

Chapter 2016, October 11, 2016, San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville, California

1:00 pm

Present: all except Br. Robert, Joan Verret, Michael Vosler. Joan and Michael took Brother Robert to the Friary because he was ill. Joan and Michael returned before the end of this meeting.

Tom convened the meeting at 1:05. Roberts Rules of Order is out. Bishop Scruton will be the Discernmentarian. Welcomed Ann Mulqueen OFS, Luiz Bazilio TSSF Brazil, Jim Hagen, Hispanic Mission, and Peter Stube. Special thanks to Anton Armbruster for helping with teambuilding activities. Ken brought greetings from other provinces. Change in Agenda to add approval of Standing Committee actions after approval of 2016 Conference call. Agenda approved. Not necessary to approve 2015 conference call minutes. 2016 conference call minutes APPROVED BY CONSENSUS. Standing committee recommended \$3,000 for approval of a new website and a campaign to raise \$5000 for travel for Hispanic Ministry. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS.

Elections and appointments

Bishop Scruton has recommended having a Bishop Protector who actively participates in House of Bishops Meetings. Bishop Scruton declined to participate in the committee, but identified the candidates. The Bishop of New Hampshire declined due to obligations to diocese. A small committee of Masud, Tracey, and Tom interviewed two others by telephone. They are Bishop Santosh Marray of the Diocese of Easton, Maryland, a native of Guyana, and David Rice, Provisional Bishop of San Joaquin, California, formerly bishop of New Zealand where he had extensive contact with TSSF. Masud speaking on behalf of committee says the committee recommends David Rice because of his long history with TSSF. Bishop Scruton will continue through Provincial Convocation in June. It was proposed that Bishop David Rice be affirmed as Bishop Protector Elect until June when he will become Bishop Protector. For background of those new to Chapter, David brought up status of TSSF in ECUSA such as a Court Order that ECUSA must implement rules including face to face interviews with Bishop Protector every 3 years, safe church requirements cannot be met because parts of our province are outside ECUSA. We are included as part of SSF and part of NAEC also. Masud is Secretary of NAEC. Inclusion in Red Book is irregular because we cannot fit the court order, but we are there under the umbrella of SSF.

Bishop Scruton is the first Bishop Protector of TSSF, not the whole SSF. Counselors are expected to meet diocesan training requirements.

Election of David Rice as Bishop Protector Elect AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. **ACTION**

Election of standing committee member. Asked for volunteer. Tracey Carroll to be standing committee member. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. **ACTION**

Naming three representatives to IPTOC which will be focusing on formation. Liz Peacock, Rick, as Provincial Chaplain and Tom as Minister Provincial will attend next September 2017 IPTOPC meeting in England. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. **ACTION**

Verleah's term (for Anita) expires in December. Full term as Provincial Secretary for Verleah AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. **ACTION**

Peter Stube's nomination as Fellowship Coordinator AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. **ACTION** Rick expressed our thanks to Bill Graham. Tom gave Bill a gift book as token of appreciation.

Minister Provincial's Address. Tom's remarks referred to his written report and his response to "Rebuild My Church." Creative thinking of many is focused on institution – formation, Chapter, fellowships. Tom felt this did not reflect Francis or the Principles -- to live vital personal lives in imitation of Christ. Feelings are real, they represent certain issues that are real, but answers are in individual lives of each of us as Tertiaries. He brought to our attention a chart showing the critical difference between seeing TSSF as what or who.

TSSF is seen as a "What"	TSSF is seen as a "Who"
An organization	An organism
With an established structure	Where all parts are essential to the whole
Of those with power and those without	With a shared mission for the good of the whole
That sets apart Chapter as over others	That sees the common good as the goal
Tertiaries see TSSF as outside themselves	The members find themselves to be TSSF
"Truth" is seen as an objective body of facts that the members must believe	"Truth" is grounded in the living Person of Christ, to whom members listen and follow
Stress is on adherence to the body of truths	Stress is on the personal integration of meaning
Faithfulness is seen as adherence to the truths and fulfillment of specified requirements	Faithfulness is seen as adherence to Jesus Christ, Head of the Body
Stress is on preserving a "Franciscan" culture	Stress is on proclaiming the Good News
Cohesion comes through obedience	Cohesion comes through a shared vision
TSSF is over/against the wider society	TSSF is to be a leaven in the wider society

(Adapted from Finding Francis, Following Christ by Michael Crosby)

(Joan Verret and Michael Vosler returned at this point in the proceedings.)

Tom encouraged us to see TSSF as organism, all parts are essential, shared mission, common good as goal, members are TSSF, etc. on chart. Asks prayers for seeing TSSF as a who, an organism so that we become a leaven within the church and more like blessed Francis.

Masud said, “ It is important not to make the rule of life an idol. It is harder to listen to spirit and discern where flexibility is needed. It is really hard. Because there are boundaries, but they should not be harsh.” Francis and Jesus dealt in relationship. Jeff said, “We need to be saying to people that we are engaged in trying to make this transformation possible. People need to know where we stand, that is to ... [include] not bullying.” Masud said “We kind of default to the messiness; we do not deal with the hard stuff.”

