

Western Region Coordinating Committee Minutes, September 30, 2017

Present: Annette Schmeling (chair), Irma Dillard, Clare Pratt, Marcia O’Dea, Mary Hay Hunyady, Maura Keleher, Mary Finlayson, Paula Toner

Prayer: Remembering Tippy Guillory and Alice Mills being buried today in Grand Coteau; other intentions . . .

Update on Assembly Planning:

Taking Minutes: Paula volunteered for today (Marcia and Prayer & Spirituality Interest Group have taken on preparing the Prayer for the Regional Assemblies

Irma’s report on replicating the Assembly Special Topic Groups: waiting for Jo McFayden to send email to the Region, so nothing has happened yet on that initiative. Mid-October target for having feedback.

Issue: There are 2 ways in which we are using the term “Interest Groups”

At the Assembly: Special Topic Groups (from August WRCC Minutes)
Western Region Interest Group teams

Report on Regional Assemblies Planning (Annette & Mary Kay)

Annette: Fall Meeting (Assembly) will focus on organizational structures.

Mary Kay: more communal discernment: with new facilitator, Sr. Barbara ___, SSND, whose specialty it is
Maura: can you say more about “communal discernment”?

MK: don’t know much more; committee sent her 3-page document on Regions; processes

Annette: Focus – ONE BODY and looking at Regional structures

Each region is asked to produce short recap of “what’s happening in each of the Regions: where we are now” before Nov 10 so they can combine them into video everyone can view prior to the Assemblies.

Q: Marcia asked for clarification: what we each are doing NOW?

Answ: MK – Presenting to other 2 Regions *where we have been* and *where we may be going*.
(Danger of anticipating and moving too soon into the “evaluation” that is scheduled for spring of ’18)

Annette: things have shifted since we began 2 years ago, so it may be working differently than we expected (See Minutes from August meeting.)

Annette: Format for Assembly: Fishbowl – what’s working? “Here’s what’s happened over the past year . . .” and, What we will be working on in the next 9 months . . .

Discussion of problem, ambiguity of things still going through “Area Directors” (eg. Car Reports)

In making decisions, are we defaulting to Team person to make decision for us? Treating members as “adults” means expecting people to take the initiative and do things themselves. Example: the WRCC went for 3 months without a meeting and no one picked it up and took the initiative; waited for someone else to initiate. Each of us has roles. But we don’t know what team members do, so it’s confusing and feels secretive; our lives seem complicated. We’re not that big any more, it should be simpler. (Also in August Minutes: vertical relationship with the PH) Regional structure is meant to be based on horizontal relationships.

Discussion to clarify how the Oakwood subgroup would take part in the Assembly; Annette remembers the Oakwoodians wanted the opportunity to meet among themselves and share with the Region (recognized the terminology "Participants and Oakwoodians" is problematic.) This will come up later when we go over the plan for the Assembly.

Update on the Interest Groups

Health & Wellness (large group) MK sent out email but only heard back from one person; so she will call them individually

Communications: similar – not getting responses for committee; people have asked to be on the blog that Irma and Annette have done; people probably think Irma and Annette are doing it, ARE the Communications Committee. (MK, Mary F., Marcia and all praised them for the great website – engaging, alive, and hoped people would make use of it.

Finance – from last spring's "sounding" by email, no important purpose or agenda surfacing from the grassroots, and nothing has to come to it from the Province about participating in developing a Western Region budget.

Prayer & Spirituality – Prepping for the Regional meeting; Marcia raised several concrete questions about what is expected of them.

Annette filled in the background: Our Region was asked because only we have a Spirituality Committee; morning prayers will be prepared by regions' facilitators; Eucharistic liturgy will be done separately, with some suggestion about using the same (Sunday) readings and perhaps prayers of the faithful (maybe 4 common intentions)

Theme: Is it "New Frontiers" or "One Body"? . . . or a combination? (Annette will find email she sent to Marcia which may clarify this.)

Closing Prayer: hard to prepare without knowing in advance what will happen during the weekend; Mary F. suggested providing several resources that could be used to leave room for the Spirit.

Projection screen and/or hard copies? Discussion. Prayers used at Assembly still on the website. Marcia will re-connect with the people who have offered to help and tell them to go ahead with their parts.

Annette: Facilitators, Pat and Barbara will meet before the next Planning Committee (Annette and Irma are facilitators for the Western Region.)

Vocations – No report

Formation and Growth – Kathy Dolan at "Keepers" workshop, not on the call

Finance – no felt need for this Interest Group, no incentive

Short conversation about a weakness of the Regional structure: people who aren't together except for this annual gathering, and interest group emails and conference calls aren't relationship-building media.

The rest of the meeting – walking through the Chart of the Regional Meeting plans and details (see Annette's notes)

