

Cluster Dreams for Reconfiguration Response Sheets

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Keep regional atmosphere – move “freely” from region to region to keep community relationship.

Cultural sensitivity in lived experience and ministry

Image: spiral (tornado) small at bottom, widening at the top...pass on small “jobs” to others and gradually increasing options; making use of the process of discernment (personal and corporate)

Adult relationship between leadership and sisters to sisters;
communication/becoming part of the decision

If community does not move in this direction would individual sisters be supported in their choice

General structure

Regional

Autonomy on local level (as much as possible)

How structure will operate

- 1 Union of 7 congregations w/regions (e.g. regional directors)
strengthened internal structures e.g. one vocation team, associates
pass on the passion to future generations for sake of mission
maintain geographical diversity
honor unique congregational spirits
don't uproot elders
communication w/srs individually abt Cluster
emphasize common corporate passion for ministry, community & spirituality
- 2 Maintain 7 gov structures but intensify collaboration. Don't do individually what we can do together
- 3 Drawing: circle in center (central team – regions)
spokes from circle: ministries; vocation/formation team; one associate program; outreach to marginalized; pass on passion to future generations; honoring spirit of congregations

The 7 Cluster communities would take a structure something like provinces. Areas within 7 Cluster area. It would be very porous area – provinces with a common general leadership. We see the need to have a general structure that does not assume a unity that we must grow into, but which practically lead us into a unity we can't talk ourselves into something new. Might meet in these areas now.

Begin building shared ministries now.

We will combine our various offices, vocation, finances, cutting edge ministries (use Cluster committees to evolve from?)

Share retreats, workshops, committees, deepening relationships, slowly working thru differences re: vows, esp. obed, personal budgets, leadership styles, community life, associates, etc....

Perhaps have one of our intercongregation meetings in geo. areas to talk about our differences.

Third world image made of a cooperative where the local works together for the mission – credibility is important, relevancy to/for the world

A kind of non-governmental model – like the UN

Discover a respect for the varied cultures within our seven congregations – inclusivity is of utmost importance – much wisdom to draw on here; reflect the immerging world we live in.

- Commitment to one another in love, prayer, mission, companionship, study
- Provincial -type structure beginning informally possible moving toward canonical – life exchanges for mission/ministry taking further steps
- Geographically provinces with central generalate fluidity among provinces
- Create an 8th Congregation – founded by the Dominican Cluster would receive all new members/Kaleidoscope group/other eventually it would be the one Congregation
- Exchange people in ministry – early on
- Common house of contemplation; common house of theological reflection and study; common house for artists

- 1 having 2 or 3 new entities (canonical) perhaps one of traditional life style with ministries consistent with their lifestyle. **One entity called to new _____** or those outside (non-canonical); perhaps a third – undefined yet – this would keep our mission alive on all levels and provide fluidity.
- 2 include contemplative component

All agree we need to begin doing something. Begin non-canonically with a central leadership team to enable various and diverse ministries. A wheel/circle with a hub and spokes – at that end of the spokes are clusters around ministry, or communal living. Have one vacation team, one peace & Justice office, etc. Also begin to open up Houses of Prayer, vacation houses across the Cluster.

- We don't need a tighter structure for governance, (e.g. a generalate), we need an expansion of shared ministerial opportunities that advance the mission. People are the best resources, not money.
- We cannot put our heads in the sand regarding our aging reality. Safeguard human dignity through compassionate caring. What facilities and human resources can be shared?
- “Team work makes the dream work.” We are often assigning lots of responsibility to a single individual. The Cluster needs to consider team responsibility as the way of operating.
- Communication. The Cluster needs to be very careful about supplying information to make the Teamwork.

Clustering based on relationships and living situations.

We could become multiple groups rather than one group cluster; smaller groups would be more manageable.

Clustering could form around geographic locations, or around a specific mission or ministry.

We need a form of central leadership to take care of administrative tasks of all congregations.

Clustering might include members across congregational lines or freeing spirited people to cluster and form new religious life groups.

Some new forms of religious might be “birthed” around member/associate groups; members only groups; partners in ministry groups.

Our process and thinking cannot be encumbered by Rome or canonical law, although the results will be.

1. Continue to provide ways for sisters getting to know each other. Ex: group of sisters visiting each other's Motherhouse/convents (exchanges!)
2. Some feel they need to re-dream.
3. To look at organic structures rather than hierarchical – we can be autonomous but not necessarily.
4. What would 7 congregations look like if they were the Dominicans of Mid-America (related to model for the men)?
5. Need spirit of collaboration with minimum of relocating and uprooting.
6. To simplify structures and maybe form one or more new congregations for the mission.

– Fostering collaboration – visiting motherhouses, retreats, houses of study, shared ministry, formation

– Mission – needs of laity, cosmology, ecology, justice

– Specific “fishbowl” opportunity to hear younger members of all 7 communities, e.g. St. Louis 2005

– Conference inclusive of associates

– Regional mission groups with occasional visits of

– Vacation opportunities in mission houses and vacation houses.

– Younger members form an eighth entity

– continue the collaboration that has begun for the sake of the mission

Option one: younger members form a new entity. The rest of us support them.

Option two: those who so choose form a new entity. The rest of us support them.

Option three: for the next 5-10 years, maintain congregational identities with intercommunity emphasis – formation, living, ministry, retirement, programs and retreats: mission; move toward possible one new entity

– to examine concepts of central leadership and some form(s) of regional design

– more time to establish relationships; some congregations have not experienced the interaction of the Alliance Group

– sharing ministries, experiences to grow in relationships.

- teleconferencing to strengthen collaboration efforts to conferencing
- invite kaleidoscope to start a new community
- intercommunity meetings, councils, finances, leadership, retirement, etc, formation
- form a new community among
- returning to a more simple lifestyle
- come together once a year as Cluster
- question could Cluster break into (two) Clusters that are more geographical close
- decision making needs to come from the reality of all communities so that all communities' needs are met
- unite members of the Cluster to come together and start a new community along the lines of the Southern province of Friars.

- 1 Regional reconfiguration by geography
 - 2 Reconfiguration to give birth to 8th entity
 - newer members;
 - those who discern that this is their call
 - 3 Free leadership for mission – how best to share all resources, reduce duplication if possible
 - 4 One entity from 7
- (Many questions about identity)
- Losing it (referring to identity)
 - New understanding of Dominican identity