Address of Bishop Protector

Each year at Chapter, the Bishop Protector is asked to make a report. Of course, I do not know most of the people and detailed interactions within the Order. What I seek to do in my “report” is to ask questions and make observations that might be helpful to the on-going faithfulness of the Order.

This year, what the Spirit has stirred up in me for you is a question, a kind of Quaker query to be pondered and lived with: Are you being foolish enough?

Paul and Francis both spoke of their call to be fools for Christ. Francis wrote: “My brothers, my sisters, God has called me to walk in the way of humility....The Lord has shown me that he wants me to be a new kind of fool in the world, and God does not want to lead us by any other knowledge than that.” (Regis J. Armstrong, Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, Vol. 2, *The Founder*, New City: 2000, p.132-133.)

How might Jesus and Francis be inviting you personally, you as Chapter and the whole Order to be more foolish in the context of our current world situation? The Marks of the Third Order are: Love, Joy and Humility. What might foolish love, foolish joy and foolish humility look like today in your life, in the life of the Order?

Let’s begin with foolish love. What would that look like? Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, including loving our enemies. It is not “normal” in contemporary society for us to love our enemies. And there is a cost to this kind of foolish love. Francis foolishly walked to meet the Muslim Sultan in the Holy Land in an attempt to both love the Sultan, who was the target enemy of the Crusades, and to bring an end to the disastrous Crusader wars. His foolish love did not bring an end to the Crusades. And, upon returning to Italy, Francis discovered that others had taken over the Order and he was no longer the beloved leader of the Franciscans. Loving enemies can be both foolish and costly.

I was first challenged to take seriously Christ’s foolish call to love our enemies by a Ugandan, Bishop Festo Kivingere. In 1971 Idi Amin led a coup and become the dictator of Uganda. Amin's rule was characterized by human rights abuses, political repression, ethnic persecution, arbitrary mass killings, nepotism, corruption and gross economic mismanagement. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed as a result of his regime, including many Anglicans and the Anglican Archbishop of Uganda, Jannani Luum. Early one morning, Bishop Festo heard a knock on his door. A man told him, “Amin’s men will be coming to kill you in one hour. You have to get away immediately if you want to live.” So Festo and his wife left immediately, on foot and walked through the jungle to get out of Uganda. Eventually Festo escaped to England. On Good Friday, he was praying in St. Paul’s Cathedral, London and he was deeply convicted that, to be a faithful follower of Jesus, he had to love Idi Amin, the horrific enemy who

had killed so many friends and parishioners of Festo and the enemy who tried to kill him. So Bishop Festo wrote a book titled: **I Love Idi Amin**. That is foolish love.

You may remember the tragic murder of the Amish schoolgirls in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania in 2006. After the shooting, that same day, some of the Amish men visited the shooter's widow and offered their forgiveness and desire to support the shooter's wife and children. The next day, mothers of the girls who had been killed visited the shooter's widow to express their forgiveness and desire to support the widow and her family. That is foolish love and forgiveness, yet the kind of forgiving love Jesus and Francis call us to demonstrate toward our enemies.

Who are the enemies God is inviting you to love and forgive? Leaders and soldiers of ISIS? Donald Trump and his followers? Hillary Clinton and her followers? Who are the people in your parish, your family, this Order, the world who are the most difficult for you to love? Perhaps it is easier to begin to love our enemies if we see or imagine pictures of them when they were children. Jesus and Francis are inviting us to be more foolish in the quality of our love for all people.

What might foolish joy look like? We live in a society burdened down by depression, anger, grief, rage, exhaustion, preoccupation with too many responsibilities and possibilities. Where do we find joy? Often young children model joy for us, even in the midst of messes. We will not experience deep love and joy without first embracing forgiveness and gratitude. Forgiveness frees us from bondage to the past and gratitude opens our eyes to the gift of the present. Look at pictures of the barren landscapes of other planets. Then look at the lush foliage surrounding us on much of this planet. If we are too busy, too preoccupied with our thoughts and fears, we may miss the joy, the beauty, the wonder and delight of the creation that surrounds us. Paying attention to God's creation, as Francis did, can open us up to joy every day. Have you ever noticed that the poor, in our country and around the world, often find more joy in the little things of a day than the frantically busy middle and upper classes of our country? Joy comes when we know in the depths of our being that we and all people are beloved by God, that God is with us always, in all circumstances, leading us forward, opening up new life on the other side of our deaths and losses. Francis found true joy when he was refused food, criticized, attacked and thrown out of a town, because then he knew he had to depend more completely on God. Foolish joy.

What might foolish humility look like? We live in a culture of arrogance, entitlement and outrage. What if we dared to say to our self-confident neighbors, "I'm amazed that you are so confident that you know the solutions to our problems as a nation and a world. As I look at the complexity and enormity of the problems we face today, I don't think anyone on the planet really knows how to solve all our interconnected problems. I know I don't know all the answers." Addicts don't begin recovery until they have the humility to say, "My life is unmanageable." When we have enough foolish humility to be genuinely interested in learning from each other, we will invest time and attention to really listen to others. Then humility produces the fruit of love and joyful gratitude.

