

Table Responses
“Additional Comments or Questions for the CCC”
Cluster Convocation, November 2005

Table 1

- (nothing written)

Table 2

- How do we continue the discussion of don't talk as congregations?

Table 3

- Remove the mention of 3 or 1 vow because it is understood as the same
- What happens to individual cemeteries?

Table 4

- Want facilitated informal conversations between Cluster congregations. We need to keep talking between/among congregations.
- Common principles of discernment that we practice as a Cluster.

Table 6

- Gather prophetic and creative leaders from the various communities for a think tank who could invigorate all of us into the future and work with Don Goergen.

Table 7

- Structure is premature. What will move us beyond structure? We have not focused on vision. Will we be doing the same thing with larger numbers in congregational life?
- Redirect our energy toward authenticity of our life as it moves (concurrently) toward structure.
- Should we be limiting choices to two options?
- How will congregations communicate with each other with questions/concerns/new models?
- What do we do about absent members becoming part of the conversation?

Table 9

- Would you help us articulate “the vision”? What are we really trying to give witness to? We need to write it down.
- What is the Dominican Charism?
- Would you strengthen communication between yourself – all the committees – and the membership?
- Perhaps we can speed up timeline and finish before 2010.
- Can we choose one day a week – each congregation – choose one and pray for all of us.

Table 10

- None. Great Work

Table 11

- We suggest a committee (or such) plan a process of information for folks, at each of the 7 Motherhouses (plus environs), who were not here at this meetings. Prior to this, and shortly after, two other meetings be offered to help Sisters ask their questions, articulate their fears, and clarify the two present options. We think this, or a similar effort, would greatly assist those “back home” to more fully participate.
- Could you contrast the Dominican Sisters USA Federation with Cluster?

Table 12

- This time together has been very helpful – well organized.
- Especially appreciate Dan and Don.

Table 13

- Great meeting/helped clarify
- Would be helpful to hear “what is meant” by what is “new”
- Much to prayer over and discuss when we go home with those
- What is going to make us anything different than we are NOW?
- We need another meeting to TALK about the HEART of the group. What will make US different – what are some of the things “we” will do to make us NEW?
- # not present – what do the #s tell us?
 - who cannot come – infirmed #s each congregation?
 - active who will not come?
 - active who cannot come because of ministry?

Table 14

- How do we share this with the people who were not here?
 - Share video of Don Goergen and Dan Ward
 - Those of us who came sit down with those not here
 - Hear the thinking of those not here and those who chose “other”

Table 15

- Try to figure out what lies below the “other” column
- If we get too centralized, will we become like a large corporation creating hoops through which we must jump? We want to guard against large bureaucracy, especially with regard to mission.
- How will the transition team be chosen? By each congregation? By CCC? Necessarily a current leadership person?
- When writing Constitutions, make them more creative, less detailed, so that they leave room for creative response to mission opportunities.
- Keep “tweaking” the structure so that the dreams and vision fired by Don come forth.

Table 16

- The committee design processes for conversation about a shared vision for the future – put in concrete form and give specific directions as to how to proceed
- If we choose Federation, what happens when the # goes below 40, has no leadership, etc.?
- What happens to the “Union” of 4 out of the 3 pull out and decide not to join?

Table 17

- Thanks to both Dan and Don G – both very helpful!
- Urge communities who have large numbers not on the “same page” to have further cong. Facilitation. Ex. Those who want another option.
- One congregation take a day a week to pray especially for success of Cluster
- Thanks for those who volunteered to be on the all the committees

Table 18

- Make sure we get current updates from all communities
- Video tape of Don G. talk
- Video take of canonical questions
- Kentucky and Columbus to have additional meeting to work out bottle neck.
- Like to see if something new was created
- What is the vision that would attract new vocations

Table 19

- For sake of those not here, send out a summary of the questions and answers addressed to Dan, to the communities
- Send out video of Don Goergen’s talk to each congregation

Table 20

- Re: Statistical Information: Study the implications and input from the committee’s perspective because they have dealt with the numbers more often than the rest of us.

Table 21

- Thanks for all your work! You did a tremendous job!
- Table 21 has a concern that the total group has a need for a visioning process before our final decision. We feel this is a need before we can decide on a structure.

