

FEEDBACK FORM FOR NATIONAL DISCERNMENT OF THE EMERGENCE OF FUTURE RELIGIOUS LIFE

Please provide a summary of small and large group feedback.

1. Following our conversations at the national assembly and our team conversations about where we found ourselves in the CARA report and what it says to us:

What insights and observations were meaningful for us and why?

- We are not alone; we are in this together
- Current collaboration among congregations is starting; but we see an urgent need for this collaboration to increase and grow
- Mixed feeling arose regarding 'global sisterhood' replacing individual charisms
- Leaders are stretched between care of elderly members and attention to newer voices related to emerging future
- Capacity for future leaders of grave concern for some; development of new leaders is a concern for others
- Planning for many concrete areas of life (buildings, eldercare, etc.) can overwhelm and leave little energy for imagining a future
- Smaller and larger groups face differing challenges
- The CARA report information and data about individual congregational demographics needs to be widely shared with Sisters.

What questions and/or concerns were raised for us and why?

- How can newer members be invited into and prepared for leadership positions that **they are open to accept** ~~they assume willingly?~~
- When congregations lack energy and capacity for any form of elected leadership, how can any new structures emerge?
- What forms of collaboration are feasible, as mergers seem impossible, and Covid-19 has made connecting across congregations more difficult? What can congregations do when they are so distant from one another?
- How can we as leaders devoted our limited energy to both the promotion of individual charisms and also the charism of religious life?

2. What implications might this have for organizing for mission in our region?

- Continue the development of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative to create various forms of collaboration, as needed by member groups.
- A wider conversation about the future of religious life needs to involve newer members, associates, and various stakeholders throughout the region. We need assistance in creating that kind of dialogue.
- If we hope to support the future of religious life, can we create actual (long-lasting or short-term) connections among our younger / newer members, in forms such as shared ministry or shared formation or shared support of the education opportunities?
- Collaborating for the care of elders could include sharing skilled care facilities with one another, when possible.
- Region 9 already collaborates in some areas / projects. Can we find additional ways to enhance and extend these collaborations?

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Region # 9 - Wisconsin

Please return to Janette Cahill (jcahill@lcswr.org) at completion of region meeting. Thank you.