John 15: 5-8: 16-17

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

17 This is my command: Love each other.
John 15: 5-8: 16-17

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17  This is my command: Love each other.
“I am the vine; you are the branches. Go now and bear much fruit. . . . “I have chosen you. You have not chosen me.”

(John 15)
The Vincentian Tradition of Servant Leadership

Servant Leadership
(Rule: Part 3, Statute 11)

Leadership positions in the Society, at any level, are always to be accepted as service to Christ, the members and the poor. Servant leadership is done in imitation of Jesus who said: “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.”
The Vincentian Tradition of Servant Leadership

Presidents as Servant Leaders
(Rule: Part 1, 3.11)

Following Christ’s example, the Presidents at all levels of the Society endeavor to be servant leaders. They provide an encouraging atmosphere in which the talents, capacities and spiritual charism of the members are identified, developed and put to the service of the poor and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The President of the Conference or Council will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.

See p. 14-15 Vincentian Leadership: Council President Guidelines
Servant Leadership Cross

SPIRITUALITY
Vocation
Mission
Vision
Values
Prayer

FRIENDSHIP
Community of Faith
Solidarity
Mutual example
Good Will
Empowerment

SERVICE
Home Visit
Charity and Justice
Voice of the Poor
Catholic Social Teaching
Systemic Change

SERVANT LEADERSHIP
Characteristics
Duties
Competencies
Discernment
Transformation

Pathway Toolbox:
https://members.ssvpusa.org/formation/Vincentian-pathway-toolbox/
COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

Seven Duties of Council Presidents

– Commitment
– Comprehension
– Communication
– Cultivation
– Collaboration
– Chairperson
– Contributions/Compliance

Pp. 23-25; 36-38 Vincentian Leadership: Council President Guidelines
Duty 1: Commitment

Make a solemn commitment to

• grow in understanding of and living out the Vincentian charism.
  – support the mission of the Society.
  – foster the spirituality of the Society
• attend the regularly scheduled meetings of the (Arch)Diocesan and/or District Council
• be adequately prepared to discuss and bring to consensus and/or vote issues and policies that will be brought forward.
• share ideas and concerns.
• serve no longer than two consecutive three-year terms so that new leadership might take over.
• make certain that Conference Presidents in your Council serve no longer than two consecutive three-year terms so that new leadership might take over.
Additional Point for Duty 1: Commitment
Council Presidents who are National Council Members

Make a solemn commitment to

• Attend the regularly scheduled meetings of the National Council and the Region to which your Council belongs
Our Mission Statement

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.
Inspired by Gospel values, the SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL, Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.
Our Identity Statement Part 2

As a reflection of the whole family of God, members, who are known as VINCENTIANS, are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group and economic level. Vincentians are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule.
Organized locally, Vincentians witness God’s love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served, because in them Vincentians see the face of Christ.

See p. 6 Vincentian Leadership: Council President Guidelines
Note the words of Pope Francis

In the poor, we see the face of Christ who for our sake became poor.

Pope Francis
Our Essential Elements

Sanctification (spirituality):
• Grow in holiness

Solidarity (Friendship):
• Build community

Service:
• Help those in need and be in “solidarity” with them

See p. 6 Vincentian Leadership: Council President Guidelines
Seven Cultural Beliefs: Rule Part III, Statute 2

I grow in holiness through my prayer, Vincentian service and friendship. (Rule 1: 2.2)

I advocate with the poor for just policies and practices at local, state and national levels. (Rule 1: 7.5)

I contribute to the success of our Vincentian work when I support ONE Society. (Rule 1: 3.3)

I foster ownership by involving membership in planning and decision making. (Rule 3: Statute 22)

I develop myself and others to become Servant Leaders. (Rule 1: 3.11)

I build a strong Society by holding myself and others accountable to our Mission, the Essential Elements and good Governance. (Rule 3: Statute 5)

I strengthen the Society by embracing new and diverse ideas and people. (Rule 1: 1.3)

See p. 44 Vincentian Leadership: Council President Guidelines
Duty 2: Comprehension

Comprehend

- the Rule of the Society and how it applies at all levels.

