

Franciscan Ministries Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2025

Attendance: Michael Barnett, Sr. Marilyn Trowbridge, Sr. Ann Cecile Albers, Sr. Wilma Molinari, Jeff Risk, Elaine Ward, Marci Peebles, Sr. Thalyta Pereira Lima, Alex Amini (by phone)

Absent: Guillermo Villa

Welcome and Introductions- Michael Barnett

Opening Prayer- Michael Barnett

Consent Agenda- Elaine requested that the finance report be moved off the consent agenda for discussion and made a motion to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. Jeff seconded, all approved.

Finance Report

Elaine reviewed the report and noted that the contribution from the Wenzel estate is restricted for helping women hurt by abuse and poverty. It also cannot be used to supplant by covering currently budgeted work. Holly had been clear about Tamar's current status, Sr. Marilyn added that the administrators know we are in transition and working on a preventative model.

The **outstanding program/property insurance** that is owed to the congregation for 2024 was discussed. FM has offered to pay and inquired about this several times. This remains open on our books and is in the hands of the Congregation.

Health insurance was discussed and the increased expense. Elaine suggested and all agreed it is a good time to revisit joining the SFP plan. One challenge is the different start dates (May for FM).

Sr. Ann made a motion to approve the finance report, Jeff seconded, all approved.

Mission Moment- Marci

Marci shared a report from Sheryl Rajbhandari, ED of Heartfelt Tidbits on the current status of the Bhutanese they serve and who are gardeners. Report from Sheryl uploaded on Board page.

Strategic Planning- Michael

We agreed to have a three-hour follow-up session on a Saturday (5/10, 9-12 was selected later.)

Tamar's Update- Jeff, Marci, and Committee Members

Jeff reported on the committee's work. Key takeaways: sex trafficking is not a significant issue in this area, there is a largely Appalachian demographic that is resistant to outsiders, and there are many existing services. In the newest efforts last year, the staff have identified cooking therapy as a possible strategy to serve women. Eight cooking classes have been offered. They are designed to be a vehicle for women to come together and share concerns rather than actually about cooking skills. They seemed popular with attendees, about 30-35 total who were recruited by word of mouth, and not from the neighborhood. This caused the committee to wonder about the need for the building on Hatmaker.

Next steps are to become clearer on who we are serving, how we are helping, perhaps broadening to other locations such as Compton Road, and having clear measures of work and outcomes.

Meeting Dates and Times – Michael

Having agreed that we need more frequent board meetings the following dates have been added to the calendar.

Saturday 5/10, 9-12 retreat follow-up

Monday 5/19, following executive committee by Zoom

Monday, 11/24, following executive committee by Zoom

Sr Wilma

Sr. Wilma reassured the board and staff about understanding that it takes time to develop a new ministry. She said that it is okay to let go of the idea of serving just one kind of woman. The charism of the congregation is broad enough to include the kind of direction we've discussed. The group discussed the *She Who Knows* program in Italy. Sr. Wilma thanked all, saying she understands this is not an easy time for FM and encouraged us forward.

Meeting Adjourned