Centre in Parkville on **Monday May 8**, and
- In Sydney at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on **Monday May 15**.

All our service partner leadership teams, planning groups and staff are expected to participate, along with EFCL staff and Member Representatives and Board Directors of EFCL. As well, we invite you to invite any lay colleagues who would be interested to learn more about EFCL. We invite members of religious institutes who may be interested in not just hearing about Emerging Futures, but meeting and having an opportunity to talk with current service partners. We strongly believe that we have much to learn from each other and that's why we have entitled the day **Building A Living Network**. Please do come along and join us for what we believe will be inspiring days.

FROM THE CEO, BRAD HANNAGAN

We enjoyed a wonderful day on Friday 17 February when the Company Member Representatives, Board Directors and EFCL Staff came together for the day at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney.

The day commenced with a joint formation session led by Linda Ferrington rsc, with a video from Nancy Schreck osf, entitled "Standing at the Edge: A Scriptural Reflection on the Presentation in the Temple" (Luke 2:22-40). We were challenged to reflect upon the lives of Simeon and Anna and on how that reflects upon us as individuals and as a group. We spoke particularly about leaving the old and embracing the new, of walking around in the gap as we are being transformed into something new. The session enjoyed positive feedback from all involved and great discussion occurred.

After lunch the Members and Board separated into separate meetings. The Board focussed upon two key items:

1. Updating the original business plan
2. An Initial Strategic Plan for EFCL

In respect of the business plan, the presentation focussed upon the learning the organisation has experienced since the initial authoring of the document and what financial impacts that may have had upon the organisation.

The draft **Strategic Plan** was presented to the Board. The plan was a result of the collective work of the entire EFCL team which commenced with our planning days in early December 2022. Some amendments were suggested by the Board which have been incorporated and accepted by the Board for recommendation to the Member Representatives for review and approval. Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the organisation, the plan focusses on a three-year period through 2025 with a clear understanding that the plan can be revisited and updated should that be required.

At the Members meeting discussions were held around the formation of a Fundraising Committee; developing and implementing a Ministry of Legal Guardianship for service partners; a presentation from the EFCL team on the service partners we are currently engaged with or the process of engaging with; and development around the Australian Religious Archives.

After a long and productive day, the Board, Members and Staff reconvened and enjoyed dinner together.

New staff member – Nitasha Prasad

One of the outcomes from our December 2022 Planning days was the understanding and agreement that the organisation desperately needed to add resource to the Administration side of the business. Following on from that, Nitasha Prasad joined EFCL on 6 February 2023 as the Executive Officer. Nitasha has over 20 years' experience in high-level executive support, corporate governance, IT and project management. Nitasha was known to the organisation previously and has very rapidly made a positive impact.

This year's dates to diarise:

1. **Tuesday November 7 CHANGED DATE:** Zoom event for all interested participants from 11am-1pm AEDT
2. **Monday May 8 in Melbourne: In person day at Treacy Centre**
3. **Monday May 15 in Sydney: In person day at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney**

Sharon Price rsm
Transition Manager
February 28, 2023



The Emerging Futures Collaborative invites leaders and leadership team members to a workshop to meet together to do what was intended in the development of Emerging Futures: experience *communio*, collaboration, inter-connectedness; share experiences and learnings; participate in formation and find support.

BUILDING A LIVING NETWORK

WHO IS INVITED

members of the leadership team of current service partners

members of leadership teams interested in learning more about Emerging Futures at first hand

canonical delegate and consultors teams and those interested in serving as canonical delegates and consultors

all staff managed or employed by EFCL, including religious in the role of Community Coordinator

lay colleagues interested in learning about how to get involved in EFCL

Our day has three major sessions

- EFCL's theological basis explored
- Learnings about the transition process led by current service partners;
- A Shared Services MarketPlace
- All sessions maximise participant interaction

MONDAY MAY 8
9.30AM-3.30PM
TREACY CENTRE
126 THE AVENUE
PARKVILLE (VIC)

MONDAY MAY 15
9.30AM-3.30PM
MARY MACKILLOP PLACE
80 WILLIAM ST
NORTH SYDNEY

TO REGISTER FOR
MELBOURNE

<https://events.humanitix.com/efcl-building-a-living-network-melbourne>

TO REGISTER FOR
SYDNEY

<https://events.humanitix.com/efcl-building-a-living-network-sydney>