How can we grow in foolish love, joy and humility? We can begin each day by asking God to help us find ways to be more foolish in our love, joy and humility during the coming day. At the end of the day we

can ask Jesus to help us reflect back over the day asking, where did I see myself and others practicing foolish love, joy and humility today? When did I miss opportunities to practice foolish love, joy and humility today? Lord Jesus, help me to be more foolish in my following of you tomorrow.

May God make us all more foolish followers of Jesus and Francis this coming year. +GPS

Responses included that we heard that this is against push to conform in church. It's a Franciscan twist on world. We must admit struggle, that we haven't got it all together. It is empowering as Franciscans to admit we don't have the answer. Alabama fellowship is named God's Joyful Fools. Those who are humble are not threatening.

Break at 2:30

Reconvene at 2:45

Tom reopened standing committee orders, for approval of funds for Diane and Frank Jones to attend the Consultation on Neo-Monastic Orders in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Expenditure for Diane and Frank to go to the Consultation on Neo-monastic orders in the Anglican Church of Canada AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. **ACTION**

Tom is wearing MP's TSF original profession cross.

Minister General's Address

Ken referred to the similarities and ethos of TSSF in other parts of the world. Among the differences is that in the UK they are very procedurally oriented. All five provinces are doing well spiritually and financially. The things that come up are big although not nearly as much time required of him as Minister General. It is helpful sometimes for outsider to step in and give view. IPTOC is two weeks long. They only have three hours of work a day and then they all have tea. Formation is the focus of IPTOC this year. Ongoing formation of the professed will be an issue. How one's rule is lived out is important. Third Order globally has been doing same thing for years. Declining numbers of First Order is affecting inquiries, etc. Within Anglican Communion it is incumbent on the Third Order to be pillar for Franciscan spirituality. First Order efforts are localized, not traveling.

The evolving areas, e.g. Brazil, Papua New Guinea, The Solomons, and rest of European province outside England, are growth areas. Biggest growth areas for the Roman Catholic Order of Franciscan Seculars are Latin America and Eastern Europe. TSSF in Australia and New Zealand will soon be outnumbered by other areas of Asia. These are frequently verbal cultures, not literary. Much of MG's role is imputed. Ken wants to get people thinking about moving forward. The Minister General is historically one of Ministers Provincial. Traditionally MG who is elected resigns as MP where he is which is disruptive to his or her province. Therefore they will now include in pool person who is no longer MP who was at last minister's meeting.

Question re report, par. 4, on declining membership. Numbers in Africa still larger than in Brazil. Question regarding Archbishop of Canterbury Welby's call for restoring Holy Orders generally. In Africa there is a history of OSF. Most TSSF in Africa are in South Africa. There are race issues in S. Africa regarding power, but Tertiaries are mixed. Sexual orientation is an issue in Africa. Anglican Church in Africa has centralized financial and administrative organization. TSSF members will walk for two days to get to fellowship meetings. We need a prayer presence (subsidiarity to quote Emmett Jarrett) to be out there. Ken's license plate KEN TSSF. Australia wants to be lower case, humble.

There is an opportunity to carry a wave of Franciscan spirituality., a spark of Spirit, Francis. When a religious movement becomes institutionalized it lowers itself to level of institution it intended to renew. TSSF has an opportunity to be next wave of spirituality. What used to draw people to Third Order was OSF retreats and missions. Is that an opportunity for TSSF? Start on regional or local level. Rick mentioned the Long Island Fellowship's relationship with Bill Staines, the folksinger, and people who come to Islip to hear him. David says since the closing of Little Portion he hears frequent requests for low cost one-day retreats, including silent retreats. The stress is on proclaiming the Good News. It's about Jesus.

Anne Mulqueen reported on her Secular Franciscan Order. There are 350,000 professed worldwide. They have youth in 71 countries, but do not know the number of youth. They have a presence in 116 countries. There are now 12,022 professed members in USA. They have lost 6000 since 9 years ago due to age and death. In the USA there are 30 regions with 606 fraternities, 2 youth groups, 467 spiritual assistants. They are now autonomous, no longer under First Order. They are autonomous within the Franciscan family, have their own president, etc. They conducted a survey and were told there is need for more vocations and visibility, improved fraternal life, spiritual assistance (charism, Franciscan family and church), formation and communication Two-thirds of professed member are age 56 to 75. Twenty-one percent 76 or older. Possible projects are produce videos or other promotions, to make better use of technology, have more international gatherings, more hands-on working with the poor, a disaster relief program supported by both donations and volunteers, and a retirement community for secular Franciscans for those who could not afford other places. "We more closely resemble a movement than an order." As countries become more affluent, the numbers of youth go down.

Michael Vosler's – OEF Report follows:

To experience ourselves as ecumenical order is marvelous but difficult. The divisions among low and high church and the mainline in between and to being open to the difference is an ongoing challenge. Unity in Christ has to be assumed and acted out. Decision-making discernment has taught them to be more prayerful and silent. It slows the process down and that is not a bad thing. The whole contribution of the Quaker element to discussion about discernment has been helpful and they have adopted part of that process – deep listening. There is value to not feeling like you have to carry your contribution with a passion that will overwhelm other passions in the room. They have profound appreciation of something new that feels right at last two chapters. They have switched to Council rather than Minister General polity. The Council has permission to grow to seven, but is now at five. Just began within the past month. Council has pastoral care of Order as a whole. They current have three people doing Formation tasks. One answers inquiries. One is doing novice care and one who oversees international OEF. They have become more aware of necessity of paying attention to finances. The 47 professed are in scattered fellowships. How does scattered Order cohere? They now have a 90-year-old in Order, but age span is a healthy span from young to old. OEF has cultural and racial diversity and sexual commitments diversity.

