

LCWR

Leadership Conference of Women Religious

September 19, 2007

Steve Theisen
123 Celeste Street
Hudson, IA 50643

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your letter of August 24, 2007 outlining your five requests. As we have indicated to you in the past, these requests are inconsistent with our relationship with our members and with long-standing policies and practices of LCWR.

LCWR's mission is to provide our members with resources to assist them in carrying out their leadership responsibilities. To that end, LCWR has worked with a wide variety of consultants, including survivors of sexual abuse, to develop resources and programs to support our members as they respond justly and compassionately to allegations of past abuse and work to prevent future abuse.

It is evident that both of our organizations take the issue of sexual abuse seriously, and that both are deeply committed to ending the pain of abuse. It is also clear that the two groups approach the problem quite differently. While our goals to end abuse are similar, our missions are different.

We believe that collaboration with another organization is most effective when both groups can sit down in an environment of mutual respect, focusing not on differences or conflicting expectations of each other, but rather on deepening the understanding between them. We believe that such dialogs are the only ones that lead to healing.

Again, thank you for your letter of August and for your ongoing commitment to end the pain of abuse.

Sincerely,



Carole Shinnick, SSND
LCWR Executive Director