



A Gathering of the Dominican Sisters Conference (DSC)

October 8-11, 2024

Embassy Suites Hotel, Columbus, Ohio

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

- To gain a mutual understanding of the current reality of Dominican life and mission both collectively and individually;
- To articulate the mutual and working assumptions that will guide communal discernment about the future;
- To explore possibilities for the future that hold the most potential for Dominican life & mission
- To articulate a means for inviting all the voices back home into this process of discernment about the flourishing of Dominican life and mission.

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

8:00 am Registration (Hotel Lobby)

9:00 am

- I. Welcome – Xiomara Méndez Hernández, OP, Executive Director, DSC
- II. Opening Prayer and Preaching
- III. Sharing of Stories – *Recall a time in your congregation when you were indeed Preachers for Times Such as These? What was going on in the world that compelled the congregation to respond and be Preachers for that time?*
- IV. Contemplative Listening

Lunch – 12:15 pm

1:30 pm

- V. Overview of the Week, Process, and Group Frameworks – Sue Weber, Facilitator
- VI. Hopes and Expectations and Our Covenant to Work Together
- VII. Emergent Learning Process – *What are we learning from the aggregate responses to the Emerging Movements?*
- VIII. Reflectors – *Insights and Observations*





- IX. Optional Team Meetings (This is a time for individual teams to meet and discern the movement of the Spirit in the room.)
- X. Dinner and Social*
*NOTE: The hotel provides a free evening social with hardy appetizers that serves as an evening meal if you choose. There will be a variety of games available in the meeting room for those who desire to engage in evening camaraderie.

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

9:00 am

- I. Welcome
- II. Opening Prayer and Preaching
- III. Continue Emergent Learning Process – *Developing Hypotheses and Identifying Possibilities*

Lunch – 12:00 noon (The CDN will be meeting during this time)

1:30 pm

- IV. Continue Emergent Learning Process and Conversation – *What possibilities hold the most potential for us at this time?*
- V. Reflectors – *Insights and Observations*
- VI. Optional Team Meetings
- VII. Dinner and Social

Thursday, October 10, 2024

9:00 am

- I. Welcome
- II. Opening Prayer and Preaching





- III. Discerning the Possibilities – *How will these possibilities amplify our capacity for mission and our Dominican charism?*

Lunch – 12:00 noon (The Alliance will be meeting during this time)

1:30 pm

- IV. Continue Conversation
- V. Reflectors – *Insights and Observations*
- VI. Optional Team Meetings
- VII. Dinner and Social

Friday, October 11, 2024

- I. Welcome
- II. Opening Prayer and Preaching
- III. Recap of the week and Clarifying Questions
- IV. Plenary Conversation

Lunch – 12:00 noon

1:30 pm

- V. Review and Approval of DSC Budget
- VI. Articulating Next Steps and Actions
- VII. Evaluating Our Time Together
- VIII. Closing Mass
- IX. Banquet





Covenant for our time together . . .

Speak from the heart and the moment, and from your own experience; listen from the community, from the collective;

Listen without thinking about responding;

Listen for information not confirmation;

Begin thinking in terms of I wonder . . . or Where I am on this issue now is ...

Allow for Silence. It may mean people are thinking considering;

Suspend assumptions and consider alternatives ones that might be just as useful;

Assume that the ideas and observations of others come from a desire to contribute;

Expect that ideas build upon each other even if they don't link logically one to the other;

Remember that difference of opinion can be helpful, because it sharpens our understanding;

Move away from conclusions and toward observations; notice what you are noticing, and what meaning you are making of it;

Sometimes in communication, less is better, and slowly is fine.

Be mindful that everyone is in both individual and communal discernment.





Preachers for Times Such as These

DSC Executive Committee
Statement of Intention - 2024 -2025

Our adaptation of the passage from the Book of Esther 4:14:

"If we are silent in times such as these, relief and deliverance for your people will arise from another source, but you, my sister, and the Dominican charism may not make it through the chaos. Could it be? Perhaps we (you) have become Dominican Preachers for times such as these." Esther 4:14

This DSC Statement of Intentions for 2024 -2025 is born in the energy and enthusiasm we encountered at the October 2023 Annual Meeting, which emphasized the need for a fresh vision and new approaches to invigorate Dominican Life and Mission in the present and future, uniting us in a common purpose. The DSC executive committee is dedicated to fostering along with our membership the advancement of a shared Dominican future.

A Future of Hope is born in this interim time between the now and a shared Dominican future.

The more faithfully you can endure here,
The more refined your heart will become
For your arrival in the new dawn.

From John Donohue's Blessing for the Interim Time

We know there is a continuum of urgency for congregations to reconsider their present governance structure. Their limited capacity to provide leadership for the congregation, hold a General Chapter, and, most importantly, sustain their mission necessitates immediate action in many circumstances.

And we know our younger sisters and others are exploring new ways of being in mission.

Therefore, we have the following (four) goals for 2024 – 2025

1. We will facilitate conversations and the convergences of the emerging movements among us (*Futuring Leadership Team-FLT, Dominicans in Committed Collaboration-OPSCC, Dominican Governance Collaborative-DGC, Dominican Sisters Conference-DSC*) with the intention that these "Movements of the Spirit" may lead to a consensus of emerging possibilities for a US Dominican [entity or configuration] which will sustain Dominican Life and Mission into the future.
2. The process at the October 2024 Elected Leaders meeting is designed to surface a "a good leaning" around "Emerging Possibilities" and "Pathways" to a future full of hope.
3. The DSC Executive Committee with the Visioning and Planning Committee and any planning team from the Oct 2024 leadership meeting, will create a step-by-step process that engages and moves both leaders and members in "conversations in the Spirit"

regarding the “Emerging Possibilities” and various “Pathways.” A step-by-step plan will have elements of cross congregational relationship building; and the spirituality of grieving, lament and prophetic imagination in preparation for the (month) Dominican Mission Encuentro in 2025.

4. Conduct the Dominican Mission Encuentro 2025 for leaders and members which will celebrate the past: 90 years of DLC, the present: 15 years of DSC, 26 years of NGO under DSC, and will coalesce around a pathway for the future.

The DSC Executive Committee and the Visioning and Planning Committee and any planning members from the October Leadership meeting will, according to the time-line, devise a step-by-step plan to move our membership to deep involvement in the road to, and investment in, the Dominican Mission Encuentro 2025.

We hold the following steps lightly and offer them as a possible sequencing of events.

Some possible steps on the road to the Dominican Mission Encuentro 2025:

1. (Oct. - Nov., 2024) Visioning and Planning with Planning Members from Leadership create a plan to inform and energize members for “Emerging Possibilities and Pathways.”
2. (Dec. 2024 thru Feb. 2025) Conversations on “Emerging Possibilities and Pathways” and implications for individuals and congregations. Design real persons feedback loops.
3. (March 2nd Sunday before Ash Wednesday) Rituals to begin the “journey to possibility” without a map or GPS.
4. (Lent – Maybe each week of Lent) National On-line “preached” retreats on spirituality of grieving, lament and prophetic imagination.
5. (Easter Time) Cross-congregational on-line Emmaus walks
6. (Summer) Repeat conversations on Emerging Possibilities, Pathways and implications for individuals and congregations.
7. Dominican Mission Encuentro 2025

PART 2

This section offers an overview of the work and projects of the DSC staff for the coming year:

Additionally, through the DSC Executive Director, Associate Director for Futuring, the NGO Representative at the UN, and the DSC Communicator, we will:

1. Strengthen and enhance our communication through a reconstructed website and social media platforms
2. Update email subscriptions and mailing lists for Domlife.org and work with the NGO at the UN to enhance the reach of that office.
3. Successfully transition the NGO Representative at the UN position to the DSIC by December 2024. We plan to celebrate this milestone, which has been on the far horizon of the DSC for many years.
4. Continue to develop our relationship with NDAD, the National Dominican Associate Directors, as well as other related Dominican entities and partners.

5. Continue to seek out funding for FLT projects and other opportunities for budget relief, including the Encuentro.
6. Market and promote the Dominican Charism Initiative platform
7. Develop a policy or procedures that support the best use of this new funding model.

Respectfully submitted:

Dusty Farnan, OP (Adrian/DLC NGO Representative)

Lisa Kane, OP (Racine/Associate Director for Futuring)

Cheryl Liske, OP (Adrian)

Anne Lythgoe, OP (Peace/President of the Executive Committee)

Xiomara Mendez-Hernandez, OP (Adrian/DSC Executive Director)

Veronica Esparza Ramirez, OP (Mission San Jose)

Terry Rickard, OP (Blauvelt)

Pat Stringer, OP (Caldwell)

Kathleen Tuite, OP (Caldwell)





September 23, 2024

Dear Congregational Leaders,

We, the Future Pathways Working Group Core Committee, would like to share with you what we have learned from the Under 70 cohort about the hoped for future structures.

You recently received a recording of the Zoom meeting that we held with the cohort. You may recall that four pathways were shared. Three were narrowed down from the original ten that had arisen and been presented. These include Pathway 2, the OPSCC Association Model; Pathway 5, the Union Model with provinces; and Pathway 8, the One Vibrant Congregation Model. We also presented Pathway 1, No Canonical Change, as an option, based on our conversation with Canon Lawyer Sr. Lynn Jarrell. There was more favorability for union models among those 20-59 than among those 60-69. Similarly, the OPSCC Association Model was favored more among the oldest decade of the cohort.

In our conversation with Sr. Lynn, based on our observations and hopes, she suggested tweaking Pathway 5. This led to Pathway 5b, which is a Union Model, with non-canonical regions that can be self-defined. A major concern from the initial surveys had been around the concept of all the younger members going to one province, so this was eliminated. Finally, rather than having each congregation become a separate province, it seemed to make sense to have regions that were based on the collaborations that are already occurring. In the latest survey, this was presented as Pathway 5b in lieu of Pathway 5.

