



An integral part of the Coordinating Council agenda in November, was to identify themes, challenges and focus questions on the horizon for the next three years. As we met, we were conscious of the context in which we find ourselves – living towards a post-pandemic world, facing the continuing challenge of racism and white privilege, and our emerging reality as a congregation. We realized that the introduction to our 2018 Chapter Direction continues to ground us:

As an IHM community, we believe the Spirit is inviting us to enter more deeply into the liberating mission of Jesus Christ (Luke 4, IHM Constitutions-Chapter One) as we come to understand it anew through the mystery of the Sacred Universe. Our spirituality and our shared humanity compel us to respond collaboratively with others to the challenges of our beautiful yet fractured world especially through our commitment to social, economic, and ecological justice.

Themes

- Building on our legacy, we remain committed to the liberating mission of Jesus as we live the prophetic call of religious life. In particular, we claim our prophetic call within our Church.
- We are interconnected within our global community.
- We recognize the intersectionalityⁱ of racism, climate change and immigration.
- Our commitment to the common good leads to decisions made in light of the whole.
- There is a movement from “I to We” as we are committed to collaboration and partnerships.
- There is a commitment to the spirituality of letting go and accepting our vulnerability, which will be part of our path to the future.

Challenges

- We are challenged to respond to the societal and global realities of our times, even as we respond to our congregational realities.
- We experience a tension between our contemplative approach and a sense of urgency.
- Recognizing our demographics in the next ten years, we are challenged by our capacity for leadership as we discern how we govern.
- We are challenged to steward our resources from a place of abundance rather than scarcity.

Focus Questions

- How do we move towards personal and communal transformation as we explore systemic racism as the broader context of our global realities that shape our conversations?
- What are we called to risk as we engage in personal and communal transformation?
 - What governance structures will support us as we move to the future?
 - What is enough for us to do considering our emerging reality? What is the adaptive energy we need to move into our future?
 - How do we balance the need to be a “presence” and to be collaborators? With whom do we need to collaborate as we participate in the evolving future of religious life?
 - How will we balance change and transition as we facilitate the work of grief and loss?
 - As we learn the story of our land, how will we steward this gift?

ⁱ Intersectionality: the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage: "through an awareness of intersectionality, we can better acknowledge and ground the differences among us" (Oxford Dictionary)