

MDCCW Board Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2025

St Andrew, 301 N Main St, Verona, 9 am

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain."--Psalm 127:1

Building the Body of Christ

- I. CALL TO ORDER: (8:30 am) by President Carol Rogers
- A. Judy Lyons led the Opening Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, the Mission Statement, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
 1. Sue Barker welcomed everyone to St. Andrew. Because several new women were present, a round robin introduction was conducted with each women stating her name, role, and parish/pastorate.
 2. Agenda review and approved as presented.
- B. Secretary's Report--Marie Fleisner
 1. Roll Call - Members were asked to put a check by their name on roll call roster. Copies of the 11-12-2025 Directory were distributed.
 2. Minutes of March 15, 2025, had been distributed via email. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes, so the minutes were approved for filing.
- C. Finance Report--Patty Spragg
 1. Balance sheet - Our current balance is \$11,312.72. Report will be filed for audit. Assets & Liabilities: We don't have many different assets, but we periodically have some equity. Our liabilities are things like Water for Life and the Madonna Plan; the Refugee Emergency Plan is no longer a project of NCCW. However, because those monies go directly to national, we don't have a record of them unless notified. Members were reminded to send money directly to NCCW and please copy the MDCCW treasurer, so MDCCW can keep a record of all donations. Simply send a copy of the donation form sent to NCCW to Patty Spragg.
 2. Budget, 2024-26
 - a. Boxes of Joy - Not much in the account right now. Collected funds were deposited and then paid out in November.
 - b. Province Director Account - Carol explained the rotation of Province Directors in the Province of Milwaukee. Each of the five dioceses in the Milwaukee Province rotate a 2-year term, and every 10 years the Province Director will be chosen from the Diocese of Madison. This account is basically a savings account; we put \$250 per year into this account. Its purpose is to cover expenses when, in 2 years, the Province Director will be from the Diocese of Madison. Current balance of this account is \$1,760.50. There was discussion about the expenses for the Province Director and whether this is sufficient. Discussion ensued regarding a reasonable amount. It was stated the Province Director should be supported by her Diocese and not have to pay a lot of expenses out of pocket. **A motion was made by Judy Williams, second by Audrey Prieve to add \$1,000 to account right now and then increase the amount that goes into the account to \$500 per year. Motion carried.**
 3. Dues Notices for 2025-2026 - It was questioned whether dues would be per parish (pastorate, in some cases) or per church. Our dues used to be per church; however, since there are multiple churches in the current parish/pastorate organization in the Diocese, we would lose a considerable amount of income. It was suggested that

each individual church still pay dues. An alternative would be to collect dues per parish/pastorate, but increase the amount we collect. We would need to inform each parish of this.

- It was suggested that we have this information on the website, which led to a question of who maintains/updates the website. Karen Gramman is the webmaster, and Jo Heath and Coreen Marklein work with her.
 - The value of a vicariate was questioned, as there are only a few active vicariates. Carol explained the history of the current process, beginning with 11 county deaneries; each deanery had officers. The president and past president were members of the MDCCW Board, so there were 22 people (not counting MDCCW officers) on this board. These people took information back to their respective deaneries. Then the structure changed to 9 vicariates, which did not follow county lines. As parishes were further combined through the Into the Deep initiative, the Board decided to invite women from each of the 30 Pastorates to the MDCCW meetings. In 2025 the diocese released a new map of seven vicariates. Now as Vicariates organize and elect officers, this Board needs a plan for vicariate representation on the MDCCW Board.
 - **It was decided to form two Ad Hoc committees to work on developing and aligning the new structure to meet the challenges of these changes. They will report at the March 14, 2026 meeting.**
 - **Representation Structure:** Members--Coreen Marklein (chair), Judy Lyons, Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt, Linda Ripp, Carolyn Zentner, Carol Rogers
 - **Dues Structure:** Members--Patty Spragg (chair), Carolyn Zentner, Marie Fleisner, Jo Heath, Carol Rogers
 - **Comments:** Representation structure needs to be defined first; then Dues structure. When the structure is defined, we will need to change the Bylaws to determine who can vote. The changes should happen in 2027.
 - Question about how dues notices are sent. Patty replied that they are mailed (USPS).
 - Question about whether NCCW has a recommended structure. Carol explained that it is dictated by the Province. The Diocese decides for the vicariates. The flow is National > Province > Diocese > Deanery/Vicariate > Parish.
 - Discussion regarding why we decided that our fiscal year would be May 1 to April 30. Since our dues run by calendar year, it seems to make more sense to have our Fiscal Year be the calendar year. This can be investigated by the Dues Structure committee.
 - Question about whether any churches within a parish/pastorate are combining their CCWs. This could be explored by the parishes/pastorates. Many CCWs have a strong emotional attachment to their church and distance among the churches is a concern. It will take collaboration and good leadership for unity and common identity.
4. Ways and Means Committee, Bella Goose Coffee Syrup Fundraiser - Ellen Martin and Sue Koch gave an overview of the Bella Goose company, including that its goal is to help people become leaders, and they are working to eliminate human trafficking. While they are based out of Wisconsin Dells/Briggsville, they have a presence in Thailand, where their goal is to create gateways to new beginnings by having cafes where people can work and be empowered. They believe in treating team members

