Coordinating Council
November 3-6, 2022
Minutes

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Governance Circle Process: Part I

Prior to meeting, members received a summary of the Governance Circles' responses on the values of membership in a Governance Circle. Mark instructed for table discussion on the governance circle experience of the process in three parts: reasons for choosing membership in a Mission Circle or the Wisdom Circle; values emerging around Sisters' participation in governance; and challenges emerging from current governance structures.

Twenty minutes into the discussions, Mark asked each table to focus specifically on three to five values. After another 20 minutes, the table speaker reported to the whole.

Table 1 Relationality, Participation, Trust, Processing differences, Governance facilitates the mission

Table 2 Shared leadership, Long-time relationships, Forum for sharing faith and spirituality, global and community events

Table 3 Realistic expectations on capabilities, Valued place for learning and celebrating life /ministry touchstones.

Table 4 Participative, Mission focused, Distributed leadership, Concensus building, Shared responsibility

A member commented on the difficulty in comparing the Wisdom Circle and Mission Circles as they are two very different experiences.

This completed Part I of the Governance Circle Process. Part II will follow on Saturday.

Friday concluded in the prayer circle. Members refocused with a few relaxed breathes to move away from the business of the day. "Emerging" was the theme. Members were called to hold all the revelations of the day in one's heart while sitting in silence. After the time of quiet, the circle was opened to hear a single revelation each held as notable.

All joined in the prayer of song, singing, "The Seed Song," by Barbara Krawczyk. Lynne Moldenhauer accompanied the singing on guitar. The prayer concluded with a wish to all to experience "joy, joy, joy…" Amen. The day adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Saturday, November 5, 2022

Saturday's session began at 9:00 a.m. with members in the prayer circle. After a few minutes of centering, "Abide" by Carrie Newcomer was played. A reflection was read from, "A Mapmakers Dream," by James Cowen.

Governance Discussion: Part II

Members recalled Friday's discussions of "wonderings" and "imaginings" raised in the summary of governance responses. Mark distributed the values held in common from Friday afternoon's table discussion to consider as hints to the emerging governance.

Relationality Participation Honors the ability of people to participate
Participative governance unrelated to relationships Mission focused
Trust Relationships– new ways to foster apart from governance
Stimulating conversation around global, community and current issues
Faith sharing and building a spirituality within us
Participation in governance Consensus building
Sharing faith and celebrating life Deepening our relationship with God
Simplification of the process Realistic of our capacities Participative
Distributive Leadership Shared responsibility

Several Articles from the "IHM Constitutions" which related to community governance were read aloud (Art. 25, 27, 28, 64 and 85-87). The table discussion engaged to narrow the consensus of values to the three strongest for building a new structure. After about 30 minutes, the tables reported to the whole.

Table 4 (The table speaker expressed struggle/desire to build a structure that does not call for revision yearly. This distracted the conversation away from naming the three strongest values.)

Table 3 (1) Capacity to participate (2) Faith/Spirituality (3) Facilitates the mission
(4) Consensus building

Table 2 (1) Participative not related to relationships (2) Stimulating conversations
(3) Mission focused (4) Faith sharing (5) distributive leadership*

**Note: "distributive leadership" defined as how the participation of all will be accommodated.*

Table 1 (1) Participative governance (2) Shared responsibility (3) Facilitates mission
(4) Rooted in faith, spirituality and Gospel values (5) Relationality
(6) Realistic expectations of capacities

Mark began to record the values held in common among the tables, as indicators of "how the community wishes to govern itself." The groups requested a bit more time for discussion and clarity. Mark agreed.