Joan reported that they took Robert home and he is much relieved at be there. Robert is feeling better. He will see the doctor tomorrow. Clark and Jude are about to go to Australia.

Luiz Bazilio – Brazil

TSSF went to Brazil to work with Anglican Church 12 years ago, many novices in the beginning. There was a schism in Brazilian Anglican church 6 or 7 years ago. Two important cities, Sao Paulo and Recife, were in bad condition. That affected work in Brazil.

Luiz met David Catron and Barbara Baumgarten 7 or 8 years ago. They lived in part of a train station. The government put them out. They organized retreats. Brazil TSSF insisted that they remain to help organize Brazil. Every year there is a big retreat plus Chapter to reunify people who had lost contact. There were 35 at last retreat. People are very enthusiastic about what TSSF can do to help church in Brazil. They are alive praying, with fervor to build a Franciscan Church. The bureaucracy is in place. statutes, etc. We have a good Bishop Protector. Next year we will think about how to be more effective following Jesus and spreading Jesus to other people. Luiz is now worried since David and Barbara may stay in California for longer periods of time. They gave so much energy that the Brazilians are worried. They are looking for Franciscan missionaries to come to the house they have in Rio. They want to be part of the Province, but not independent. USA can learn foolishness from Brazil. They need more missionaries in Brazil and service to poor.

Tom was hosted by Dom Celso and his wife in their apartment near Copa Cabana beach. The 35 people who gathered were enthusiastic. We will be bringing through committee the statutes for Brazil and thinking about short-term mission teams.

Adjourned for 5:00 Eucharist

Chapter 2016 October 12, 1 pm All present

Report of Associates Committee made up of Sr. Jean, Bill Graham, Bishop Scruton

Report from Ad Hoc committee set up a year ago to look at Associates program and come back to us with recommendations.

Background – Charge included issue of how to appeal to young people, but committee had to focus on Associates so that issue was not addressed. The feeling is that young people may want more rigor. They may want to find an experimental community. Question of young people is passed back to Chapter. Jos. Wolyniak, TSSF, is the new chaplain at Princeton. He will have some conversations with Minister Provincial on this issue when he gets settled. Luiz also has similar concerns about Anglican church in Brazil. He has the vision that Francis is a key to working with young people – environmental concerns and Francis the person. Another question is living a simple life. So we have things to offer young people. Luiz says young people want challenges – give them impossible challenge, e.g. go to middle of Amazonia and work for poor people or go to Cuba. Luiz sees this as the way to get young people to help build the next generation of the Church.

Bill talked about a survey they did of the Associates. There was good input on questions from OSF and TSSF. Brother Robert is to work with Sister Jean. Lynn Herne was brought on board to help. The survey was sent to people who had been Associates such as Cathy Reynolds and Yvonne Hook, a former Associates Secretary. The survey got 36 responses which yielded 19 pages of results. The written report of the committee has results. The Associates want more communication. They want to know about fellowship meetings and retreats. They want continuing spiritual formation. They want contact from Fellowship conveners, friars, and sisters. Age and isolation is an issue with some Associates. Many are elderly or retired. As to the Companions or Associates label, there was a slight preference for changing to Companions. The change would require action by all three Chapters. Sister Jean requests response from the three Chapters. The committee recommends changing name to Companions of the Society of St. Francis. Currently they think they are becoming associates of TSSF. This needs to be clear. Does our website confuse them? Companions is more like the early companions of Francis. The committee asks the three orders to recommit to continuing ministry of inviting people to be Associates. The committee recommends permanent liaisons to Associates from the three orders as part of a permanent Advisory

Committee to Associates. There were gaps when last Secretary died so there was a need of structure to help Sister Jean with communication. We do not have any information from Brother Derek's computer. We have names, but no idea when and if people actually became Associates. The Committee asks for report of responses of each Order's Chapter.

A summary of the survey and responses of Chapters was sent to Associates. The Associates Secretary will develop the Advisory team and the Secretary will report back to Chapter next year. As far as Sr. Jean can tell right now we have 100 exactly who are active. Fellowships can encourage the idea that is another way to be a Franciscan.

Procedure for becoming an Associate is

1. Contact Sister Jean. She sends brochure with invitation to SSF and invitation to write rule of life. Derek had written ideas for those who had never written rule of life before. Jean sends a welcome letter.
2. They send her copy of rule of life and a letter from someone who knows them well.
3. Sister Jean sends out the admission form which includes ideas for the service of admission which is to be included in a church worship service.
4. The signed form is returned. Jean sends out lapel pin and two booklets -- Franciscan Saints by Brother Justus and An Associates Office from Caribbean. Sister Jean compiles an intercession list and sends it out for their daily use. Sister Jean may need another year to revamp materials using inclusive language. Sister Pamela revised brochure so it is more orderly. Inclusive language needs to be used in materials. Sister Jean is not computer savvy. A volunteer Episcopal priest helps her. She also says we need for the websites of the three orders to say the same thing about Associates/Companions and it needs to be inviting. Tracey says the three websites need to look similar.