The latest survey brings forth a more unified vision of younger members, with 111 responses from cohort members. As we have learned that Maryknoll, Oakford and the Pakistani sisters from Sparkill will not be participating in this process, we have omitted the two Maryknoll responses from the summary of results. The following chart shows the percentage of responses by congregation and by collaborative processes (OPSCC and DGC).

Congregation	Responses	Total Possible	Percentage	Notes
Adrian	38	42	90.48%	
Grand Rapids	4	4	100.00%	
Houston	2	4	50.00%	
MSJ	12	39	30.77%	
Peace	12	24	50.00%	
Racine	1	2	50.00%	
San Rafael	4	6	66.67%	

Summary of Future Pathways Survey Results

Sinsinawa	6	19	31.58%	
Springfield	16	27	59.26%	
Amityville	2	10	20.00%	
Blauvelt	3	6	50.00%	
Caldwell	5	5	100.00%	
Hope	2	3	66.67%	
Sparkill	1	2	50.00%	15 cohort sisters in Pakistan, not included in total, no responses
Tacoma	1	1	100.00%	
Oakford				9 sisters in the cohort, not included in totals, no responses to the survey
Maryknoll				46 sisters in the cohort, not included in totals, 2 responded to the survey
Roman				Neither Roman or St. Catherine of Siena congregations have sisters in the cohort in the US
St Cath. of Siena				
	Total Responses	Total Possible Responses	Response Rate %	
DGC	95	167	56.89%	
OPSCC	13	26	50.00%	
All Congregations	109	194	56.19%	

In response to the survey, it is clear that Pathway 5b has the most support across the board. Broken down into age cohorts, it is still the path with the most support, regardless of age. Similarly, broken down by collaborative regions (OPSCC and DGC), the data from both groups still shows a preference for 5b. There is not enough data to summarize the results from the congregations not included in the OPSCC or the DGC.

In the survey, a response of 1 says, "This is a path I can fully support." A response of 2 says, "This is a path I still have questions or concerns about, but could support." A response of 3 says, "This is a path I cannot support at this time." This means the closer to 1, the higher the support by the cohort.

Pathway 1 Average	Pathway 2 Average	Pathway 8 Average	Pathway 5b Average
2.54	2.09	2.55	1.39

Pathway 1 Distribution	Pathway 2 Distribution	Pathway 8 Distribution	Pathway 5b Distribution
1's = 10	1's = 29	1's = 9	1's = 69
2's = 28	2's = 41	2's = 31	2's = 32
3's = 71	3's = 39	3's = 69	3's = 8

The second most preferred path does differ between groups, with the oldest in the cohort supporting Pathway 2 significantly more than the youngest. Those under 60 ranked Pathways 1, 2, and 8 nearly equally in their lack of support. Those 60-70 ranked Pathway 2 lower than 5b, but significantly higher than either 1 or 8.

	Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 8	Pathway 5b
Average of 20-59 year olds	2.57	2.43	2.48	1.43
Average of 60-69 year olds	2.51	1.88	2.57	1.41

Not surprisingly, those in the OPSCC ranked Pathway 2 higher than those in the DGC and those not in a collaborative governance process.

	Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 8	Pathway 5b
OPSCC Averages	2.77	1.46	2.77	1.31

	Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 8	Pathway 5b
DGC Averages	2.51	2.17	2.52	1.41

We were clear with the cohort that this is not a vote or a decision-making conversation, but a way to respond to the hopes and desires of looking at ways to ensure the Dominican mission and each sister can flourish into the future.

We share this as information that we hope will inform your discussions in October and future process for the DSC congregations. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Joanne Caniglia, OP – Peace

Maureen Geary, OP – Grand Rapids

Annie Killian, OP – Peace

Colleen Mary Mallon, OP – Mission San Jose

Lorraine Reaume, OP – Adrian

Jenn Schaaf, OP – Blauvelt

Kathleen Tuite, OP – Caldwell

Lisa Kane, OP – Racine & DSC



Preachers for Times Such as These!
2024 Elected Leaders Meeting – Columbus, OH
Dominican Sister Conference
Sr. Xiomara Méndez Hernández, OP - Executive Director
September 25, 2024

Hola Sisters and Friends,

Here are some highlights from our DSC Office. I will share more details with you during my address on October 8th. Looking forward to sharing with you all!

Highlights of 2024

- **DSC By-Laws** - edited with the new approved amendments and sent.
- **2024 DSC Budget** – the revised version of the 2024 budget was sent and approved in December of 2023.
- **LCWR Presentation** - On December 12, I was a panelist at the LCWR virtual presentation entitled: **“Leadership for an Increasingly Diverse Religious Life.”**
- **Attended the UN Commission of Status of Women – CSW68-** along with other 15,000 from around the world. This included Dominican Sisters from Europe, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, South Africa, the Dominican Republic, , and the USA.
- **Finance Review successfully completed successfully – Accountants’ Conclusion:** *“Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”*
- **Opening Fidelity Investment Account** – For recommendation of the Finance Committee, this year we opened the account and placed there the money we used for the year. As result we have earned \$1,171.86 in interest.
- **The Visioning/Planning Committee was created** – Their task is to envision and planning the 2024 DSC Elected Leaders Meeting along our new facilitator Sue Weber and 2 members from the Executive Committee. The VPC will continue in place as we prepare for the 2025 DSC Encuentro.
- **Production of the DSC Emerging Movements** - under the direction of Sr. Anne Lythgoe. This project was widely embraced, and the responses will be shared and discussed during the 2024 DSC Elected Leaders Meeting.
- **Sisters Under 70’s Cohort** – We have been working closely and supporting the Futuring Office, the FLT, and the working groups. More details in Lisa’s report.
- **Hired the New DSC Communicator** – Mrs. Natasha Edwards started in the new position on July 8th.
- **Volunteer at Barry** – To keep our great DSC office space for free, we were asked to provide some volunteer service: I preached during Founders week Mass and led 3 services: Blessing of hands, Pinning, and White Coats ceremonies.
- **DSC Election** – This year we asked a for a vote of affirmation as Eileen Ellis and Megan McElroy volunteer to be new members of the Executive Committee. Their term will start in October.

Dominican Sisters Conference

Xiomara Méndez Hernández, OP, Executive Director
www.dominicansistersconference.org



Report to DSC Elected Leaders – October 2024
DSC Futuring Leadership Team
Representing the Cohort of DSC Sisters under age 70



How are we “*Preachers for Times such as These?*” The world is in extraordinary turmoil, fragmented, divided, resistant to truth, spiritually impoverished, unable/unwilling to listen to others, and in the U.S. disconnected from creation. Yet we trust that our contemplative witness, embodying Gospel values and preaching Truth are part of the healing necessary. We reflect on all these signs of the times in light of our charism and recognize this as a bridge time – between what has been and what will be – in our country, our world, in religious life. As for the future, we must allow it to unfold while recognizing what is ours to do today as we prepare for that future. Holding this tension in hope, not pushing for quick solutions, is where God appears to be calling us at this time.

We believe that in a divided and polarized world *how* we are with one other and our witness matters. Our energies to care, provide mutual support, invite greater growth and awareness toward true inclusivity are worthy in themselves and speak to those we encounter. We choose to heed divergent voices, to work toward consensus, and to embrace our diverse worldviews – all countercultural acts, particularly in our current global milieu. In the context of our vows, we commit to love all, to share our resources and see all we have as gift, and to discern together the common good. The cohort is doing our part to bring about the reign of God, always grounded in and honoring our Dominican values.

Although the majority of the cohort is in active ministry (many as elected leaders), participation in cohort and working group activities has been consistently strong. Of particular interest this past year, the cohort focused on discerning preferred governance pathways for the future of our OP charism and life. Together we dreamed a range of possibilities and, through the grace of God, Google and Zoom, we narrowed the preferences to three and will soon present the results of this most recent survey. It is our hope these results will be part of the ongoing dialogue among leaders and congregations. This work has been part of the commission given the Futuring Leadership Team by DSC Leaders three years ago.

As a cohort, we have a variety of opportunities to connect and build relationships, getting to know one another in new ways. In many cases, relationships have been renewed where paths had crossed and connections were made in earlier intercommunity or ministry opportunities. We have been privileged to share in one other's joys, pains, griefs and hopes for the present and future of Dominican life. We have engaged in small groups working in areas of polarization, Dominican spirituality and theology, and care for Earth. The cohort has committed to journeying toward Interculturality and exploring future possibilities. The collaborative efforts of our Vocation working group expanded beyond the cohort to all DSC congregation vocation ministers!

The cohort is unafraid of what the future of religious life may be... our desire is to see the Holy Preaching continue long into the future. We are faithful, confident in those who share the journey with us, and we trust in the love and support of our home congregations. Listening together to the Spirit, we join the universal church engaging in the Synod on Synodality and practicing "Conversations in the

Spirit." The main theme of the Synod is *journeying together* – how fitting. We have been journeying together, engaged in deep listening, in full and active participation for the sake of the mission of Jesus.

Soon we will enter a jubilee year entitled "Pilgrims of Hope." May Dominic, who was always full of hope and joy, grace us with hope and joy, and may our hope and joy radiate from us, especially as we discern the future with courage. For we have been given a spirit of boldness and not of timidity. Come Holy Spirit!

