**7/28/16 Table Responses /**

**As we contemplate Mission & Ministry, what is emerging or birthing within us?**

A desire to be better after each meeting, reflection and sharing of life. Be open to the present, the here and now. To be a loving presence, silent, with open mind and heart in any circumstance. Together, we feel enlightened by the living Christ, opening us up to dialogue and to His presence with us. We must cultivate deep listening.

The mission of Jesus Christ and Francis: What are the needs, how am I responding to what is out there? Pope Francis- to go to the perifferies of the world in the midst of people who are having difficulties with life, this burns within us. We are converted by their courage. Transforming change-Who am I in this ministrty? How can I fit into the lives of the people? My heart is full of fire. The invitation to go back to Bolivia set my heart on fire. Birthing Courage: Conscious of standing on the shoulders of sisters. To ensure the memory of the sisters remembered. Feeling the fire in my heart from hearing the stories of our sisters. All of the sharing this Chapter is placed in our lives, we have the call from Pope Francis, a greater awareness of knowing I am not alone. I am a part of the whole. We are not always in mission where we are to be, but know it is where I belong for now. Hopefully for not my whole life. I desire to go to Africa.

Importance of relationships in which are not only the givers bur receivers as well. We see ourselves as emerging from doing to being totally present. An ability to share gift we’ve already been given, yet open to what God offers to us.

Mission and ministry helps us to go out (Pope Francis) from our Franciscan Spirituality-a missionary attitude keeps vocation alive-we do ministry in rel. Emerging: Francis-not only changed attitude, but sometimes changed place (geographically). Maybe we need to do the same. Called to go where the poor are, called to go where the marginalized are, called to go where people are crying out for our presence. Sometimes money gets in the way-poor places cannot pay.

Legacy and continuous response. Joy and lightheartedness. Happiness in the Lord. Happiness and freedom. The more we love, the freer and happier we are, and we are more able to give! Be where Jesus is for me. Spirituality needs to be at the root of who we are and we need to cultivate it.

Call to encounter the “other” desire to continue and deepening what we are doing. Seize the opportunities before us. Desire to overcome the fear that inhibits us.

Choose life. Focus on one initiative-to work together, to identify the “poor and marginalized” and dare to leave the places we are and go to places where we are needed most.

Be more clear and concrete in relation to the integrity of the earth. Respond to the issue of violence in our world. Working together toward a culture of peace and justice. How will we respond to the youth, human trafficking, guns, poverty, drugs all of which is a result of how we treat the earth.

1. Greater awareness of gift our very presence, love and wisdom are to world
2. Deeper desire to know and be Christ and take that to the world and share in all relationships-being sent by the Spirit.
3. Walk in the shoes of another: greater awareness of how we can birth the Spirit (charism) into a wider world (global view).
4. Working better together in being willing to take risks – whether entering new ministries or giving deeper in our present ministry.
5. Creating environments that welcome people and children. Service not a job.

Not letting our diminishment be a major factor in our lives. The fire is the energy to be with people. The unique Allegany Charism is being at “home with all people.” The fire is going beyond my fears, myself, where you would not think you would tread—a God walk. Responding to others who are birthing the kingdom of God…Desire to be active in response to violence, anger, hatred. In prayer ask God to open our hearts…ask God “what should I say?” Need for peace thinking…to dialogue and therefore the need of the Holy Spirit.

That the fire needs to be within me. The need to be open to what’s new; of on-going conversion. Recognition when energy is going out or into me as a sign of God’s inspiration. To find joy in the darkness of contemplation, especially when we don’t “like” what we must do or undergo.

Fear: 1. That I cannot remain in my comfort zone. I must renounce the evil around me. 2. Desire to visit once a week the outskirts to be with the people. Prayer to do something for someone. 3. Mission is what you’re called to and ministry is what you do to live out missions. Understanding is emerging. Also peace to be a mediator. 4. Enthusiasm for ministries we do. Hearing the cry of the people whatever the cry is for. Witness the Gospel bringing Spirit of Prayer and Presence of Hope. 5. Necessity to keey eyes and ears opened and to risk. 6. Move to periphery to be with the poor-to be a presence-to share. 7. Understanding of connection between ministry and spiritual journey. Important to discern where God wants you and to be there as best you can. 8. Importance of relationships in ministry. Importance of attention to “Being” and “Listening.”

To be conscious of our need to burn more brightly as we stoke our own fire-then it can warm others. Important to “see” each person individually with value, worth, dignity and to acknowledge that! Recognize that others can be the fire for me! Every ministry we have done prepares us for what we will do next!

The only thing God has asked us to do is to love one another. Our mission is to use the gifts God has given us to witness to God’s love for everyone. Whether we are volunteering or in an assigned ministry. We can listen to the needs of those around us and encourage, assist and inspire them to grow in the gifts God has given them.

Deepen listening and insights through prayer lead us into various ministries that provide nourishment and enrichment. Conscious awareness that sometimes we chose ministry and sometimes the ministry chooses us. Continue to journey with others and being in relationship with others. This allows us to grow and be nurtured as Franciscan despite our differences and similarities. Finding new and exciting ways of living and sharing the good news of the Gospel as Franciscan religious regardless of age and ailments.

Can we be the loving presence of Jesus? Can we be together with others to help “the crowds who want to see Jesus?” Can we announce life in a culture of death? Can we begin anew? Can we utilize the energy felt here regardless of country or language? Can we truly be at home with all people? Can we be united and promote unity?

Back to our history, Mother Teresa. “ Meeting the needs of the people.” Needs of the world today. That we focus together as a community on non-violence. To bring a peace in the world. We may do it in different ways. Self community, ministry, the world, nation. Identify forms of violence and how we can personally congregate, ministry, respond. We make a commitment to non-violence until next chapter. Guns the earth, domestic violence, human trafficking, etc.