- the essential structure, operations, and functions of each unit of the Society

- the life and spiritual legacy of St. Vincent de Paul, and the role of Louise de Marillac

- the life and spiritual legacy of our founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and the role of Blessed Rosalie Rendu.
The Rule

Comprehend

• the Rule of the Society and how it applies at all levels.
The Essential Structure: Membership

Comprehend the essential structure, operations, and functions of each unit of the Society

**Active Members:** Participate regularly in the prayer life, meetings and charitable activities through personal contact with the poor of the Vincentian Conference or Council into which they have been received.

**Associate Members:** Affiliated with the Society by formal action of the Conference or Council with which the member will be joined. Associate Members include those who sincerely and publicly accept the Society's Rule but may or may not belong to the Catholic Church and may or may not attend Conference meetings or engage in the works of the Society on a regular basis.

See pp. 19-21 *Vincentian Leadership: Council President Guidelines*
Councils

Conferences are grouped under various levels of Councils. Councils exist to serve all the Conferences they coordinate. They help the Conferences to develop their spiritual life, to intensify their service and to diversify their activities so that they may always be responsive to the needs of those who suffer.

(Rule: Part 3, Statute 11)
The Essential Structure: Organization of Our Society

People Living in Poverty

Conferences

District Councils

(Arch)Diocesan Councils

U.S. National Council

International Confederation of St. Vincent de Paul

Regions
The Essential Structure:
8 Regions

Alaska

Hawaii
The Essential Structure: National Council

National Council

- National President
- National Board
- Regional VPs
- National Vice Presidents
- 5 National officers
- 8 elected
- 8 Special appointments

- CEO
- Board Committees
- Executive Committee

- All Staff

Perform functions and support Council/Board and Committee work.
Legacy: Our Vincentian Heritage

See pp. 8-12 Vincentian Leadership: Council President Guidelines
Duty 3: Communication

Communicate effectively in order to

• share information about issues, decisions, and policies with conferences in a timely fashion.

• express in appropriate ways and through appropriate channels any concerns, issues, and ideas.

• remain informed about national, regional, district, and local issues.
Additional Points for Duty 3: Communication

Council Presidents who are National Council Members

Communicate effectively in order to:

• share information received from the National Office or the National Vice President for your Regional about issues, decisions, and policies with **Councils and Conferences**.

• express in appropriate ways and through appropriate channels any concerns, issues, and ideas important to your **Councils and the Conferences under them** to the National Office.

• Be prepared for public relations issues.
Duty 4: Cultivation

Cultivate members through formation by

• Developing members both new and old (Ozanan Orientations, Serving in Hope modules, Days of Recollection, Retreats, Invitation to Serve, etc.)

• Finding, training, and encouraging Spiritual Advisors.

• Developing new Conferences.

• Visiting existing Conferences to build bonds of friendship.

• Encouraging the establishment of a VOP Committee.

• Developing Special Works, if appropriate.

• Cooperating in the implementation of the National Strategic Plan.

• Providing Governance Training.

See p. 24 Vincentian Leadership: Council President Guidelines
Additional Points Duty 4: Cultivation
Council Presidents who are National Council Members

Cultivate members through formation by

- Visiting existing District Councils and Conferences to build bonds of friendship.
- Providing guidance and support to District Councils in developing new Conferences.
Formation of Members Rule: Part 1, 3.12

• “It is essential that the Society continually promote the formation and training of its members and Officers, in order to deepen their knowledge of the Society and their spirituality, improve the sensitivity, quality and efficiency of their service to the poor and help them be aware of the benefits, resources and opportunities that are available for the poor. The Society also offers members higher training in order to better help to raise the cultural and social level of those who request this support.”
Formation/Training

1. Instill in your members the Mission, Values, and the Essential Elements of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