Futuring Leadership Team

Cathy Buchanan, OP - Peace

Annie Killian, OP – Peace

Lystra Long, OP – Sinsinawa

Pat Magee, OP - Hope

Lorraine Reaume, OP – Adrian

Lisa Kane, OP – Racine – DSC Associate Director for Futuring





Dominican Leadership Conference

*Dominican leaders committed to building relationships
and collaborating in the mission of preaching the Gospel.*

October 2024

UN NGO

Preachers for Times Such as these

In 2015 the UN birthed the Sustainable Development Goals, otherwise known as the SDGs. They address the poor, hungry, climate, peace and security and other hardships of the world. As of today only 17% of the goals have been achieved. Countries must scale up their financing of the SDGs. If not we will fail.

The UN celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2020 during the height of the pandemic. Several Civil Society NGO's took advantage of this anniversary to raise recommendations on where the UN must change. Conversations were held monthly by civil society raising multiple questions about the United Nations structure, climate change, peace and security as well as the role of faith based organizations to be central and meaningful in the UN system. The importance of scaling up technology capacity, affordability and accessibility were raised as well as consideration to change the membership of the permanent security council.

We have experienced in 2024 the hottest May in history. Climate change is killing us. War has exploded around us: Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, South Sudan, and Myanmar is hanging on by a thread. Haiti's young population is dying daily from gangs, lack of food and nutrition.

What role does the UN play in addressing these issues for times such as these?

As an NGO at the UN we must continue to be advocates for all at the United Nations. The NGO can be and must be a sign of HOPE for the Dominican Family. The Dominican NGO is the place where Dominicans can talk/preach with those in power to promote change and inclusion. It's advocacy is on behalf of all Dominicans and their people world wide. It has the potential to raise up the concerns of our sisters in the world. It is one place where their apprehensions can be concretely delivered and potentially solved and conveyed with confidence and integrity. This is how Preachers can speak in Times Such as these. We have no choice.!

The UN Ngo of the Dominicans is a significant voice not only for Dominicans but for those they serve. The world needs the advocacy of the UN NGO Dominican Leadership Conference.

Durstyne Farnan, OP, UN-NGO Representative
246 E. 46th Street, New York, NY 10017

ngo@domlife.org

<https://dominicanleadershipconference.org>



23 September, 2024

Dear Elected Leaders of DSC,

Warm greetings during this autumnal Equinox!

We are grateful to all of you for your continued support of the DSC and for all you do to lead your communities. We recognize that as leaders, it is your responsibility to affirm the budget for the DSC and have oversight of it. As we look forward to the annual October meeting we would like to acknowledge the Finance Advisory Committee: Jose Enrique, Judy Rimby, OP, Laura Reicks, RSM, Maryann McMahon, OP, and Yvette Hutchins, Bookkeeper. Xiomara Méndez Hernández, OP, DSC Executive Director, and Pat Stringer, OP, DSC Executive Committee Treasurer, and Finance Advisory Committee complete the committee. We meet each month to review the finances and to project the next year's budget. We are very grateful to them.

The Finance Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee of the DSC would like to present to you their work in 2024 and the draft working budget for 2025.

Just as a reminder, we quote from the DSC Leadership meeting minutes of October 2023: "It was recommended that the Executive Committee submit a financial report rather than a budget at the annual meeting, along with a description of their plans and hopes for the coming year (in the form of a RoadMap or other narrative). Then the budget for the next fiscal year (which begins in January) can be developed and submitted to the leadership electronically for approval before the new fiscal year begins".

With this mandate in mind, the following gives an account of FY 2024 and a beginning narrative for FY 2025.

Narrative for the Dominican Sisters Conference Financial Report based on August YTD

2024

A **communicator** was hired for 30 hours per week and is working with Xiomara to update the website, the mailing list, DomLife, and everyday communicators.

In preparation for the budget, **the FLT** working groups worked with Lisa Kane and submitted their budgetary needs. They also worked on grants to help support their projects. This included a grant request to the Dominican Sisters of HOPE and LCWR.

There is \$225,000 still owed to the **Pooled Investment Fund** and hopefully those pledges will be fulfilled in 2026.

The **Financial Advisory Committee** meets every month and is comprised of dedicated and knowledgeable people. However, because of the newness of this way of operating, we are still learning and adapting. The hope is during the coming year, we will make recommendations to the Leaders regarding some financial policies that would include the percentage of income and principal that can be used annually to fund DSC operations and to develop salary guidelines.

We have been in conversation with Catholic Faith Technology - Nelnet Community Engagement which hosts the **Dominican Charism Initiative – DCI** - to review the October 2020 Business plan. They also have been in transition and now Catholic Faith Technologies and My Catholic Faith Delivered have officially come under the FACTS umbrella to create FACTS Faith Communities. We will continue to review the business plan and update it. As of 2024, the fee that each community paid, and monies from other users covered the expenses. With some of the schools now being part of the Veritas Ministries - VM, we are not sure if the fee every congregation contributes will cover the expenses in 2025. We are planning to meet with Kristin Barstow Melley, PhD, from VM to explore ways we can partner and how they might contribute toward the DCI platform.

Looking ahead 2025

As you know, the **NGO** office expenses will switch over entirely to DSIC on December 31, 2024. Thus, DSC will not be responsible for it financially. Therefore, the budget for FY 2025 reflects this change.

The 2025 budget also includes the *Encuentro 2025* which is being proposed as an inclusive meeting of leaders, sister members, and associates.

Assumption 1: The conference fee will be used to pay for the expenses of the event. We will be looking for sponsors, vendors, grants, and other means to help cover expenses that will be incurred to keep conference fees reasonable. We will need assistance on this matter.

Assumption 2: The expected income from the Pooled Investment is \$165,000 or 2.177% of the money invested. \$190,000+ monies will come from any excess earnings greater than \$165,000 and the principle at 2.4% to allow for a balanced budget.

Attached is the working FY 2025 budget.

If you have any questions, concerns, or thoughts please email one of us by October 3rd so that they can be addressed beforehand or at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Xiomara Méndez Hernández, OP – DSC Executive Director
sisters@domlofe.org

Pat Stringer, OP – DSC Treasurer and Finance Advisory Committee Chair
pstringer@caldwellop.org

Dominican Sisters Conference

Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2024

	Total	Comments
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
07000 Fidelity Investment	51,172.86	
08000 Common Spirit	7,827,805.61	
09000 Chase Checking	38,853.45	\$35K min to avoid mo fee
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 7,917,831.92	
Accounts Receivable		
		Pooled Investment Balance Due. Paid
12000 Accounts Receivable	225,000.00	\$70K on 9.12.24 from Sparkill
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 225,000.00	
Other Current Assets		
15000 Prepaid Expenses	0.00	
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 0.00	
Total Current Assets	\$ 8,142,831.92	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 8,142,831.92	
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
20000 Accounts Payable	1,000.00	Uses Bill Pay feature in QB
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 1,000.00	
Other Current Liabilities		
Accrued Expense	0.00	
Deferred Income	0.00	
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 0.00	
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 1,000.00	
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,000.00	
Equity		
30000 Opening Balance Equity	38,618.00	
32000 Retained Earnings	7,641,239.18	
Net Income	461,974.74	
Total Equity	\$ 8,141,831.92	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 8,142,831.92	

Wednesday, Sep 11, 2024 11:30:13 AM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis

Dominican Sisters Conference			
Draft Budget 2025			
	2024	2025	
	Budget	Draft Budget as of 09.03.24	Comments
Income			
40000 Annual Contributions			
40100 Membership Contributions	0.00	0.00	
40200 DSI Contribution	40,000.00	0.00	NGO Subsidy received Jan 2024
40300 Other Contributions	2,000.00	0.00	
Total 40000 Annual Contributions	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 0.00	
41000 Annual Leadership Meeting			
41100 Registrations	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Total 41000 Annual Leadership Meeting	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
45100 Honoraria			
45110 Executive Director Honoraria	1,000.00	1,000.00	
45120 Honorarium - NGO	1,000.00	0.00	
Total 45100 Honoraria	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
46000 DCI Fees	18,000.00	11,000.00	
47000 Gifts & Grants/Sponsorship			
47500 Gifts	0.00	0.00	
47510 Pooled Investment Fund	195,000.00	0.00	Remaining congregations chose to pay overtime. Accounts Receivable set up for remaining
47520 Grants - LCWR (Futuring)	30,000.00	35,000.00	\$35K received Oct 2023 for 2024, used for Futuring Exp. Will reapply in Oct 2024. Will apply for Dominican Sisters of Hope Ministry grant \$15K .
47590 Grants - Other	0.00	0.00	
Total 47000 Gifts & Grants/Sponsorship	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	
48000 Investment Income	\$ 193,900.00	\$ 165,000.00	Northern Trust Bank/Common Spirit acct (2.17% of \$7.6M investment funds)
48100 Interest Income			
48200 Dividend Income			
48300 Realized Gain/Loss			
68300 Unrealized Gain/Loss			
48175 Investment Income			
Total 48000 Investment Income	\$193,900.00	\$165,000.00	
Total Income	\$ 505,900.00	\$ 237,000.00	
Gross Profit	\$ 505,900.00	\$ 237,000.00	
Expenses			
50000 Director's Office			
50100 Executive Director Salary, Benefits	68,587.00	72,016.35	
50150 Administrative Assistant	13,000.00	13,000.00	
50250 Contracted services	17,300.00	17,300.00	Annual Financial Review and Bookkeeper
50275 Bookkeeper Software	1,000.00	1,150.00	
50300 Travel/R&B	6,500.00	6,500.00	
50310 Meeting Registrations	700.00	700.00	
50350 Meetings	200.00	0.00	
50410 Office Rental	7,000.00	7,000.00	In-kind for 2025, due to no agreement
50420 Computer Supplies, Equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00	new printer purchase end of 2024 or in 2025
50430 Office Supplies	400.00	400.00	
50440 Postage, shipping	200.00	200.00	
50450 Office Equipment	200.00	200.00	
50460 Printing, copying	200.00	200.00	

