

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH
 Chapter 2018-19 Meeting Minutes
 November 11, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1) Prayer	The day began with a prayer at 9:00am on Sunday, November 11 th , 2018. 52 delegates were present.	
2) Mission directional statement	<p>Sisters Mary Drexler and Marianne Stuckert composed the Mission/Ministry directional statement:</p> <p><i>Recognizing the presence of God in one another, we commit ourselves to a spirit of living that embraces active listening, unconditional love and respect, affirmation and acceptance of the dear neighbor.</i></p> <p><i>As a congregation of the great love of God, we will enhance our SSJ mission effectiveness program for our partners in mission while continuing to participate in Federation programs that develop a deeper sense of mission and charism.</i></p>	
3) Clarification Questions on the Mission directional statement	<p>Clarification questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Question: In the second paragraph is the phrase “partners in mission” the same as “partners in ministry”? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Answer: “Partners in mission” was an attempt to include all of the ministries as well as the SSJ board, staff, etc. Including all of those groups would have been too wordy. 2. Question: In the first paragraph with the words “unconditional love” – do we need to have the adjective unconditional? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Answer: We included it because it was on a lot of responses. 3. Question: In the second paragraph it says “Federation programs” – but a program such as <i>Spirits on Fire</i> is not a Federation program. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The word program in this case does not necessarily mean that the program is sponsored by the Federation. Federation was used in order to be sure all programs have the same focus that the Federation would support. 4. Question: Did the responses include the internal education that we have 	

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	<p>created for all of our programs for the dear neighbor?</p> <p>a. Answer: It did come up but it came up more in the comments for critical considerations of leadership.</p> <p>b. Answer: We also chose the word “enhance” versus “improve” so as not to imply anything negative.</p>	
<p>4) Table reports and Leaning on the Mission directional statement</p>	<p>The following concerns/suggestions were provided by each table:</p> <p>#1 - This table was able to agree with statement #1 but not #2 as written.</p> <p>#2 - This table agreed with both statements.</p> <p>#3 - This table agreed with both statements.</p> <p>#4 – This table suggested for statement #1, that the phrase “ministry of presence” would be a stronger statement than “spirit of living”. For statement #2 they felt it needed greater emphasis.</p> <p>#5 - This table agreed with both statements.</p> <p>#6 – This table agreed with statement #1 but for statement #2 they suggested including Spirits on Fire and making it a broader statement.</p> <p>#7 – This table agreed with statement #1 but questioned the word “continuing” in statement #2. They questioned <i>who</i> is continuing – the community or partners in ministry.</p> <p>#8 - This table agreed with statement #1 but felt statement #2 was not clear. They questioned who statement #2 referred to and felt that there were programs other than Federation programs with which people could be involved.</p> <p>After the first leaning it was determined that both statements would not be changed. (32 green cards and 20 red cards)</p> <p>During break one table approached Sister Mary Dacey and provided an alternative statement #2. Sister Mary Dacey shared this revised statement with all of the delegates. A second leaning was held and it was determined that both statements would be kept as-is. (38 green cards and 14 red cards)</p> <p>When the vote was taken for the Mission directional statement there were 50 green cards, 1 yellow card and 1 red card.</p>	<p>The delegates voted to accept the Mission directional statement:</p> <p><i>Recognizing the presence of God in one another, we commit ourselves to a spirit of living that embraces active listening, unconditional love and respect, affirmation and acceptance of the dear neighbor.</i></p> <p><i>As a congregation of the great love of God, we will enhance our SSJ mission effectiveness program for our partners in mission while continuing to participate in Federation programs that develop a deeper sense of mission and charism.</i></p>
<p>5) Leadership consensus statement</p>	<p>Based on the leadership consensus reports Sisters Mary Drexler and Marianne Stuckert also composed the critical considerations for leadership:</p>	

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where possible, for leadership to delegate appropriate duties to qualified personnel within or beyond the congregation. Eg. Financial, properties... 2. In conjunction with #1, that leaders focus more on the pastoral model/role in the exercise of their ministry. 3. That leaders continue to practice open and transparent communication with the membership. 4. Under normal circumstances, that decisions are made within a leader's area of responsibility. 5. That each sister continue to have a contact with one member of leadership. 	
<p>6) Clarification questions and leaning on the Leadership directional statement</p>	<p>Clarification questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Question: Does the term pastoral model refer to the mission or to taking care of ourselves? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Answer: Yes, it refers to the mission. It was a common term used to differentiate from a corporate style of leadership. 2. Question: There is no mention of non-vowed sisters. Would they be included? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Answer: Yes it is stated in a broader sense to include associates and agrégées. That is why they used a little "m" versus a capital "M" in mission. <p>Conversations surrounding these critical considerations for Leadership were postponed until the next Chapter session in February because time ran out.</p>	
<p>7)</p>	<p>Sister Mary Herrmann thanked everyone for their participation and closed the second Chapter weekend at noon.</p>	

Submitted by Jenn Woodard, Recorder