



PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

PROMISE GROUP UPDATES

OCTOBER 2019

The Convening Group met on Tuesday, October 15 at 8:00 am using ZOOM. All members were present. We discussed the need to communicate effectively with all. This update includes a short report from each group. More information is available on the member website.

PROMISE: We promise to live radical hospitality in all relationships, especially with people made poor, through our commitment to contemplation, service, advocacy, dialogue, communication, and education.

1. Continuing Initiative #3 (Radical Hospitality on behalf of Immigrants), we are committed to research and begin to support in the reunification of children at the borders with their parents using resources from Catholic Charities, ACLU, LCWR, Kino Institute, Ruben Garcia and others at the borders.
2. Continuing Initiative #1 (To learn more about our own racism),
 - a. Mary Lou Mauss and Marilou Irons will attend the “Race in the Heartland” conference, Oct. 18-19, 2019, at Loras College. They will report their learnings at our November meeting.
 - b. To increase our understanding of radical hospitality/racism, all members of the Radical Hospitality Promise Group will read “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” an academic paper by Peggy McIntosh.
 - c. Individuals will view Ted Talks and videos from our resource list and share their learnings at our next meeting.
3. We are personally committed to relationships that are respectful of different racial and ethnic backgrounds and diversity.
4. A resource list related to radical hospitality, racism, diversity, etc. has been compiled. This resource will be edited for KEY INFORMATION to share in concise packages of information with Sisters and Associates.

PROMISE: We promise to practice non-violence of mind and heart, speech and action as we address injustice directly and systematically.

The Nonviolence Promise Group is gathering information and building background knowledge. We hope to sponsor a training in an effort to help us as a Presentation Community to address/interact on issues that can be divisive. Members of our group have attended 2-day trainings giving us insight into possibilities that we might sponsor. Resources include UNI peace office and Clinton Franciscans workshop better angels. Skills to engage and practice listening and dialoguing were advanced.

PROMISE: We promise to form partnerships and utilize resources for the purpose of mission.

GOAL: Within the context of mission sustainability, care of members and legacy, we will study, research, develop and initiate implementation of a phased plan for property and resources of Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa.

Some members of our promise group met with our wisdom group, either face-to-face or by zoom or phone in order share our plans and to thank them for their prayers. During the last two months committee members have been interviewing other religious communities and gathering data on how they created a strategic plan around property and resources. We discussed common threads and wisdom that others offered us. We established two committees that will report at our next meeting. One committee will develop a first draft around communication, and the second committee will develop a list of recommended facilitators/consultants and contact them for possible interviews. Each member of the promise group is asked to view session 3 of Tending the Vineyards <http://www.usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office/tending-the-vineyard/index.cfm> before our November meeting.

PROMISE: We promise to implement governance practices that foster dialogue and communication in decision-making.

A questionnaire on governance practices as related to sisters and associates was sent to 16 congregations (Conference of Presentation Sisters and local congregations.) Seven replies were received. Common threads from the survey responses are being reviewed and reflected upon.

In exploring the focus of our promise, group members will share an image that reflects governance practices as related to sisters and associates. Our goal will be revisited for further clarification.

A draft agenda will be sent to provide an opportunity for group members to make additions.