	2024	2025	
	Budget	Draft Budget as of 09.03.24	Comments
50470 Telephone, Internet, FAX	800.00	800.00	
50500 Conference Memberships (LCWR)	700.00	400.00	
50600 Subscriptions & Books	100.00	100.00	
50610 Legal and Financial Fees	2,500.00	2,500.00	
50620 Bank charges	200.00	400.00	Chase Maintenance Fee + Standard ACH fees
50630 Insurance	1,600.00	1,600.00	
50650 Archive Maintenance	150.00	200.00	
50700 Gifts, Donations, Memorials	300.00	500.00	
50800 Hospitality	250.00	500.00	
50900 Miscellaneous	50.00	50.00	
Total 50000 Director's Office	\$ 122,937.00	\$ 126,716.35	
51000 Annual Meeting			
51100 Annual Meeting Facilitation	4,000.00	4,000.00	
51150 Annual Meeting Liturgist	3,000.00	3,000.00	
51200 Annual Meeting Speaker	1,000.00	1,000.00	
51300 Annual Meeting Lodging	3,000.00	3,000.00	
51500 Annual Meeting Supplies-1	1,000.00	1,000.00	
51600 Annual Meeting Hotel Room, Food	23,000.00	25,000.00	
51640 Annual Meeting Printing	500.00	500.00	
51650 Annual Meeting - Other	500.00	500.00	
51800 Annual Mtg. EC Expense	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Total 51000 Annual Meeting	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	
52000 Communications/Marketing/DCI			
52100 Communicator Compensation	40,000.00	57,600.00	Hired 7/1/24: 30hrs/wk
52200 Technological Expense	1,500.00	2,300.00	
52300 Travel/ R&B	400.00	2,500.00	
52350 Meetings	300.00	300.00	
52410 Office Rental	4,500.00	0.00	
52420 Computer Supplies. Equipment	300.00	300.00	
52450 Contracted Services	15,000.00	15,000.00	Budgeted to Consolidate the Website (5 into 1) \$15K, not yet started.
52470 Telephone. Internet	450.00	0.00	
52500 Memberships	150.00	150.00	
52600 DCI - Dom. Charism Initiative	10,000.00	10,000.00	
52650 Other	100.00	100.00	
52800 Hospitality	100.00	100.00	
Total 52000 Communications/Marketing/DCI	\$ 72,800.00	\$ 88,350.00	
53000 Committees/Entities			
53050 DSC Team of Facilitators	25,000.00	25,000.00	
53100 Executive Committee	5,000.00	15,000.00	Travel
53200 Planning Committee	200.00	200.00	
53500 Finance Committee	200.00	200.00	
53600 Associate/ Sisters Committee	200.00	200.00	
Total 53000 Committees/Entities	\$ 30,600.00	\$ 40,600.00	
54000 NGO			
54100 NGO Salary, Benefits	60,100.80	0.00	
54300 NGO Travel/R&B	7,000.00	0.00	
54350 Meetings	300.00	0.00	
54410 Office Rental, Electricity	0.00	0.00	
54411 Office Rent	12,048.00	0.00	
54415 Office Electricity	325.00	0.00	

	2024	2025	
	Budget	Draft Budget as of 09.03.24	Comments
54420 Computer Supplies, Equipment	300.00	0.00	
54425 Office Cleaning	270.00	0.00	
54430 Office Supplies	105.00	0.00	
54440 Postage	50.00	0.00	
54470 Telephone, Fax	300.00	0.00	
54475 Internet	295.00	0.00	
54500 NGO - Memberships	160.00	0.00	
54600 Subscriptions	50.00	0.00	
54620 Bank Charges	120.00	0.00	
54700 Gifts, Donations	500.00	0.00	
54800 Hospitality	250.00	0.00	
54850 Unallocated Exp	0.00	0.00	
54900 Volunteer	400.00	0.00	
54950 Translation	1,000.00	0.00	
Total 54000 NGO	\$ 83,573.80	\$ 0.00	
56000 DSC Futuring			
56100 Assoc Dir Salary, Benefits	60,100.00	62,577.63	
56300 Team Building, ADF Travel/R&B	12,200.00	13,150.00	
56310 Meeting Registration	0.00	0.00	
56350 Cohort Support	23,270.00	24,105.00	
56410 Cohort In-Person Mtg	0.00	5,000.00	
56420 Computer Supplies, Equipment	400.00	400.00	
56430 Office Supplies	150.00	150.00	
56435 Office Rental	6,000.00	6,000.00	In-kind for 2025, due to no agreement
56440 Postage, Shipping	100.00	100.00	
56470 DSC Annual Mtg	14,800.00	16,000.00	
56475 Telephone, Internet, Fax	300.00	300.00	
56700 Gifts, Donations	200.00	200.00	
56800 Hospitality	0.00	0.00	
Total 56000 DSC Futuring	\$ 117,520.00	\$ 127,982.63	
58000 Investment Acct. Fees	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	
65200 Grant - Other	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
65000 LCWR Grant	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 480,430.80	\$ 441,648.98	
Net Operating Income	\$ 25,469.20	-\$ 204,648.98	
Other Expenses			
Reconciliation Discrepancies-1	0.00	0.00	
Transfer to Pool Investment	195,000.00	-205,000.00	should not be part of P&L, balance sheet entry
Total Other Expenses	\$ 195,000.00	-\$ 205,000.00	needed from Investment account in 2025
Net Other Income	-\$ 195,000.00	\$ 205,000.00	
Net Income	-\$ 169,530.80	\$ 351.02	
	2024	2025	
	Budget	Draft Budget as of 09.03.24	Comments

Dominican Sisters Conference					
Statement of Activity - August 2024 YTD w/ Budget 2024, Draft Budget 2025					
	2024	2024	2024	2025	
	Actual Aug	Actual Aug YTD	Budget	Draft Budget as of 09.03.24	Comments
Income					
40000 Annual Contributions					
40100 Membership Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
40200 DSI Contribution	0.00	52,838.77	40,000.00	0.00	NGO Subsidy received Jan 2024
40300 Other Contributions	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	
Total 40000 Annual Contributions	\$ 0.00	\$ 52,838.77	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 0.00	
41000 Annual Leadership Meeting					
41100 Registrations	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Total 41000 Annual Leadership Meeting	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
45100 Honoraria					
45110 Executive Director Honoraria	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
45120 Honorarium - NGO	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	
Total 45100 Honoraria	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
46000 DCI Fees	11.88	11,835.62	18,000.00	11,000.00	
47000 Gifts & Grants/Sponsorship					
47500 Gifts	\$ 583.33	\$ 4,666.64	0.00	0.00	In-kind for 2024 due to no office rent for Dir.
47510 Pooled Investment Fund	0.00	0.00	195,000.00	0.00	Remaining congregations chose to pay overtime. Accounts Receivable set up for remaining
47520 Grants - LCWR (Futuring)	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	35,000.00	\$35K received Oct 2023 for 2024, used for Futuring Exp. Will reapply in Oct 2024. Will apply for Dominican Sisters of Hope Ministry grant \$15K.
47590 Grants - Other	0.00	-2,000.00	0.00	0.00	OPSCC funds
Total 47000 Gifts & Grants/Sponsorship	\$ 583.33	\$ 2,666.64	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	
48000 Investment Income			\$ 193,900.00	\$ 165,000.00	Northern Trust Bank/Common Spirit acct (2.17% of \$7.6M investment funds)
48100 Interest Income	\$ 8,025.00	\$ 45,673.05			
48200 Dividend Income	\$ 1,584.64	\$ 13,150.05			Fidelity \$805.40
48300 Realized Gain/Loss	\$ 33,563.32	\$ 154,214.04			
68300 Unrealized Gain/Loss	\$ 25,807.30	\$ 401,228.43			
48175 Investment Income	\$ 2,369.46	\$ 15,222.36			
Total 48000 Investment Income	\$71,349.72	\$629,487.93	\$193,900.00	\$165,000.00	
Total Income	\$ 71,944.93	\$ 696,828.96	\$ 505,900.00	\$ 237,000.00	
Gross Profit	\$ 71,944.93	\$ 696,828.96	\$ 505,900.00	\$ 237,000.00	
Expenses					
50000 Director's Office					
50100 Executive Director Salary, Benefits	5,715.58	45,724.64	68,587.00	72,016.35	
50150 Administrative Assistant			13,000.00	13,000.00	
50250 Contracted services	8,268.50	9,534.50	17,300.00	17,300.00	Annual Financial Review and Bookkeeper
50275 Bookkeeper Software	0.00	720.00	1,000.00	1,150.00	
50300 Travel/R&B	411.95	1,635.75	6,500.00	6,500.00	
50310 Meeting Registrations	0.00	285.00	700.00	700.00	
50350 Meetings	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	
50410 Office Rental	583.33	4,666.64	7,000.00	7,000.00	In-kind for 2025, due to no agreement
50420 Computer Supplies, Equipment	0.00	10.69	1,000.00	1,000.00	new printer purchase end of 2024 or in 2025
50430 Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	
50440 Postage, shipping	0.00	2.11	200.00	200.00	
50450 Office Equipment	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	