with dignity by offering work and training programs. To enable people, Bella Goose created Gateway, a non-profit movement of the company, which enables people who were at risk of exploitation or have experienced exploitation to be able to live in safe transition housing and receive social care services in addition to job and skills training.

The 2026 fundraiser is selling Bella Goose coffee syrups. Each person/parish will receive a total of 10 bottles of the syrups (flavors are Vanilla Chai and Caramel). We buy the syrups for \$10 and sell them for \$15. Sue and Patty included a list of ways to promote and sell the syrups. We have to pay Bella Goose by December 31. Ladies can mail checks to Patty Spragg.

II. REPORTS

A. Spiritual Advisor Report--Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt.

Monsignor Duane gave an update on the Cathedral Project, which is continuing. The target for dedication was early 2026, now 2027. Pledges are \$24.5 million. The amount that is needed is \$33 million.

The Fall vicariate gatherings went well with good attendance.

Monsignor Duane suggested that we make a donation to St. Andrew as a thank you for use of the church for our meetings.

B. President's Report - Carol Rogers, (see November Pen 2025)

C. Commission Reports.

1. LEADERSHIP Commission Report - Sue Barker.

Sue Barker reflected on this busy time of year. The Catholic Herald had reported the bells have been hung at the new cathedral. The "Pen" had a list of many events happening during this season. The Jubilee year will end on January 16, 2026; Sue encouraged ladies present to try to make it to some of the churches, if they have not already.

Membership - Carol Rogers encouraged everyone to become an individual member of MDCCW if their parish has no active CCW. She outlined some of the many benefits of becoming an individual member for \$20.

2. SERVICE Commission Report - Linda Ripp

a. Priest Ordination Reception, May 2026 - Will begin planning in 2026.

b. Boxes of Joy: Linda indicated that as of Friday, 781 boxes have been filled. She anticipates we will be around 1000 by the time we are finished. We actually made about \$2,000 from donations; however, there are still some expenses to be paid. We took the total payment at \$9 a box, so with 781 boxers, that would have been \$7,029. minus the shipping. We did have some checks that were made out directly to Cross Catholic Outreach. Monies left over will be used to add boxes next year, because often times we need to add items to the boxes to fill them.

c. Walking With Moms - No report

3. SPIRITUALITY Commission - Judy Lyons

Judy described the annual "Prayer for Priests" campaign. We would like to have someone praying for each of our priests, whether active or retired, starting on Holy Thursday. She had some cards, but will bring more to our next meeting. Essentially one gets the name of a priest and commits to praying for him daily. We will get labels

from the Diocese of all the priest names and addresses; the address on the back of the card indicates to whom the card will be sent. People don't get to choose. Judy also had copies of booklets for the NCCW Vigil Service for Deceased CCW Sisters; she invited those present to take copies to share in parishes.

D. Standing Committee Reports

1. Public Relations--Jane Lepaska Grinde

Jane Lepaska Grinde is collecting information for articles, and she will write an article for *The Catholic Herald* in December. The article will be about the NCCW Convention in Orlando and will include pictures from the convention.