There is a blog of Br. Toby on the Associates web page. Nobody knows who he is.

Responses by Chapter requested by ad hoc committee are as follows:

1. **Change name from Associates to Companions of the Society of St. Francis.** Sr. Jean has already talked to Associates in her letters about name change. Sister Jean talking about an extraordinary Chapter to do it for OSF and CSF. Ken says in other provinces the Companions are only associated with OSF. **Proposal to change name to Companions APPROVED BY CONSENSUS**
2. Our website needs to be clear about including all 3 orders. Ask that we include Associates as part of Franciscan family on websites, social media, in timely manner. We need to change from "Joining our order," to "Our Franciscan Family". **AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS**
Have Communications Task Force see what we can do on website and Facebook page. ACTION
3. We recommit to continuing the intentional ministry of inviting new people to consider exploring the Associates/Companions as an aid to continuing growth in the way of Christ is expressed by Francis and Clare. Include Associates brochure in Inquirers Secretary mailing, a piece in Franciscan Times to ask all of us to invite others to be Associates/Companions. They want to hear about convocations, etc. They want us to be more intentional about including them, not just sending people to Associates if they don't make it through formation as TSSF. We recommended inviting them to do things on Fellowship level. We would like a list of Associates. **Committee recommends a commitment to invite new people to consider Associates/Companions. One way is to include them in fellowship meetings and regional convocations. There must be an intentional effort to promote Associates/Companions. AGREED TO BY CONSENSUS. ACTION**

[Provincial Secretary was provided a copy of the Associates membership directory.]

4. Liaison to Associates – Gary Ost. AGREED TO BY CONSENSUS

Regarding Dropbox account to distribute reports, etc. It is not the place for directory; it would require greater security, individual passwords for each member. Rick and Verleah to talk about Dropbox account. **ACTION**

Adjourn for committees to go back to work.

October 12, 7:00 pm

At the request of the Brazil Regional Chapter, the Provincial Chapter ratified decisions taken at the Brazil Regional Chapter in September 2016.

Chapter 2016 – October 13, San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville, California
All present

9 am

Bishop Scruton will lead song/prayer breaks every half hour.

Report from Minister Provincial SSF received

Officially received all committee reports previously submitted.

Liz spoke about latest version of Forming the Life. Beginning each chapter with a story about Francis. The revision is intended to be more useful for people in formation. There are reflection questions at end of each chapter and a summary of formation process. AFD's have worked particularly hard on this. It will be used provisionally; meanwhile it will be taken to IPTOC and shared with brothers and sisters from other provinces. If there are no major changes in formation after IPTOC we will distribute it. There's a question of printing. Should we offer it electronically, put it on Kindle? Some will need a print copy.

Administration report –

1. Ratification of Brazil Regional Statutes (previously distributed). **AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS**

ACTION

Amendment to Statute I.A.6. as follows:

6. The Chapter shall consist of the Minister Provincial, the Chaplain, the Formation Director, the Secretary, the Bursar, and the Fellowship Coordinator, ex officio; **the representative elected by the Brazil Regional Chapter**; and 7 elected brothers and sisters of the Order. Etc. **AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION**

2. The Norms to be amended as follows: under CHAPTER – The Regional ~~Minister~~ **Chaplain** of Brazil **or the elected Representative to Provincial Chapter** shall be part of all phone conferences . . .

Under FORMATION: In anticipation of professions in Brazil, ~~the Brazilian Regional Chapter/Minister~~ **Regional Chaplain of Brazil or the elected Representative to Provincial Chapter** shall provide biographical information . . . The Regional ~~Minister of Brazil~~ **Chaplain of Brazil or the elected Representative to Provincial Chapter** of Brazil shall be a part . . .

AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION

3. Amendment to Statute III.C.10 as follows:

III C 10. A request for admission to the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis from someone who was professed in **any religious community in communion with the See of Canterbury** ~~Christian religious community~~ and dispensed from this vow shall be referred to the Chaplain, who will determine, **in consultation with the Formation Director**, a period of formation of not fewer than twelve months, appropriate to the applicant's situation. Upon approval of Chapter, the candidate may be professed in the Third Order.

Amendment to add paragraph 11 as follows:

11. A request for admission to the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis from someone who was professed in any Christian religious community outside of the Anglican Communion and dispensed from this vow shall be referred to the Chaplain, who will determine, in consultation with the Formation Director and the Bishop Protector, a period of formation of not fewer than twelve months, appropriate to the applicant's situation. Upon approval of Chapter, the candidate maybe professed in the Third Order.

AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS with correction to replace less with fewer. ACTION

4. Chapter 2018. Due to demographics of Chapter the East coast corridor, such as the Philadelphia area is desirable to save travel costs. Masud suggested Franciscan Retreat House in Aston, Pa. Exact costs will come in next year. Would probably be 65% of what we had to pay San Damiano Retreat Center. CONSENSUS to pursue this with the Retreat House and for the bursar to make arrangements for the dates October 8 to 12, 2018 ACTION

Report on Fellowship and Ongoing Formation Committee

Carol Tookey raised need for ongoing formation of the professed. She suggested inviting professed members to prepare essay/reflections. Bill Graham will respond by phone. ACTION

Convocations – Peter will respond to David Burgdorf ACTION

It was proposed that Chapter enter into a process to invite every member of the Order to become contributing member of a Fellowship or, if not, be in communication with at least one other member of the Order. It was proposed that Peter Stube's proposal for Fellowships be a working document to begin a missional model for Fellowships. The mission group model focuses on the ministry we exercise personally and corporately. It includes the preparation of five year plans to facilitate the ongoing conversation for this missional proposal to evolve. It was also proposed to prepare an enhanced study which reflects the mission of the order and for conversation with mothers and father to offer reflections for discussion. It was proposed to prepare liturgies for various levels of gathering.

Implementation plan – Minister Provincial will communicate the new model to all members. This will be a one page summary of Peter's plan. ACTION The Fellowship Coordinator will contact conveners to get responses and take ownership of the model. ACTION Chapter will recommend the themes of the topics to be presented for conversation. ACTION Virtual Fellowships will be re-evaluated and extended to establish limits on numbers. There are now three virtual fellowships based on technology of choice of members. One is a Google

hangout which meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 5pm Eastern. This group has 3 or 4 members

Second group is a Secret Facebook group (must be invited in by Tracey). There are probably 15 members, but some do not participate.

3rd is through listserv "Wiggio." This group is primarily for members who only do email. It has 9 people. They began doing formation letters together. People do not always respond to each other, but Tracey is encouraging this. It's a work in progress.

Only the first one meets in real time on Google Hangouts.

Peter encourages monthly letter or phone call to people who are not part of one of groups. Training for conveners is needed. Peter is willing to do a workshop at 2017 Provincial Convocation. **ACTION**

Questions: Who will develop the 5-year plan? Peter, Jotie, Phil, Tracey. This group can expand to include others. Virtual fellowships brought in 35 or 40 people who were not otherwise involved in fellowships. Peter's proposal is that people need regular contact with other Franciscans. Jotie says he is more isolated as professed than as a novice. We need to work with conveners of groups dominated by unresolved psychological issues. We need prayer to enhance the ministry we do vocationally. Groups should deal with psychological issues as they arise so they don't interfere with mission. We want to enhance mission either individually or as fellowships. We want to fortify us in prayer so we can do service. We do need to take care of people who are needy. If we have missional fellowships, is the pastoral role the fellowship convener's role or is it the chaplain's? Fellowship meetings include worship and touching base.

Perhaps one person can talk about his/her mission each month, but invite the Spirit to help that individual go forward. Some fellowships are also doing mission projects together. To avoid becoming insular, invite others to come several times a year. Most missional issues are processed over and over at different levels. Fellowships should have sort of discipline we have in formation. David says all the visionary things are about content, not context. There are about 43 fellowships. Some meet 2 or 3 times a year, some have meetings 3 or 4 times a year, in New England meetings are too far apart for many to get to all meetings.

This is a recommendation, not required. The 5-year time period allows fellowships to participate as they feel moved. The intention is to invite conveners to have good conversations, to get involved. It will provide a pattern for fellowships to make their own suit. Every mission has a founding vision and values that have shaped it. We must find way to remind the faithful of the values. We should ask the mothers and fathers of our Order to write a one page summary of values and ask the membership to respond. We need to pay the same attention in fellowships to the spiritual and to discipline as we do in formation. Encourage members to continue their spiritual journey. Fellowships need to be intentional. We need to attend to the life of a fellowship as we do to formation. Inward journey requires community. Bishop Scruton says, referring to rebuild my church, "Fellowship sometimes is not koinonia, but coffee group conversation." To move to missional purpose could be rebuilding or clarifying that community is essential for us to grow. Maybe we just need to listen to responses for first year. Go back to roots so we can live more deeply. Do we envision launch at Provincial Convocation Centennial? Peter understands he is to spend the first year reaching conveners and having a workshop at Provincial Convocation. This is reorientation back to basics. Should we do teaching videos?

Tracey suggests that we should have our own UTube channel to put formation materials, etc. Jotie would like the mothers and father's statements on UTube or audio. David says we need a revival. Bishop Scruton has one word to add, "We are revisioning the church, not just order." The Church is losing buildings; there are more isolated Christians. This model is transferrable. It could help sustain Baptismal covenant in the whole life and encourage people to see community as more than a building.

Tom asked Chapter to affirm what the committee brought to us. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS
To establish a Task Force on Missional Fellowships beginning with group that brought proposal to us. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS ACTION

Jotie – This should impact Provincial Convocation. It needs to impact everybody there. Peter to talk with Beverly about this. ACTION Peter says the small group experience needs to be mission groups. Rick doesn't like the term 5-year plan. He says small meetings don't just have to be talk, can include music and praise. Stories are important.

Phil to establish TSSF U-Tube Channel and not all in English. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION
Luiz will help to provide materials from Brazil. Should also have Spanish. ACTION

10:30 break until 10:45

Administration Committee – 2017 election of minister provincial. The procedure in the Statutes leads up to Chapter meeting in October. Since Chapter in 2017 will meet in June, it is recommended to leave the statutory schedule in place and then in October have the vote by email as provided in statutes. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION

Formation Director is an appointment that can be confirmed in June.