	2024	2024	2024	2025	
	Actual Aug	Actual Aug YTD	Budget	Draft Budget as of 09.03.24	Comments
50460 Printing, copying	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	
50470 Telephone, Internet, FAX	25.00	200.00	800.00	800.00	
50500 Conference Memberships (LCWR)	0.00	0.00	700.00	400.00	
50600 Subscriptions & Books	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	
50610 Legal and Financial Fees	0.00	11.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
50620 Bank charges	0.00	7.50	200.00	400.00	Chase Maintenance Fee + Standard ACH fees
50630 Insurance	0.00	1,419.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	
50650 Archive Maintenance	0.00	150.00	150.00	200.00	
50700 Gifts, Donations, Memorials	0.00	110.78	300.00	500.00	
50800 Hospitality	0.00	162.99	250.00	500.00	
50900 Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	
Total 50000 Director's Office	\$ 15,004.36	\$ 64,640.60	\$ 122,937.00	\$ 126,716.35	
51000 Annual Meeting					
51100 Annual Meeting Facilitation	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	
51150 Annual Meeting Liturgist	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
51200 Annual Meeting Speaker	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
51300 Annual Meeting Lodging	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
51500 Annual Meeting Supplies-1	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
51600 Annual Meeting Hotel Room, Food	0.00	0.00	23,000.00	25,000.00	
51640 Annual Meeting Printing	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	
51650 Annual Meeting - Other	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	
51800 Annual Mtg. EC Expense	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Total 51000 Annual Meeting	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	
52000 Communications/Marketing/DCI					
52100 Communicator Compensation	4,800.00	7,200.00	40,000.00	57,600.00	Hired 7/1/24: 30hrs/wk
52200 Technological Expense	0.00	2,003.75	1,500.00	2,300.00	
52300 Travel/ R&B	0.00	681.72	400.00	2,500.00	
52350 Meetings	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	
52410 Office Rental	0.00	0.00	4,500.00	0.00	
52420 Computer Supplies. Equipment	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	
52450 Contracted Services	0.00	6,902.60	15,000.00	15,000.00	Budgeted to Consolidate the Website (5 into 1) \$15K, not yet started. In 2024 first half, Contractors: Ashley and Diana
52470 Telephone. Internet	0.00	0.00	450.00	0.00	
52500 Memberships	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	
52600 DCI - Dom. Charism Initiative	0.00	9,250.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
52650 Other	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	
52800 Hospitality	0.00	140.64	100.00	100.00	
Total 52000 Communications/Marketing/DCI	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 26,178.71	\$ 72,800.00	\$ 88,350.00	
53000 Committees/Entities					
53050 DSC Team of Facilitators	500.00	4,455.94	25,000.00	25,000.00	
53100 Executive Committee	781.86	10,651.66	5,000.00	15,000.00	Travel
53200 Planning Committee	0.00	2,047.62	200.00	200.00	
53500 Finance Committee	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	
53600 Associate/ Sisters Committee	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	
Total 53000 Committees/Entities	\$ 1,281.86	\$ 17,155.22	\$ 30,600.00	\$ 40,600.00	
54000 NGO					
54100 NGO Salary, Benefits	10,016.78	45,075.51	60,100.80	0.00	will be returned, mismailed
54300 NGO Travel/R&B	0.00	2,187.00	7,000.00	0.00	
54350 Meetings	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	
54410 Office Rental, Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
54411 Office Rent	0.00	9,078.11	12,048.00	0.00	

	2024	2024	2024	2025	
	Actual Aug	Actual Aug YTD	Budget	Draft Budget as of 09.03.24	Comments
54415 Office Electricity	0.00	155.90	325.00	0.00	
54420 Computer Supplies. Equipment	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	
54425 Office Cleaning	0.00	48.00	270.00	0.00	
54430 Office Supplies	0.00	22.37	105.00	0.00	
54440 Postage	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	
54470 Telephone, Fax	25.00	200.00	300.00	0.00	
54475 Internet	0.00	156.80	295.00	0.00	
54500 NGO - Memberships	0.00	0.00	160.00	0.00	
54600 Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	
54620 Bank Charges	0.00	80.00	120.00	0.00	
54700 Gifts, Donations	0.00	75.00	500.00	0.00	
54800 Hospitality	0.00	180.71	250.00	0.00	
54850 Unallocated Exp	0.00	5,912.37	0.00	0.00	future NGO spending
54900 Volunteer	0.00	103.74	400.00	0.00	
54950 Translation	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	
Total 54000 NGO	\$ 10,041.78	\$ 63,275.51	\$ 83,573.80	\$ 0.00	
56000 DSC Futuring					
56100 Assoc Dir Salary, Benefits	\$ 5,008.33	\$ 40,066.64	60,100.00	62,577.63	
56300 Team Building, ADF Travel/R&B	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,170.37	12,200.00	13,150.00	
56310 Meeting Registration	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	0.00	0.00	
56350 Cohort Support	\$ 615.00	\$ 2,830.25	23,270.00	24,105.00	
56410 Cohort In-Person Mtg	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	0.00	5,000.00	
56420 Computer Supplies. Equipment	\$ 0.00	\$ 203.29	400.00	400.00	
56430 Office Supplies	\$ 0.00	\$ 62.62	150.00	150.00	
56435 Office Rental	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	In-kind for 2025, due to no agreement
56440 Postage, Shipping	\$ 0.00	\$ 36.80	100.00	100.00	
56470 DSC Annual Mtg	\$ 1,149.35	\$ 1,149.35	14,800.00	16,000.00	
56475 Telephone, Internet, Fax	\$ 25.00	\$ 200.00	300.00	300.00	
56700 Gifts, Donations	\$ 0.00	\$ 206.11	200.00	200.00	
56800 Hospitality	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total 56000 DSC Futuring	\$ 6,797.68	\$ 48,925.43	\$ 117,520.00	\$ 127,982.63	
58000 Investment Acct. Fees	\$ 1,750.86	\$ 14,877.39	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	
65200 Grant - Other	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
65000 LCWR Grant	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 39,676.54	\$ 235,052.86	\$ 480,430.80	\$ 441,648.98	
Net Operating Income	\$ 32,268.39	\$ 461,776.10	\$ 25,469.20	-\$ 204,648.98	
Other Expenses					
Reconciliation Discrepancies-1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Transfer to Pool Investment	\$ 0.00	-\$ 37,000.00	195,000.00	-205,000.00	should not be part of P&L, balance sheet entry
Total Other Expenses	\$ 0.00	-\$ 37,000.00	\$ 195,000.00	-\$ 205,000.00	needed from Investment account in 2025
Net Other Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 37,000.00	-\$ 195,000.00	\$ 205,000.00	
Net Income	\$ 32,268.39	\$ 498,776.10	-\$ 169,530.80	\$ 351.02	
	2024	2024	2024	2025	
	Actual Aug	Actual Aug YTD	Budget	Draft Budget as of 09.03.24	Comments



Emerging Movements Video Process Results

September 2024

Shared with you from the Dominican Sisters Conference Executive Committee.

What themes did we see emerging in the data we read?

Below are some brief themes we want to carry forward from the responses of Leadership Teams. They completed a reflection process with their members based on the Emerging Movements video and process that took place in summer 2024.

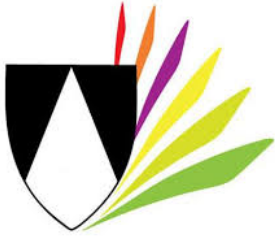
- **Focus on Mission** was frequently expressed as vital to keep before us so that we do not lose sight of our purpose and Dominican call within the call to religious life. This included many aspects of Dominican charism such as preaching and pursuing Truth.
- **Good Communication** between the DSC Executive Committee and leaders is important, and appreciated, along with good communication among the various streams of movement (e.g. the FLT, OPSCC, DGC)
- **Collaboration** among Committees, Leaders, sisters, and associates.
- **Realistic Hope** was evident in many responses who expressed openness to the new even in the light of the completion of some congregations. More information is needed.
- **Curiosity** about the work of the Futuring Leadership Team, the Futuring Cohort Working Group, and the work of the other working groups. There is a desire to better understand their work.
- **Desire for Better Understanding** of the OPSCC (Dominican Sisters in Committed Collaboration) and the DGC (Dominican Governance Collaborative).
- **Continued Commitment** to the work of justice and care of creation was raised up as well.

Important ideas:

We noticed the presence of the tension between **approaching a new idea**, a new structure or way of doing things and the **avoidance of something** that will require significant change.

We ask the question: What is the dire consequence of not moving forward or not acting?

PART 4. SUMMARY PAGE FOR LEADERSHIP ON the Emerging Movements Presentation



1. How would you summarize your sisters' responses to the Emerging Movements Presentation? (use whatever space is needed).

Congregation: Adrian Dominican Sisters

Name of person submitting the form: Corinne Sanders, OP

Overall: Positive reception with most indicating a strong desire to be kept informed and updated on these conversations. Also, strong support for the work of leadership and moving forward with these endeavors on our behalf.

Supported

1. Mission Focus approach that reaches outward. We have years of mission expression before us wherever we live.
2. Collaboration, openness, trust, and a posture of listening deeply. This is a synodal time to move forward together.
3. inter-generational conversations – while supporting the under 70 there was also a desire to not exclude the vital life presence in the beyond 70 ages.
4. Keeping the essence and common expressions of Dominican life while also affirming the unique expressions throughout the various congregations. Stated the desire to hold Adrian AND an openness to letting go if called for.
5. Conversations among all DSC Sisters. We can learn from others.

Desire

1. Conversations of the heart that go deeper than information and ideas. Move from information to the importance of 'what does this mean?'
2. Exploring new ways to respond to these times together.
3. Holding an openness to what comes forth and attending to the work of the spirit
4. Increased involvement with youth and youth-friendly environments

Curious About

1. The Association model (OPSCC). – is this for us as is or as an adaptation
2. What other shared governance forms may arise or exist such as Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Dominicans USA, etc.
3. A move from talking about Dominican life to religious life – does this switched understanding hold something for our future?

