



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:

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