



Governance Committee Newsletter

The phrase "...in our day," taken from our Directional Statement Chapter 2016, reflects the reality that the deepening of our understanding of our Directional Statement always occurs in the context of this time, this place, these resources, and our community as we currently find ourselves.

Committee Information:

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Governance Committee Meeting:

The SCL Governance Committee met at the Mother House on April 6-7, 2018. Carole Shinnick, SSND, facilitated the meeting. Sister Nancy Bauman agreed to serve as co-chair of the Committee. The SCL Officers; Terri Butel, SCL Associate Director; and Nancy Schreck, OSF, Leaven Assembly presenter; joined the Committee's planning regarding their participation in the Assembly.

Tasks of the Governance Committee for this meeting:

- Review the spring 2018 Leaven Group responses.
- Summarize these responses for use at the Leaven Assembly.
- Announce the theme of the Leaven Assembly.
- Plan the Assembly key elements and tone with Sister Carole Shinnick and speaker Sister Nancy Schreck.

Summary of responses from the Leaven Groups:

The Committee surfaced three to five matters most frequently mentioned as responses to the questions following spring Leaven Group meetings. The questions precede each group of summary statements:

1. What do you want the Governance Committee and the Council to hear from your discussion of the responses from the fall 2017 Leaven Groups?

- With whom and how do our collaborative efforts continue and what are the possibilities?

- Where are our collaborative efforts with SCL Associates and the Charity Federation?
- We need to ritualize our past/our history so that we might grieve, let go, and move forward.
- We must work at a greater understanding of the dialogue dimension of our current governance model: When, where, and how can members engage, offer feedback, be consulted?
- We need increased understanding, embracing, and operating with the multiple changes in religious life. How do we invite new members in a time of diminishment?

2. Who are we, SCLs, in our day? Who do we want to be?

- We are Vincentian women living within a 160-year-old community that is experiencing significant change.
- We are collaborative women religious attentive to emerging possibilities for partnership.
- We want to come from a contemplative place leading into a liminal space – aware that we are living the Paschal Mystery.
- We want to be advocates for "the exploited and marginalized."

3. Is there any issue your group would like to raise on this topic in addition to what you have said above?

- It is important that we ritualize our letting go and letting come – i.e., letting go of old mindsets and ways of doing things.
- We should continue education and go deeper in our conversations about religious life in the 21st century.
- We should attend to the evolving expressions of communal living, both now and in the future (alone, large community, etc.), as well as with committed others – married, young people, etc.
- How do we exercise responsible stewardship of resources and property – both now and in the future?
- We would like to encourage more "cross-pollination of ideas" – at Leaven Assembly and among Leaven Groups.

The complete list of Leaven Group responses is included as a separate attachment.

Leaven Assembly – 2018:

- Assembly Dates: July 30-31, 2018
- Assembly Theme: *Affirming our evolving charism...in our day*
- Speaker: Nancy Schreck, OSF
- SCL Associates will meet concurrently and join the SCLs for some dialogue process, liturgy, meals, and socializing.
- Sisters participate in the Leaven Assembly in two ways:
 - **Full Participation** (Sisters who are active members of a Leaven Group): As a full participant, a Sister is actively engaged and able to contribute during the entire meeting. She is present at the general presentations and an active participant in the table dialogue and feedback processes.
 - **Observer Status** (for Sisters in "Leaven Lite" groups, the prayer/support groups, or Sisters who are unable to participate actively in the entire Leaven Assembly process): As an observer, a Sister may attend any general presentation, Assembly liturgies, meals, and socials. She does not participate in table conversations.

Preparation for Assembly:

- Attached is an article by Mark Clarke, "*Envisioning the Future of Religious Life as a Pioneer Community.*" Nancy Schreck, OSF, offers it as background reading for her presentation and process during the Assembly.

Additional Information:

- Sunday, July 29: 2018 Jubilee celebration precedes the Assembly
- Wednesday, August 1: 160th celebration of the founding of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth follows the Assembly
- Reservation Form: Sisters will receive a reservation form that includes housing/ transportation/meals for all events, July 29 - August 1. Each house budgeted \$100 for each Sister attending the Assembly.

Next Meetings:

The Governance Committee will continue meeting through conference calls as needed. A Committee meeting is scheduled with Sister Carole Shinnick on July 29. In its meeting after the Assembly on August 2, the Committee will look ahead to the fall Leaven Groups and the "arc" of the Leaven Group process leading to Assembly 2019.