Congregation: Amityville

Dominican Sisters Conference

Process Guide Emerging Movements June 2024

Name of person submitting the form: Diane Capuano

*Overall, incredibly positive

*Responses were filled with hope

*Sisters wrote of the importance of TRUTH, common life, and mission

*There was a strong desire for deeper collaboration

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, New York

Name of person submitting the form: Sr. Theresa Rickard, OP

Our Sisters are grateful for the Emerging Movements video and the accompanying process. They welcome more and ongoing engagement and communication to members about emerging movements.

What is it that we value the most about Dominican charism?

Seek and preach truth wherever and whenever we can; the power of grace to help people and creation flourish; our charism reflects what Jesus and Dominic did (Gospel Grounded); focus on justice; welcoming across cultures; call to mission as a community; preaching the Gospel with joy; the four pillars of Dominican life; the importance of presence and hospitality; communal relationships.

At this moment in our history, what is the world asking of us?

Respect and care for earth and each other; to be preachers of hope; witness to the gospel; be bridge builders in a deeply divided country; act with justice; to speak the truth; to help people with their spiritual life and to support their desire to do compassionate and just works; to develop a deeper understanding of suffering and God's salvific action in our lives; to partner with others who are seeking to address the needs of the world; to reach out to the marginalized.

Some other responses: Encourage vocations as we discern an emerging future; we need a process to engage every Sister in her understanding of Mission to lead her into articulating how she is living mission today. Mission is not WHAT WE DID, it is What we are DOING and BEING today.

Congregation: Sisters of Saint Dominic, Caldwell

Name of person submitting the form: Patricia Tavis, OP

Our sisters' responses were realistic in that they recognize that despite our demographics, we continue to be mission-centric. There was a focus on our ability to be flexible and embrace change as we continue to build community and address the needs of today's world.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids

Name of person submitting the form: Megan McElroy, OP

They were very engaged, excited to hear about all the conversations that are happening. They are interested to hear how things go during our October DSC meeting and want to be involved.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Hope

Name of person submitting the form: DSOH Leadership Team

Our Sisters express:

Dominican Sisters Conference

Process Guide Emerging Movements June 2024

- Gratitude for the clarity of the video, comfort in not being alone with the questions before us, and trust in the God of Hope who will guide our steps.
- Hope is present both in the reality of futuring as well as in pro-active steps towards completion that includes a plan for enduring Mission.
- An awareness that time is of the essence, and that these processes take a great deal of work.
- Grateful for Hope's participation in the OPSCC Association for Shared Canonical Governance.
- Commitment to the centrality of Mission, this work is not a survival strategy. The Spirit is working in all of our congregations to collaborate in so that the Dominican Mission will continue.
- Hope that this collaboration will result in a form of Dominican Sisters USA.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Houston

Name of person/s submitting the form: Donna Pollard, Linda Gibler, Katie Gaspard

Most of our sisters were aware of the futuring movements and they are glad that we, as a congregation, are moving and taking this seriously. The video re-affirms our direction and commitment to the future.

The ten futuring models presented were not in-depth and some asked for more information on them.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose

Name of person submitting the form: Sister Mary Susanna Vasquez, OP

- The value of mission and charism were strongly expressed
- Wanting more cooperation and support in government structures.
- Desire to grow in relationship with partners in mission.
- Authenticity
- Engage members in decision making
- Continue to look at underutilized space and viable communities

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Peace

Name of person submitting the form: Anne Lythgoe, OP

Our sisters were encouraged by the information shared in the presentation because they appreciate the transparency and pro-active approach of the DSC Executive Committee. The sisters' experience of becoming the Dominican Sisters of Peace was a process not unlike some of the work being done now among other congregations. They strongly encouraged the continued collaboration with other sisters and with other groups within the Dominican Family. Their own experience of becoming a new congregation evokes in them confidence that the future together could be an exciting and life-giving journey.

They also identified several common values that are essential to how we move together in the future. These include what all of us hold dear: contemplation and prayer, the search for truth, and our mission to preach the Gospel. Other values mentioned included collaboration with the Dominican family, the four pillars, the freedom of our charism, itinerancy and flexibility.

Our sisters are generally optimistic that Dominican Life and Mission will continue as long as we are outwardly focused on mission and the needs of the world. The values noted above give us the foundation we need to continue to invite women to our life, but we need to be nimble when change is needed and open to taking risks for the sake of our common life. Because we are blessed with new members, we treasure these women as knowing that our best efforts to support their vocations and integration into our life is key.

We have found that our Direction Statements have staying power as an expression of how we see the needs of the world and what God is calling us to be. Namely, fostering cultures of inclusion; reverencing Earth; fostering lives of prayer and contemplation; prophetic preaching of the Gospel; and an impulse toward the future of Dominican Life.

Congregation: Racine Dominicans

Name of person submitting the form: Agnes Johnson, OP

The Sisters appreciated knowing what is going on and are very interested in the possibilities. They want to encourage the Dominican Groups to continue collaborating and keep the congregations updated. We must be alert to changes and how they might affect us. Whatever evolves must be mission driven. We need to collaborate as much as possible especially in vocation, formation, and ongoing formation and care of our Sisters and modes of governance. In summary, our community supports collaboration, the need to change leadership/leadership structures and continue to work on properties and governance.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of San Rafael

Name of person submitting the form: Christina Atienza

Dominican Governance Collaboration (DGC): There was general support for our congregation's ongoing participation in this effort. What stood out from the presentation was our relatively small size compared to the other congregations, the close relationship among the Mid-West congregations, and whether our geographical remoteness from the majority of the members would ultimately be a factor in our choices.

Dominican Sisters in Committed Collaboration (OPSCC): There was generally a positive reception to the Association Model, particularly how it permits the retention of congregational identity. We hope this Model would be approved and look forward to seeing how it would inform DGC discussions. Given the long history of collaboration among the founding congregations, there was also a question about whether congregations joining afterwards would be treated as equal members.

Future Pathways Working Group: There was some desire to see further integration between the Under 70 Cohort's efforts and the larger collaborative efforts that are already underway. There was also some concern regarding the viability of some of the options given the cohort demographics.

Collaborative Dominican Novitiate (CDN): Our congregation has been a partner in this effort for a long time. Given the decline in vocations, there was general support for re-evaluation. The question was also raised about how we might continue to support vocations given our decision to move toward completion.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa

Name of person submitting the form: Christina Heltsley, OP

Overall, our sisters have responded very positively to the Emerging Movements Presentation, expressing deep gratitude for being consulted. They took our request for input seriously, and we received a significant percentage of responses. While a few were surprised by the urgency of the need for collaboration, most embraced it, recognizing our Charism Family as a source of strength. They see collaboration not as a need to solve problems but as a core value. The sisters encouraged us to pursue partnerships at every level and made it clear they want to remain engaged in the dialogue throughout. Initially, our Leadership Team was concerned about the weightiness of the presentation, particularly regarding the trends and data from other LCWR congregations. However, the sisters responded with a hopeful, reality-rooted outlook that was both encouraging and heartening.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

Name of person submitting the form: Sr. Irene Ellis, OP

Very positive and hopeful. There was strong emphasis on being mission focused, continuing our work for justice and caring for our earth and each other. Our sisters remain firmly committed to Truth, our work for justice, being faithful to Gospel values making them relevant as we preach in today's world.

As a congregation we value each other, the blessing for full participation in our government structure. We face forward into a future yet to be revealed, continuing our thrust toward mission and in light of our demographics finding creative ways to serve today.

The world calls us to be signs of hope, be voices for the voiceless, be authentic, take risks. To see the needs and respond caring for the planet and the vulnerable.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL

Name of person submitting the form: Joanne Delehanty, OP

The Sisters are hopeful, positive, open to possibilities but still questioning the details. Everyone with capacity watched the video and reacted. Every comment was recorded and shared.

2. What do you want to share with the rest of the DSC Leadership about your own congregation's future?

Congregation: Adrian Dominican Sisters

- Members are grateful for the opportunity to participate in conversations both internally and externally as we engage in this important time. .
- Our Sisters, especially those outside of the US feel strongly about continued vocational outreach and ministry to youth. Here in the US we believe in continued vocation work but look more to ourselves as a portal to something new emerging in our midst.

- Juggling our internal governance restructuring and thinking about a larger restructuring picture is a challenge which members are willing to undertake.
- Members are coming to terms with the implications on our being unable to elect leaders sooner than we may have thought.
- There is no future for our younger members unless we work collaboratively. Creating a viable future for them is essential. This requires being in communion with other congregations.

Members and leadership are feeling the draw on energy needed to attend to our living out the enactments of General Chapter **and** engaging in this most important governance conversation.

Congregation: Amityville

- *Hopeful for the OPSCC Share Governance Model
- *Reality of our demographics, but remain open for what is yet to come
- *Deep trust in God's Spirit as guiding us into our future
- *Connected with our demographics, there is a concern that we will not have a leadership pool after our next Chapter which is March of 2025

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, New York

We are members of the newly formed OPSCC Association and in addition are open to being part of a US Association of Dominicans. Many of our Sisters shared that they were hopeful about the OPSCC Association but wanted it to be expanded to all US based Dominican congregations.

We are in the process of exploring options of selling our motherhouse and looking for alternative living options for our Sisters.

Congregation: Sisters of Saint Dominic, Caldwell

Although we are a congregation of 75 sisters with a median age of 83, we do not have a mind-set that "it is over (closure)."

We are faithful to the work of the mission, continue to spread the TRUTH and give hope to the hopeless.

Our sisters have embraced the OPSCC Association and look forward to continued collaboration with other congregations.

