**Considerations in Discerning Elected Leadership**

**From Our *Evolving Design:***

* **Government:** The purpose of government in the Congregation is to foster our spirit and life and to free us for service in the Church and the world.

Authority in the congregation resides in the community and its members as well as in its elected leaders and General Chapters. Therefore, our form of government, at every level, provides for mutual discernment and shared decision-making and responsibility.

General Chapters, elected leaders and other officers are chosen by the Sisters to govern the Congregation and to maintain it in fidelity to its charism and mission by inspiring the members and calling them to accountability.

The President and members of the Leadership Team have the responsibility and the authority to direct and govern the entire Congregation according to the Constitution and canonical norms. Their leadership is a service to the Congregation and the Church and is exercised in the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

* **Congregational Leadership Team**

In a spirit of inclusivity, unity, and shared leadership, the Congregation Leadership Team (CLT) has responsibility for the overall life, mission, charism, and governance of the Congregation. Team members share responsibility for all areas of Congregational life. The President assumes responsibility for those areas required of her by canon and civil law.

* **Responsibilities**
* Lead the Congregation in visioning in all areas of Congregational life
* Know and be known by Sisters and Associates
* Tend to all items of governance required for the effective functioning of the Congregation including all areas mandated in canon and civil law.
* Continue to support deepening relationship across the Congregation
* Engage in discernment with Sisters as needed
* Continue to initiate and facilitate new opportunities for personal and communal transformation and ministry for the sake of the mission
* Explore new ways of inviting others to live the charism in light of the mission
* Liaison with and guide the work of Congregational staff, CSJ Initiatives, CSJ Ministries, and committees
* Convene annual Assemblies and the General Chapter
* Oversee women in initial formation and Associates
* Facilitate the ongoing growth of Associates in charism and mission
* Mission Sisters and Associates annually
* Plan for transition to the next Congregation Leadership Team

**Some Additional Considerations for Elected Leadership** (not specifically stated in our *Evolving Design)*

* One needs to have the capacity to envision our future as women religious and to lead the Congregation on this transformative journey.
* A congregational leader needs to have sufficient energy and health, the ability to comprehend and hold complex and multifaceted situations and the competence to deal with them.

**From minutes of Chapter 2018**

”On the third day of Chapter 2018, the findings of the preferred number of members on the CLT and the rationales were shared (from the previous day’s discussion). The Chapter Planning Committee recommended the next CLT be comprised of 5 members. Delegates were asked, “Do you support the Evolving Design section CLT, page 20, to say, ‘The General Chapter of 2018 will elect 5 sisters to serve on the Congregational Leadership Team?’” A total of 190 delegates were present and all approved of the change. All were asked to personally make that change in their own copy of the Evolving Design.