Model A

Key components of Model A:

- Major offices and services would gradually transition from the provinces/vice province (P/VP) to the congregation on a timeline established by the 2019 Congregational Chapter.
- Religious authority would gradually transition from the P/VPs to congregational leadership on a timeline established by the 2019 Congregational Chapter.
- Current P/VP (transitioning to regional) groupings of sisters would continue, offering input to decisions and providing for ordinary daily living needs for sisters.
- This model would initiate a progressive way from provincial to regional governance toward a new congregational model.

Overview

Model A would be adopted at the 2019 Congregational Chapter. It would begin with a gradual transition of major offices and services from provincial to congregational responsibility over a six-year timeframe, with the hope that all would be accomplished by the 2025 Chapter. The Congregational Leadership Team (CLT) would have the religious authority for all sisters. Ordinarily, as the leadership team of a P/VP concluded its term, religious authority for sisters of that province would transition to the CLT, the province would become a region, and a regional representative would be selected for that area. The regional representative would exercise delegated authority and, with a pastoral team, would be responsible for the life, mission and well-being of the members of a region. Eventually, as all existing P/VP teams conclude their terms, provinces would become regions, regional representatives would be selected, and together the regional representatives would form a consultative body to the CLT.

Over a six-year period, the CLT would gradually assume the responsibility for the major offices and services, which include: congregational vocation/formation programs; finances; properties; justice, peace and integrity of creation (JPIC); communications; archives; missions; policies; and sponsored works. This transition of responsibilities would be gradual, beginning during the tenure of an existing provincial team then moving to being a region.

The CLT would maintain ongoing communication and coordination with provincial then regional representatives and hold regular dialogue sessions with different groups and individuals who have particular expertise or information from which the CLT would benefit. These dialogues might be initiated by the CLT or requested by sisters. Every six years, there would be a General Chapter of the Whole.

The provincial (then regional) representative, with a pastoral team, would coordinate the ordinary affairs of the sisters, such as community living, housing, personal funds, transportation, and health and wellness services. At the same time, the transition from provincial to congregational responsibilities would be carried out according to the timeline established at the 2019 Congregational Chapter.

Each sister would participate in geographic groupings and regional assemblies held on a regular basis. These instances would provide for both relationship-building and exercise of voice.
Common Questions

How would this model facilitate deepening relationships among us?
It would provide the direction for the early phase of planning and progressive implementation of a new governance model throughout the congregation. It would also provide accountability and ongoing communication with the CLT and a new arrangement of services for the sake of the mission, meeting the needs of the sisters, projects and other initiatives.

How would we express our voice in governance?
We would participate through consultation, discernment, and accountability at appropriate levels. We would engage in shared decision-making locally, regionally, and at the Congregational Chapter.

What aspects of our life would be addressed locally (in the area/region/province)?
All the aspects of life currently addressed locally would stay as they are as they gradually transition from a P/VP leadership team to a regional representative with a pastoral team. Over the next six years (2019-2025), responsibility for many of the offices and services would shift to the CLT, according to a timeline established by the 2019 Congregational Chapter.

What aspects of our life would be addressed congregationally?
Over the next six years, on a timeline specified by the 2019 Chapter, the congregation would assume responsibility for all major offices and services, such as congregational vocation/formation programs; finances; properties; justice, peace and integrity of creation (JPIC); communications; archives; missions; policies; and sponsored works.

In this model, how would we understand the role of religious authority?
The major religious authority would start out as it is; then by 2025, it would have transitioned to the CLT assisted by regional representatives who have delegated authority for the implementation of the new governance model. Regional representatives would be an advisory board to the CLT.

With whom would the sisters consult on major life decisions?
For the continuation of local life and ministries, sisters would consult with the regional representatives according to their current policies.

What are the broad strokes of a timeline for this model?
- It would create an evolving way toward a new model for the congregation.
- In this model, the congregation would implement a shift of leadership from provinces to regions and evaluate the outcomes by 2025.
- We would periodically fine-tune offices and services to be flexible and adaptable.

How would ACOF and partners in mission relate to this model?
ACOF and partners in mission would relate to the congregation as they currently do because we value relationships and networking to strengthen our vision and mission.