Contemplation and study continue to lead us to action. Our congregation's Universe and Creation Committee and Commission on Global Issues, both consisting of sisters and associates, continue to respond to the needs of the times (education, immigration, human trafficking, racism, ESL, ecology, and climate change).

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids

We are looking at how to more intentionally include our lay colleagues in mission. This will take some formation/training of them to understand what we mean by that term and how what it is we are including them in. It will also call for a letting go and a trusting on the part of the Sisters to understand that our colleagues in mission are experts in their specific areas and want to see us thrive in whatever way God is calling us. They want to be a part of the unfolding mystery.

The membership was very clear about wanting to be involved in the Futuring conversations. There is an awareness and acceptance that we are coming to completion/fulfillment and that, in itself, is about mission. They desire to be in collaboration with other Dominicans.

They want to embrace new expressions of our mission emerging.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Hope

- We live with Hope! We work collaboratively. We are open to new possibilities for how our resources can seed the future of the charism beyond our lifetime as the Dominican Sisters of Hope (e.g., land justice, etc.)
- The Dominican Sisters of Hope were founded nearly 30 years ago. We embrace our current congregational reality with gratitude for the planning and foresight of those before us. We came into our 2024 General Chapter with the awareness that we are at a significant junction in our congregational life.
- We are very supportive of the OPSCC Association and hopeful that this model invites other Dominican congregations to join.
- We wish for the work of the OPSCC Association to begin as soon as possible.
- While we are not in the position to accept new member, we support the vocational efforts of Congregations that have the capacity to provide the community and ministerial opportunities for younger members in discernment.
- We have a management structure in place that is poised to incrementally assume greater delegated responsibility for management functions previously addressed by congregational leadership. We see this as essential foundation for the mission to continue beyond our congregational lifetime.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Houston

We anticipate that we have one (maybe two) more chapters. We believe that we as Dominicans need to attend to our governance sooner rather than later. Houston Dominicans are a fiercely independent group; stubborn as mules, yet flexible as snakes! Carrying our charism into the future is more important than our congregational survival.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose

- We are beginning work on a master plan that will provide more engagement with sisters as we articulate values and aspirations
- The master plan will look at space utilization and properties and sustainability

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Peace

Although our present realities do not create an immediate urgency for canonical change, our demographics reflect the same concerns that smaller congregations have now, and thus we see in them a glimpse of our own not too distant future. That being said, we want to look toward the future as full collaborators with other members of our Conference. Building on each other's strengths and insights will benefit everyone and we hope all of us, as leaders, can share the best of

Dominican Sisters Conference Process Guide Emerging Movements June 2024

what we have gained by experience and can dream together about what might lead to a future full of hope. We treasure our relationships with other leaders and find that this bond of sisterhood offers great consolation amid loss, and encouragement amid challenging days.

Our hope is that as leaders we will keep the balcony view in mind, resisting the urge to solve local problems that need a local touch.

Our younger members see themselves as members of our congregation as its realities evolve, and at the same time, they are sisters to others in their cohort who share the same dreams and hopes for the future as it will unfold for all of them. Most if not, all do not wish to ‘spin off’ from the Congregation but do wish to forge ahead staying in closer communion with the cohort. This cohort gathers regularly to be part of what we call "Moving Forward in Peace." They participate fully in the Dominican Futuring Cohort Meetings.

Congregation: Racine Dominicans

Our congregation realizes that there will be needed changes in the future and is open to that but want to be informed and be helpful in decision making along the way. We will probably need to have a different governance mode/structure in six years (no later than 2030). Main themes from groups in discussion were to support collaboration, communication and its importance to all congregational members and simplify governance. At the same time be aware of new learnings and share with community.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of San Rafael

As of 2024, we have 51 sisters, including six in the Under 70 Cohort. All of us live and minister in Northern California. We estimate leadership capacity for one or perhaps two more chapters.

At our 2024 General Chapter, we decided to come to grace-filled and vibrant completion. We identified four focus areas including care of the sisters, mission-related divestment of resources, future governance, and cross-generational dialogue about emerging options. We are a member of the DGC.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa

In conversations with our newer members, it became evident that they hold great love and respect for the sisters in their "portal" or home congregation and have no desire to leave their "wisdom figures." They are also clear that their energy is not focused on governance models based on geographic proximity or mixed charisms. Instead, they seek a model that honors the Dominican Charism and Family.

Currently, we have 250 members, with a median age of 86. Given this, we believe we have the capacity and resources for about two more General Chapters, with the ability to elect capable leadership. If we were to adjust our Chapter timelines and reduce the number of elected positions (currently six every five years), we might extend this timeline slightly. However, there appears to be a disconnect among our membership regarding the urgency of addressing governance and collaboration. While they are not resistant to change, they may

not fully grasp how limited our time is to make these decisions. We recognize the tension between acting quickly and ensuring the sisters remain fully involved in the process.

We envision a Dominican Family governance structure that supports both newer members and the continuation of our mission and ministry. While geographic proximity holds some importance, we are exploring how best to structure collaborations that are both locally practical and rooted in the Dominican charism. We acknowledge the distinct cultural and practical needs tied to geography, as well as the challenges many members face with long-distance travel. This balancing act between geographic and charism-based collaboration will be essential as we move forward.

Congregation: Sparkill

- The Sparkill Dominican Congregation has a membership of 183 sisters and 43 Associates. We have not received a new vocation in the US in 30 years. Two USSisters are below the age of 70. Our Pakistan Community is growing slowly and does have sisters in initial formation. Planning with that community for their future is an important piece of work ahead of us. Several Pakistani sisters are participating in a Leadership Program through the DSIC as well as other study opportunities.
- Our members are supportive of the OPSCC collaboration as we move into the future. The five congregations that make up OPSCC also have a high median age but membership will provide more options for shared ministry, shared wisdom, and shared leadership when need.
- Despite declining numbers and an aging population, our sisters stay focused on a ministry for justice. We strive to care for each other without losing an outward focus on the needs of our sisters and brothers locally and globally. The Direction Statement of our most recent Chapter states that we will work to end all impediments to peace. Members who can no longer be active in going out to ministry, continue to be educated and involved through prayer, letter writing, phoning legislators and supporting other groups with like values.

Hope and trust are words used often in answering Worksheet B. As a congregation, we grow in awareness that Sparkill, as we have known it will end and what will emerge is still unknown. We recognize the need to continue to engage in conversations and joint decision making about that reality.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL

As a result of our chapter statement, we are mandated to deepen our collaboration for the growth of Dominican life. We are committed to engaging ourselves in emerging models of governance. We formed an emerging governance working group.

We appreciate the opportunity to maintain our congregational identity even as we more deeply embrace collaborative governance.

3. What else do you want to say to the Visioning/Planning Committee?

Congregation: Adrian Dominican Sisters

- It is critical to continue in the planning process and not to be comfortable with the status quo at this point. There is an urgency requiring action in these next few years.
- Continue to communicate, be open, pave the way for honesty, truth and transparency.
- Allow/Create a place/space to share hopes as well as fears of letting go.

Congregation: Amityville

*The DGC replicates the work of the Association of OPSCC. Why? The work has already been done by OPSCC. Why create more work? Time is of the essence!

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, New York

We hope the Visionary and Planning committee will facilitate a conversation between the OPSCC Association and DGC task forces to explore a US Dominican Association. Some Sisters felt it should move beyond the USA toward Dominicans of the Americas.

Congregation: Sisters of Saint Dominic, Caldwell

We appreciate the work of the FLT in developing possible models for governance structures for the future. Will this lead to “Dominicans USA?”

Congregation: Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids

Our Sisters are fully supportive of collaborating with the various entities and discerning our moving forward “as ONE Dominican Women USA.” This was one group saying this. There is also a desire that whatever we come up with we get to maintain our identities. There is a readiness to expand the pegs of our tent and to risk. “Be faithful and bold!”

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Hope

Thank you for facilitating this important conversation.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Houston

This might be more for the DSC: Please provide the date for the 2025 DSC gathering of the whole ASAP! Could the DSC provide resources to congregations around the grief that sisters are experiencing due to religious life changes? Would it be possible for the DSC executive committee or the DSC staff to take on additional roles/responsibilities as congregations come to fulfillment? At some point, it would be helpful to have the structure of DVM shared/explained to the DSC, so that DSC leaders are aware of the possibilities of using DVM in the future for other sponsored ministries besides our schools.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose

- Conversation on emerging movements
- Where do we want to go as a conference?

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Peace

First, thank you for your willingness to take on this vital and exciting role as Dominican women will move into the future in a new way. Aware that all of you are already fully engaged in ministry, we especially appreciate your generosity and the wisdom and skill you bring to this task.

Second, we encourage you to continue to ask: what is the world asking of us? This is an approach to keeping mission before us in a dynamic way. Looking to the future, we believe that technology can help create an inclusive and broad-based participation in the 2025 Encuentro and hope that you will take advantage of those resources and opportunities.

Finally, we say to you, what our sisters said to us, that we would: “*embrace the future with open hearts and minds, be prudent but not afraid, be open to new ideas and be courageous.*”

Congregation: Racine Dominicans

As we form new groupings, how will congregation size influence decision making to be fair to everybody? What other data can be shared among the Congregations that may help us discern the next steps? How do we engage Community members in decision making along the way, not just at the time of needing a decision?