2. Website--Karen Gramman (Absent)

E. Vicariate/Affiliate/Pastorate Reports

Pastorates **1, 2, 3, 4, 5**: Kathy Loy, Mississippi River Vicariate (in process of changing name legally from Grant Deanery)

The Fall Vicariate meeting was held in Platteville, which had not hosted in 20 years. It was very nice; a small, intimate group of about 45 people; between five and six people from each parish attended.

Pastorates **6, 7, 8**: Joyce Fichtel, Sauk Vicariate

Sauk Vicariate met on Saturday, September 27, and had a good turnout. On September 22 Saint Joseph will hold its Gingerbread Crackle. On November 28, St. Cecilia will have lighting of the church tree and on November 29 will have a Three Kings Market.

Pastorates **9, 10, 17, 18**: Sue Koch and Ellen Martin, Columbia North Vicariate

The Vicariate meeting was hosted in Montello, and they had nearly 100 women. Jane Schizik, the immediate Past Province Director and current NCCW President-Elect, attended. They had a picture taken showing the five levels of CCW, and it is on the NCCW page and on Facebook.

Pastorates **11, 12, 13, 24**: Carol Eberhardy, Belleview/Albany, Monroe/Brodhead

Carol Eberhardy indicated that they don't currently have Vicariate officers, but they are working on it, and they are also working on bringing the women together. They are having their cookie walk/sale in December.

Pastorate **14**. Doreen Shuda, Cambridge, Fort Atkinson, Jefferson, Milton, Palmyra
Judy Lyons reported that Jefferson has an active CCW.

Pastorate **15**. Jane Rux, Mt Horeb, Ridgway/Barneveld

Jane reported there was nothing going on at the Vicariate.

Pastorate **18**. Audrey Prieve, Lodi/Dane, Waunakee, Westport

Audrey thanked everyone for their prayers. An Advent by Candlelight is being held in Waunakee (she distributed a handout along with an invitation to attend.)

Pastorates **20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 30**: Barb Unger, Madison Women's Club

Barb reported that the Madison's Women's Club held a style show in September. They held a Spirituality Day in October, from which an article will appear in *The Catholic Herald*. They will hold a Christmas luncheon on December 9; will be starting a book club in January; will have Fat Tuesday Bingo in February; will hold a Mass in March to recognize priests; will have their annual baby shower in April; and will hold luncheon in May where they will present the Christian Achievement Award.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. NCCW Convention Report

Carol encouraged ladies to read the MDCCW Newsletter. She explained that for the silent auction item, MDCCW donated \$50 cash and a gift card (easier to transport.)

B. The NCCW address has changed; please take note. [Please use the newest Donation Form dated 05-21-2025; send copy to NCCW and MDCCW Treasurer, Patty Spragg.](#)

3211 4th St NE, Suite #338,
Washington DC 20017.

C. MDCCW Convention The theme is “Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening “ which is the same theme that NCCW has for 2026.

1. Proposed date is Tuesday, June 2, 2026, (only date the center had open)
2. Proposed Venue is Green Lake Conference Center. Cost is \$1,000 if we reserve 20 rooms in the Lodge. Lunch cost is \$17.50.
3. Planning a speaker is in process.
4. Committee: Chair Ellen Martin, Jane Grinde, Carolyn Zenter, Sue Koch, Patty Spragg, Linda Ripp, and Carol Rogers. Marie Fleisner also volunteered to be on the Committee because of her familiarity with the Conference Center.

A motion was made by Coreen Marklein, second by Sue Barker, to select June 2, 2026, at the Green Lake Conference Center as the date and location of the NCCW 2026 Convention. Motion carried.

D. Tax Status for Parishes and Vicariates - Deferred

IV. NEW BUSINESS – Most items previously discussed – review minutes.

Province of Milwaukee Update - Carol Rogers will send this information via email.

V. CLOSING

A. Prayer - Judy Lyons

- #### B. Next Meeting
- Saturday, March 14, 2026
St. Andrew Church, Verona
8:00 am to noon.

C. Meeting Adjourned at 11:05 am

Immediately following the meeting, Msgr Moellenberndt celebrated Mass for the Board to pray for the souls of deceased CCW members from the diocese. Names of women who passed away from November 2024 to November 2025 were placed on the altar during Mass.

Minutes prepared by Secretary Marie Fleisner