



CONVERSATION AND CONSULTATION-PART II, WINTER-SPRING 2023

Convener Guide

Background

During the fall of 2022, more than 135 conversation groups comprising more than 1,250 Jesuits and lay colleagues met in works and Jesuit communities throughout the province to reflect on and share how the Spirit is present in their work today and how the Spirit may be calling their work into the future. In early January, 2023, the Apostolic Planning Steering Committee met for two days to reflect on and learn from the reports submitted by the conversation groups. The Committee identified four Apostolic Directions and two underlying questions that emerged powerfully from these conversations; these are presented in the accompanying document “Apostolic Directions and Questions”

This meeting is an opportunity for members of your organization to reflect on these directions and questions, share their reflections in conversation with one another, and report the fruits of their conversation to the Steering Committee in preparation for the June Apostolic Planning *Conversation and Consultation* at Loyola Marymount University.

Organizing the Meeting(s)

Participants

It is recommended that those who participated in the fall conversation groups be explicitly invited, and that invitations to others who did not participate be extended through either general or specific invitation. Those communities and works that did not participate in the fall are also encouraged to convene meetings.

Structure

The model for the meeting is the (small) “town meeting,” while still employing the fundamental elements of spiritual conversation, specifically: a prayerful, reflective and respectful environment; active listening; and intentional speaking.

Groups of 15 participants or fewer ought to be able to complete the agenda within an hour. Groups larger than 15 will require proportionally more time.

Each conversation group needs a facilitator and a reporter; these are appointed from among the participants.

Meetings should be completed by May 1, with reports submitted no later than May 4, 2023.

Convening the Meeting(s)

After setting up time(s), venue(s) and participant roster(s), at least several days in advance of the meeting(s):

- See that one member of each group is appointed facilitator and provided with the **Facilitator Guide**
- See that one member of each group is appointed as reporter and provided with the **Reporter Guide**
- See that all participants receive the **Participant Guide**, as well as the **packet of supporting materials**.