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of San Rafael

- Being an independently-founded congregation on the West Coast, we are conscious of the impact of our cultural and geographic differences on our inter-congregational participation, communication, and dialogue. Although we have historically participated in inter-congregational initiatives, many of us are not accustomed to thinking of our identity beyond our congregation.
- When we have narrowed down future pathway options, we hope for an in-depth qualitative analysis that would be broadly shared and discussed. For instance, a question was raised as to whether there may be underlying theological differences in our understanding of religious life within and across congregations that may, unbeknownst to us, be shaping our choices regarding collaborative governance. This possibility resulted in an animated discussion about which there was no consensus.
- Based on the Future Pathways Survey, our Leadership and Under 70 Cohort members indicated a preference for Pathway 2, the OPSCC Association Model. Our congregation as a whole indicated a similar leaning and expressed concerns regarding options calling for the creation of new provinces or splitting off the Under 70 Cohort.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa

The recent DSC video for sisters 70 and younger, with its focus on Pathway 5B, was both exciting and daunting. As we move forward, we strongly feel that what may have been lacking in the Mercy Sisters’ union/merger should remain a key priority in our own planning. Specifically, while collaboration that shares resources, offices, and personnel is essential, it must not replace structures that foster a deep sense of belonging, relationship, identity, and purpose. This is critical for all members, both older and newer, and it is vital that this sense of belonging is preserved.

We are involved in many conversations at various governance tables and wonder if there is sufficient energy to sustain participation at all of them. We look forward to the clarity we can collectively create at the upcoming DSC meeting as we navigate these complex decisions together.

Congregation: Sparkill

First and foremost, thank you for your work preparing and disseminating this process. It opened the door to a deeper congregational conversation around this topic. The responses we received were reflective of our commitment to contemplation and action as we encounter the needs around us at this time in our congregation, Church and society.

We request that the committee continue to update and share with congregations:

- not just demographics but how regional movements in the US are evolving.
- the vision and movements evolving from the under 70 cohort. We are grateful for the work already done, envisioning the 10 possible pathways, seeing them as provocative leading us in the end to creative ways of being Dominican.
- the work of DSIC with younger members.

It will be helpful if the excellent groundwork laid in this first process (video and reflection questions) could:

- Provide follow up materials
- Continue to engage leadership and members in an ongoing process fostering
 - deeper reflection,
 - open and transparent dialogue within each congregation,
 - across congregations, regionally, nationally and globally.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL

The topic of greatest concern in the video was the under 70s presentation.

4. What further data would be needed for you to feel more informed as we prepare for the 2024 October Elected Leaders Meeting?

Congregation: Adrian Dominican Sisters

- Continue to send materials and information as it comes forth.
- There is a desire to know who is engaged, wanting to go forward, and at what levels (for instance, collaborative ventures; a new emergence of religious life; other?)

Congregation: Amityville

*More data and discussion on congregations that have sisters outside the US and those that have provinces

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, New York

The latest work of the FLT emerging movements working group.

Congregation: Sisters of Saint Dominic, Caldwell

A Congregational “Snapshot” which could include:

- Number of Professed Sisters
- Median Age
- Women in Formation
- Sisters in Skilled Care Facilities
- Associates
- NRRO Fundedness
- Governance Structure
- Corporate Stances
- Community Offices
- Chapter Directions
- Community Committees
- Sponsored Ministries

Congregation: Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids – no response

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Hope

- Updated demographic data and discussion on the Sisters under 50
- Do we have demographics on Associates under 50?
- How the DSC congregations are nurturing charism carriers

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Houston

What is the take-away in regard to the FLT survey results? In particular, what are the FLT’s response/thoughts in regard to the survey results from the under 70 cohort?

NB: We found answering these questions a bit difficult since the questions on the worksheet that the sisters shared with us were different than these and we were not present at all of the gatherings.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose – no response

The topic of greatest concern in the video was the under 70s presentation.

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Peace

As we prepare for October, we assume that the material *we have already received* related to the work of the Dominican Sisters in Committed Collaboration, the Dominican Governance Collaboration and the Future Pathways Working Group, will inform our conversations at the elected leaders meeting, and we would not expect a critique or exploration of those movements,

especially the governance models under consideration by the Future Pathways group. We do wonder, however, if the leaders of these three movements are expecting conversation with us about their work. What about the expectations the Futuring Cohort might have about the meeting? Could you clarify that for us please?

Recently, you asked us for founded ministry/ sponsored ministry info and we will look forward to receiving that tally.

We are excited about the question you posed in the email invitation to Save the Date: *What will it take to open ourselves to a new and deeper communion that is calling us to co-create resulting in a flourishing Dominican Life and Mission?* And we would pose a further question for consideration in the process: *what might keep us from being open to a new creative flourishing of Dominican Life and Mission?*

Congregation: Racine Dominicans

To hear if the OPSCC hears anything from Rome and have an up to date report from the Futuring Leadership Team and the Dominican Governance Collaborative. Also, what's at stake for congregations whose needs may not be timely met, e.g., what do we stand to lose if we are not prepared? How many are in need of canonical governance only at this time; how many need/will soon need administrative services support?

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of San Rafael

- Information about the positive or negative experiences of Dominican congregations with the creation of new provinces and ease or difficulty with governance
- Identification of potential candidate congregations, if any, for Pathways 7 and 8

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa

At this time, we feel both involved and well-informed. In fact, we may need to slow the stream of information a bit so that our members aren't overwhelmed, as there is a significant amount of material coming from both DSC and LCWR that requires time for reflection. However, this doesn't mean slowing down leadership conversations. We understand the importance of continuing to move forward efficiently and inclusively toward a pathway decision; while also ensuring we engage all members thoughtfully.

We also recognize that each congregation has different concerns and timelines for making decisions—there is no "one-size-fits-all" model that will work for every Dominican congregation. We look forward to further discussions at the upcoming DSC meeting in Columbus.

Congregation: Sparkill

- What is the country of origin of women seeking membership prior to their entrance into a community?
 - The age breakout for the Sisters who have entered in past 10 years.
 - How have congregations provided Formation for the younger Sisters for the last 10
- Dominican Sisters Conference Process Guide Emerging Movements June 2024

- years?
- Women who have entered and left in the past 10 years. Numbers remaining? Numbers left? What is the length of stay for those who ultimately left?
- Number of DSC communities in the next year that are moving toward completion.
- How are communities divesting themselves of property/residences? (Leasing/selling/donating)
- How many members of the DSC are fully funded and the number financially struggling?

Congregation: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL

How did the videos play in them? What were their reactions? Can we track our current cross-congregational collaboration (where ministry and/or community intersect)?



North American Co-Promoter of Justice Report Dominican Sisters Conference Annual Meeting October 2024

How we are “Preachers for a Time Such as These”

The North American Dominican Justice, Peace and Care of Creation (NADJPCC)

The NADJPCC Region has met 4 times since Oct. 2023. This included an in-person meeting June 23-27, 2025. Three issues were the focus for our meetings: immigration, use of single use plastics and the November election.

Immigration: This is an issue we are all working on in various ways...advocacy, education, and direct service.

At our June meeting, we heard from Cardinal Ramazzini, Bishop of Huehuetenango, Guatemala, and Gonzalo Ituarte, Promoter of Justice and Peace for the Mexican Province. They discussed with us the effects of migration south of the border. A striking point the bishop made was if migrants are forced to return to Guatemala (US policy) - it would sink Guatemala's economy.

Single use plastic: The International Dominican Commission of Justice and Peace (IDCJP) called for a common single use plastic action. We recognized that all the congregations have been doing a number of things to address single use plastics. From changing practices at mother houses, educational information to our members, and shareholder resolutions regarding sustainability reports. We also agreed that we would work in our local areas to try and stop the use of plastic bags for groceries, fruits and vegetables.

November 2024 Elections – We felt our involvement in the election season was crucial. Therefore, congregations have been involved in various activities

- Provide educational resources to their members using information from NETWORK, Catholic Climate Covenant, Maryknoll and Pax Christi.
- Get Out the Vote (GOTV) by
 - writing post cards to potential voters in various states
 - planning and participating in registering students at congregation colleges/universities



- Bagging up voter registration information packets for distribution in low-turnout areas.
- Encouraging their members to be multi-issue voters.
- Participating as election judges, workers, watchers and chaplains.
- Providing election workshops and candidate forums to members/associates
- Participating in door-to-door canvassing
- Planning their own prayer services during the election week and/or participation in LCWR's virtual prayer space during the conventions and the week of the national election.

International Dominican Commission on Justice and Peace (IDCJP)

Sept. 23 - 27, 2024

The IDCJP consist of the Regional Justice Promoters from the 5 regions (North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia Pacific, Europe and Africa), as well as a representative from the Laity, Youth and Nuns (was not present).

The theme of the meeting was *Silent Voices*. We were honored to have, Toni Harris, who presented her reflections on the theme. Using Albert Nolan's document "Taking Sides," as her focus, Toni challenged us to consider how are we called to take sides at this time and what silence are we responsible for? Are we truly using the voice available to us?

From the reports given by the regions, the laity and the youth, the silent voices in our regions are: migrants, people effected by climate change, and people effects by all forms of violence, especially women and girls. What underlies all of these issues is the distortion of truth especially through the use of the digital world.

For the year, the IDCJP will address these silent voices and how we as Dominicans can use our voice to speak the truth.

Month of Peace – Advent 2024 - Haiti

The month of Peace 2024 will focus on the country of Haiti. We have 20 Haitian Dominicans working in Haiti (6 friars, 14 sisters). The North American promoters will work with the Dominicans in Haiti to provide resources for the Month of Peace.

There are two webinars that Dominicans are encouraged to attend:

- *Dominican Sisters Reflect on the SDGs* (Sustainability Development Goals) # 3 (Ensure healthy lives), 13 (Combat Climate Change) and 16 (Promote Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), **October 30, 2024 at 8 AM (EST) / 1 PM (Rome time)**. This webinar is sponsored by the DLC and the DSIC.
- Webinar on Haiti, Saturday, Nov. 9, 2025 at 3:00 pm (Rome Time). More details to follow.