

Western Region Coordinating Committee Minutes, July 25, 2017

Present: Annette Schmeling (chair), Marcia O'Dea, Mary Finlayson, Clare Pratt, Kathy Dolan, Irma Dillard, Maura Keleher

Prayer: May We Know God's Blessing

Check-In: Rich sharing of about where each of us is and what has happened these last few weeks.

- Feast of the Sacred Heart
- Assembly 2017
- Spirituality Forum
- Travel: to family, with students to Rome
- Setting time aside to connect with friends

We also shared the joy of connections with the wider Sacred Heart family, including connecting with our International Sisters at the Assembly and Forum, the inclusion of Associates and colleagues at both the Assembly and Forum, and especially the presence of our students at the Forum.

Shared Leadership: We spoke to the value and our desire for shared leadership. Irma highlighted the experience of shared leadership with the Assembly Planning Committee. We had a very brief conversation about our not convening for three months and suggested that we look at the structures/procedures that we need to put in place to ensure the success of our Western Regional structural model. The Regional Structures will be evaluated by the Province in the Spring of 2018 and a decision to be made about whether or not we continue with the structure.

Specific issues that need further discussion:

- WRCC meeting schedule
- Communicating with the members of the Region
 - Lack of engagement on our website (www.rscjwest.org)
 - E-mail to Region when things have been added to the web page
 - Members of the WRCC need to share what is happening with local communities

The recommendation was made to add this to the August agenda.

Regional Gathering: Annette and Mary Kay are the representatives on the Regional Gatherings' Planning Committee (RGPC). The first RGPC meeting is this Friday. Annette reported that Pat Kozak, CSJ is facilitating this committee. Mary Kay and Annette have worked with Pat on the CorUnum65+ planning.

We had a good initial conversation/dialogue about the inclusion of Associates at our Regional Gathering. This is a question that has been raised at the level of the RGPC. Recommendations that were made:

- Survey our region and ask their hopes for the Regional Gathering
- Articulate the purpose of the meeting: What are we gathered to do?
- Hold judgement about including the broader Sacred Heart family until after we have completed the first two steps.
- Publish notes from the Regional Gathering at the Assembly on our website:
 - Who is God call us to be?
 - What are the Pathways to moving forward?

Other points that were raised:

- We need to use inclusive language when referring to our various constituents of the Sacred Heart family. They are more than “guests.”
- Being mindful of our scheduling with Oakwoodians and the Extended Communities. Adding the Associates, etc. would have both scheduling and logistic challenges. If the choice is to widen our circle at the Regional Gathering, we are optimistic that we will figure out a way to make this happen.

Regional Goals for 2017-2018: We briefly discussed some of the initiatives that were raised at the Regional Gathering at the Assembly.

- Assembly Interest Groups
- Slavery
- Human Trafficking

It was suggested that we review our “What are the Pathways to moving forward?” document and any summary documentation that we receive from the Assembly Planning Committee and add this to our August agenda.

We had a brief, but impassioned, conversation about the Slavery presentations at the Assembly and the Forum and our next steps. The conversation revolved around the challenges that this history presents, the need to be inclusive of all the people/communities that have been impacted by this history, to avoid quick responses/ solutions and the need to have a comprehensive strategic plan. There was consensus on the desire for an authentic, hopeful and spiritual response to this issue. This is an invitation to deepen our charism and to stand strong against racism and the oppression of others today.

Conclusion: We ended the meeting at 5:40 PM (70 minutes). Annette will send out Doodle for August meeting and ask Mary Kay to chair the August meeting.

Respectfully Submitted: Annette Schmeling (July 26, 2017)