Pastoral and Chaplaincy Issues

Release of vows, Joseph Murdy a Lutheran wants to be released from vows to join the Order of Lutheran Franciscans. RELEASE AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION

Walter Szymanski, Pittsburgh, in retirement does not want to be bound by vows. RELEASE AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION The Secretary is to thank each for time in TSSF and wish them God's blessings on their new journey.

Recommendation for profession, Michael Barbare. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION Rick and Liz to notify him of approval.

Alisa Cornell of NZ recommended by Minister Provincial, the former chaplain, for transfer. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION

Deborah Dusuid-May from South Africa no **recommendation** at this time. Waiting to hear from South Africa. Decision to wait AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION

Daily Office. Requests received asking us to drop Daily Office from our requirements. It is recommended that we retain that practice but with training on various ways of doing it. We will produce short teaching tool on Daily Office. Also there should be a workshop at Provincial Convocation on how to keep the Daily Office fresh. There was a question about Shane Claiborn's Common Prayer for Ordinary Radicals also online, but not on list of approved offices.

Rick will look at it and report to next Chapter. REAFFIRM that Daily Office is what we ask people to do daily by CONSENSUS. Look at alternatives for Chaplain and Pastoral Committee to review and bring to us next Chapter. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION

Decisions to deny or delay entry into formation process be done with consultation with Provincial Chaplain. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION

Formation team – Liz, Rick, Tom, and Bishop Gordon met before Chapter began, have thought through a process. Liz will try to involve the local fellowship more in decision making 1) because of the living the life issue and 2) for organizational reasons. She will bring this issue back to next Chapter after trying it out. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS. ACTION Tom will be in touch with individuals or fellowships that raised the issue.

Adjourned until afternoon.

Chapter 2016 – October 13, San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville, California

All present

1:05 pm

Joan opened in prayer.

Spanish Ministry Report by Jim Hagen

Jim is an Anglo who is the Hispanic coordinator. He has assumed he would not be doing it forever, so he's documenting everything and setting up Google accounts so his successor can pick up from him. Jim saw his goal as introducing the Order to new places. Every country is different and each church is, too. He first went to Guatemala and El Salvador. Guatemala's population is indigenous; El Salvador is different. El Salvador is under siege (only behind Honduras for violence.) It is not unusual to have 30 people killed per day. Young people have left communities to go to the U.S. and other places. Armed gang members walk down the street and you step aside. It was clear that bishops needed to be contacted first. Bishops were very enthusiastic. Bishop of El Salvador is looking for spiritual support for himself and for his clergy. It's a very fragile church living under difficult circumstances.

Jim went to Puerto Rico twice and had long conversations about expanding the work. The Dominican Republic was great on hospitality; Jim met with the bishop. Bishop Protector Gordon Scruton helped with letters of reference. The Bishop Coadjutor there was appointed to do some work.

Anita went to Cuba and met with Raciél Prat. The Bishop of Cuba is very interested in the Order and wanted two elderly men to be received.

In Panama contact is mostly by Facebook. Mexico and Ecuador both have interest. The responses varied, but they were positive. Former First Order Roman Catholics tended to step forward. They are very interested. They want to talk about Jesus and Francis. They have had strong formation. Jim says, "They know more than I ever will." They have been looking for way to express the Franciscan charism after leaving the Roman Church. The Episcopal Church in Spanish countries works with the poor. Liberation theology is already there. People are waiting for us to take the next step. Some parts of process have the effect of distancing – e.g. geography. One of major issues is that some of these people are extremely busy. Priests are in charge of schools as well as several parishes. Some of the document requirements such as biography, etc. can be tough. The situation in Puerto Rico is a good example of the challenges. The clergy there tend to be militant; they have an independista feeling. They raised

questions about the relationship between the North American-dominated Order and a different culture. There are North-South issues in addition to great differences between countries. Much of our methodology comes out of North American culture.

Jim is optimistic because of the response. The situation calls for adjustments on how we do things in early stages as well as formation. Jim expects limited response. Electronic communication is not always available. Jim calls for something more local, designed by local people. What does it mean to be an international order? We need to explore how life of the Hispanic world fits into revitalization of TSSF? Jim formed an international team to share common concerns, give sense of identity, work on individual contacts, and to serve as regional leaders. This group does not meet but there are representatives from Cuba, Guatemala, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. Jeff asked about the issue of indigenous people and global focus. Jim says Guatemala is the only country with substantial group for whom Spanish is not first language. There is colonial baggage with us in Puerto Rico in particular and the worsening economic situation in Puerto Rico is another concern. Phil asked whether there is any way TSSF could be more supportive of people of Puerto Rico. They are busy people. Would Associates program be helpful for them? Jim says many of these people have ties to U.S., but others are sensitive to colonial aspects of reporting to US. The main message will be governed by how we design the next steps. Luiz Sirtoli says Brazil has had much experience in El Salvador. Brazil is committed to reaching out and inviting them to their annual retreat, etc. Many Brazilians speak Spanish. Tom said, "We will have to look at each individual country. "Jim says they do want to be part of TSSF, an international presence, but wants some autonomy in each country especially in the formation process. There are logistical issues of formation where there are no professed Third Order people in the country. Jim believes former Roman Catholic First Order people are going to be key in the second step. It was noted that reporting and formation in Papua New Guinea and the Solomons is very different because each is a verbal culture.