2. Encourage them to become more knowledgeable members in order to better serve those in need.

3. Form, train, and mentor members who would make good Presidents when your term is up.

See pp. 16-18 Vincentian Leadership: Council President Guidelines
MODULE I: OUR VINCENTIAN VOCATION
MODULE II: OUR VINCENTIAN SPIRITUALITY
MODULE III: OUR VINCENTIAN HERITAGE
MODULE IV: OUR VINCENTIAN MISSION
MODULE V: OUR VINCENTIAN RULE
MODULE VI: OUR VINCENTIAN CONFERENCE
MODULE VII: OUR VINCENTIAN HOME VISIT
Duty 5: Collaboration

Collaborate with:

• Other Councils/Conferences in the local area, the state, the region, in the United States or abroad.

• other members of the Vincentian family.

• other individuals and non-profit organizations, both secular and religious.

• Local pastors and the local Bishop.
Additional Point Duty 5: Collaboration
Council Presidents who are National Council Members

Collaborate with:
• the local Bishop and keep him informed about the work of the Society.
Duty 6: Chairperson

Council Presidents must:

• conduct regular, orderly meetings of the Council.

• delegate duties in a reasonable manner.

• Ensure that all Conference Presidents are voting members of the Council.

• make appropriate appointments to the Council.

• facilitate and participate in discussions about decisions and policies and help the Council reach consensus.
“A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.”
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

www.cmoec.com
Additional Point Duty 6: Chairperson
(Arch)Diocesan Council Presidents who are National Council Members

National Council Members must:

• ensure that all District Council Presidents are voting members of the Council.
Duty 7: Contributions/Compliance

- Council Presidents oversee contributions to and compliance with the National Council, Region, and Local Councils in order to
  - ensure that all solidarity contributions are paid in a timely manner (when applicable).
  - assure that Conferences and/or Councils under your jurisdiction submit annual reports on time.
  - facilitate and ensure compliance with Diocesan and/or National Council safe environment policies.
  - be alert to issues of accountability and good governance.

See pp. 24-25; 37-38 Vincentian Leadership: Council President Guidelines
Duty 7: Contributions/Compliance

• Council Presidents oversee contributions to and compliance with the National Council, Region, and Local Councils in order to

  • ensure that all solidarity contributions are paid in a timely manner (when applicable).

  • assure that the Conferences and/or Councils under their jurisdiction submits annual reports on time.

  • facilitate and ensure compliance with Diocesan and/or National Council safe environment policies.

  • be alert to issues of accountability and good governance.

See pp.24-25; 37-38  Vincentian Leadership: Council President Guidelines
Expect the unexpected and trust God with the master plan.

Trading Anxiety for Peace Blog Series
SarahGeringer.com

KEEP CALM
WHATEVER HAPPENS
STAY POSITIVE
Governance Issues and Accountability

https://members.ssvpusa.org/information-for-members/aggregation-institution-dissolution/
Governance

“Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give your time, your talents, yourselves.”

– Blessed Frédéric Ozanam
Vincentian Pathway Toolbox

There are four phases to the Vincentian formative journey: discovering, developing, deepening, and discerning.

The first three phases define the journey of all Vincentians. Phase IV, discerning, is that part of Vincentian formation in which we explore and prepare for our roles as leaders within the Society. To find the resources needed to help Vincentians through discovering, developing and deepening, click here.

The resources for phase IV, discerning, are identified below. Click on each area to see the supporting resources, meant to help develop skill sets related to various roles within the Society. Resources may include books, publications, seminars, webinars, and links to other web sources.

- Servant Leadership
- Conference President
- Person Responsible for Recruitment/Formation

https://members.ssvpusa.org/formation/vincentian-pathway-toolbox/
“I am the vine; you are the branches. Go now and bear much fruit. . . . “I have chosen you. You have not chosen me.” (John 15)
Questions/Discussion

• If you are viewing this on a live webinar with a facilitator, you will be instructed on how to ask any questions you may have.

• If you are not viewing this as a part of a live webinar, please refer any questions you may have to Tim Williams, National Director of Formation at:
  Tim Williams twilliams@svdpusa.org

Thank you and God Bless!