Table 22

- We would like an extended period dedicated to Spiral Dynamics – based on info given us by Don Goergen

Table 24

- Get Don’s video as a separate video
- Put canonists and panel together
- Don’t let new options be introduced into the process
- Encourage gatherings to respond to the videos

- Put together a process that can be used by the congregations to continue Don's suggestions for visioning
- Let us know officially how the congregations are moving – perhaps in 3 months or 6 months

Table 25

- Intercong. Teams visiting with those not present to further process.
- Rethink timeline – clarify specific steps for rest of process
- Plan retreats on 2nd tier consciousness and transformation

Table 26

- Keep in mind that our mission is to birth new consciousness. Why else reconfigure?
- Keep time for prayer and silence
- Incorporate videos of Don Goergen and Dan Ward in ritual prayer and in discussions with individual communities/congregations.

Table 27

- Between Nov 2005 – June 2006
 - Make canonical information for Sunday a.m. available to each congregation
 - Make Don Goergen's talk (and resources related to the dream he articulated regarding future of religious life) available to each congregation
 - Do page of newsletter (each issue) in relation to the vision that Don presented
 - Announce workshops by John Beck and Don and encourage some members to attend
- Is it possible to get a first indication chart that includes total membership leanings from each congregation?
- Tap into resources from Heartland Spirituality Center in Great Bend related to Spiral Dynamics and make that available to larger group
- Could we establish a Dream/Vision Committee now? Even before decision on specific structure

Table 28

(No comments)

Table 29

- Develop the steps, timeline that a canonical union would/could entail
- Could compilation of responses from individuals also show (weight) strength of support?
- How do we hear about the “other” option?

Table 30

- Bibliography from Don Goergen's talk
- List of things to be done which can facilitate the process – from Dan Ward. Can things be done internally before outside

Table 31

- What about those of us in ministries other than sponsored ministries? We heard this mentioned.
- Who will study this? What will the dialog entail? When will it happen? Will the ministry audit do this? The sooner the better – to contain detail?

Table 32

- I urge the CCC to heed Dan Ward’s comment that the Union timeline is too long.
- Leadership should be encouraged to dialogue with those who are not convinced that union is the answer.

Table 33

- I wish we could come together once more before final decision

Table 34

- What internal work does each congregation need to do now?
- How will the Cluster implement/integrate Don’s insights into our practice and process?
- How do we sustain momentum until next cycle? If we really want to change how we are – can we begin to think and create new ways of being now?
- When do we collectively articulate our present vision? Unformalize (?) the mission we have articulated – reflect more deeply and awaken within us – moving to new consciousness – what practices can we do now?
- How do we take when we have experienced here back to those who did/could not come? Need practical ideas.

Table 35

- Please send the Holy Spirit to all of our groups to move in God’s direction
- Could you clarify 1) Sisters in nursing homes 2) Current Motherhouses 3) Sisters in current ministry
- What is the expectation for future living?
- What are the implications for Medicaid or Medicare funding?
- Could we form an interim house of contemplation to pray for all the 7 groups and God’s will to be done?

Table 36

- Desire to put “flesh” on the Other category on the responses from First Indication

Table 37

- Is there a way that more inter-congregational meetings in perhaps smaller groups and even another large gathering?
- Could we have a listing of attendees according to congregation so that we would know where to contact others etc.?

Table 38

- We would like a very clear statement of vision that all 7 congregations can get excited about. We believe that what Don was speaking about re: second tier consciousness and the Dominican call re: contemplation is the key to the vision.
- Could this come forward as a vibrant vision/mission statement to replace the one we have been using that was developed very early from statements of value?
- Please be sure that each congregation get enough copies of Don G's tape for viewing as soon as possible. Many congregations have meetings scheduled in the near future.

Table 39

- Feel there should be some time in the process for the "Other" to express themselves at the open mike.
- Our table thinks it would be good in lieu of any other inter-congregational meetings that we have some more contact. Perhaps small inter-congregational groups could visit different locations

Table 40

- No comments or questions at this time. We thank the CCC for all the work they have put into the process.

For CCC – suggestion:

Could each congregation take one day a week to emphasize and spend more time in contemplative prayer?

Can congregations and individuals be encouraged to write the vision for this union as Don suggested? (Hab)