Tom said that over a period of a few months, Liz, Rick, and I have discussed this issue of formation. He passed out a proposal for Special Formation Director for Latin America, Barbara d. Bennett, under direction of the Provincial Chaplain. The question was raised about Peter's program, should we use the word mission? Bishop Gordon said it refers to God's mission. Peter tries to redeem language by being specific about what he means, with humility, referring to what Wycliffe Bible translators call heart language. It is about relationships not doing things. Jeff says the word mission lends itself to whatness, not who.

We're going into places where the church is established. Jim's role is to identify leaders. Barbara's role is to help us to understand the process of formation.

The goal is for the formation process to be designed locally, not by Barbara. David thinks this needs more definition; he has concerns on reporting process. There are questions about the definition, travel, and that this does not even assume 9-point rule. Masud sees people need more time. Jim says there is a preference for formation on local level, but no resistance to the Rule or Principles. These people want local, face-to-face counselors, and a sense of ownership. Jim is concerned about timing. People are ready. Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico are ready. There was discussion about the meaning of the recommendation. Joan objects to suddenness of this recommendation. Jim has given a clear call for action.

Jotie suggests checking in. Jeff says what is needed is not a theory but a method, such as using the Principles as a method. Find out what part of it works in what way? Ken says this is not unending

project. It is reviewable annually and only for three years. Liz wants commitment to provide a professed guide. Jim says there's a curriculum to follow.

Tom says the difficulty is you have to start somewhere. Ken says the Principles are foundational. Nine point rules are not under TSSF constitution. Peter says these people are ready. Jim handed out copies in Spanish of principles and how to write a rule.

Vote: CONSENSUS MINUS ONE. Those currently in formation under Liz will remain with her. **ACTION**

Adjourn for 15 minutes.

John Brockmann's proposal, Re-Envisioning Service Participation in the American Province is very much in tune with Peter's mission vision for Fellowships. Peter will get in touch with John. **ACTION**

Reconvened at 4:12

Jim opened this session with prayer in Spanish.

What our OEF visitor heard: "We approve this experiment trusting in the Holy Spirit with the expectation that the necessary negotiations between the Order that we bring as TSSF, Province of the Americas on the one hand, and on the other practices, insights, and suggestions for local application will be revealed."

David noted Financial Statement for Trinidad and Tobago. For a small area they are faithful and solvent. He then presented the proposed 2016-2017 Provincial budget.

Net operations income number at \$60,000 down from last year's estimated income because people may cut their contributions during year they travel to Provincial Convocation.

This year there were printing expenses, the creation of new website, shipping, and copies of simple English materials from New Zealand. The Franciscan Times allocation will be cut down because of transfer to all electronic distribution, although we will still be providing the print version for those who need it.

Some people sent extra money for the Devotional Companion. Sale of excess books in library by John Brockmann is making small amount of money. Annual meeting costs are higher than expected and we'll need a little pad because we will have two chapter meetings in one fiscal year. \$3,000 for website was an authorized extra-budget expense, authorized by Standing Committee.

Formation did not need the proposed counselor training. Projecting \$900 budget deficit for FY 2016-2017. Rick's parish is paying for all his mailings. Travel costs for pastoral officers to go to convocations other than their own come out of their budgets.

We have been presented with a proposed budget, \$60,000 income and \$60,900 expense. Any further questions – **We recommend this budget to corporation for approval. Consensus ACTION**

Bill moves adjournment

Masud seconds

All approve.

Tom opened the Corporation meeting and noted a vacancy on the Board of Directors in the position of Vice President. Ken nominated Rick Simpson and David seconded the nomination. His election passed

unanimously. David then moved the election of the full Board of Directors -- Tom Johnson, President, Rick Simpson, Vice President, Ken Norian, Secretary and David Lawson-Beck, Treasurer. Ken seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Ken moved to adjourn the meeting of the Corporation, Rick seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Tom then called to order the meeting of the Board of Directors. The TSSF budget for 2016-2017 was presented. David moved its acceptance, Ken seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The date of the next meeting was noted --- June 20, 2017. Ken moved adjournment of the Board of Directors meeting, Rick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Tom then reconvened the meeting of the Corporation. The budget recommended by the Board of Directors was presented. Ken moved its adoption, Rick seconded and it was adopted unanimously. Ken moved the adjournment of the Corporation meeting, David seconded and the motion passed UNANIMOUSLY.

John Brockmann had asked whether to extend use of library to OLF and OEF. AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS
John Brockmann will be notified. **ACTION**

Rick, what a joyful time this Chapter has been. Sr. Jean said it was the most exciting Chapter I've been to.

Masud told us about Joint Committee and Franciscan Action Network. The Sultan and the Saint, a joint production of FAN and a Muslim-owned production company, opens in Washington, DC, Nov. 12, 2016. The film will have study guide and is designed to be used in groups. It emphasizes Franciscan way of dealing with the other.

Chapter 2016 Adjourned