



Congregational Leadership Group March 2018 Meeting Summary

Members of the CLG were welcomed to Los Angeles by the warm hospitality of everyone at Carondelet Center and by the lovely southern California weather. We spent a few days in this pleasant environment reflecting and discussing some significant aspects of our congregational life.

An important experience on the horizon is the [Congregational Chapter that will occur in St. Louis during July 2019](#).

- The [Chapter Planning Committee](#) has met once. They agreed on a [theme](#) for our 2019 Chapter: Called Together for the Life of the World.
- Cathy Bertrand and Joanne Hanrahan, both School Sisters of Notre Dame, will facilitate the Congregational Chapter. Both were present with the CLG at this meeting and shared their [vision of a chapter](#):
 - A chapter is a spiritual experience; consequently, conversations and decision-making are approached in a contemplative spirit.
 - Before and during the chapter, “big picture conversations” need to occur, turning everyone’s attention to “what matters most.” Big picture conversations require a shift from focus on “I” to focus on “we” and the good of the whole congregation.

A [Congregational Formation Plan](#) has been in the process of development for about two years. Recently the CSSJ Federation published a “Handbook for Initial Formation of Sisters.” The CLG agreed to use this as the basic text for our congregational plan, with some additions and revisions that reflect our congregational documents and language. This will hopefully be ready for review by mid-August 2018 and on the agenda for approval at the September 2018 CLG meeting.

Sisters Jeanne Marie Gocha and Carol Brong, co-directors for the newly established [Congregational Novitiate](#), shared an update. The novitiate will be located in a home owned by the Los Angeles province. Carol and Jeanne Marie provided an outline of the program they have designed, which can be modified based on experience. Participation in the Federation novitiate is a part of the program for Carondelet novices. The first novice was welcomed in late March, and a second candidate will probably move into the novitiate in late summer.



The **JPIC working group** (unit directors of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation) met with CLG to talk about their increasing collaboration through weekly updates, monthly Zoom calls, and annual face-to-face meetings. They have decided to focus on three areas during this year:

- care for creation;
- dismantling racism;
- and promoting peace and non-violence.

CLG expressed gratitude to the JPIC directors for their commitment and good work in this ministry.

CLG unanimously agreed to a suggestion from the treasurers across our congregation, that we participate in **"impact investing"** as a congregation. This phrase refers to making investments in companies with a high degree of corporate responsibility, whose work or product has a positive social effect. The CLG agreed to go forward with this suggestion and will attend to details of implementation after more information is collected. The general consensus of the group was to focus this effort on "care for creation."

CLG asks Sisters and ACOF to **continue to ask God's Spirit to open our hearts, minds, and wills.**