



Conference meetings are a foundation of the Society. But some conferences struggle to keep them grounded in our essential elements - - balancing spirituality, friendship, and service...while governing the business of our ministry to the poor.

Today, we'll discuss how to strike that balance, make difficult decisions, and foster our growth as Vincentians.

Let's begin, as we do in our conference meetings, in prayer...



L: In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
All: Amen.

L: Come, Holy Spirit, live within our lives.
All: And strengthen us by Your Love.

L: Send forth your spirit and new life will be created.
All: And the whole face of the earth will be renewed.

L: Our Father, etc.
All: Give us this day our daily bread, etc.

L: Let us reflect on the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ, recalling His unity and presence among us:
"Where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them." (Silence)

All: Lord Jesus, deepen our Vincentian spirit of friendship during this meeting and make us responsive to the Christian calling to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering, or the deprived so that we may bring them your love. Help us to be generous with our time, our possessions, and ourselves in this mission of charity. Perfect in us your love and teach us to share more fully in the Eucharistic Sacrifice offered for all.

L: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, **All:** Have mercy on us.

L: Immaculate Heart of Mary, **All:** Pray for us.

L: St. Vincent de Paul, **All:** Pray for us.

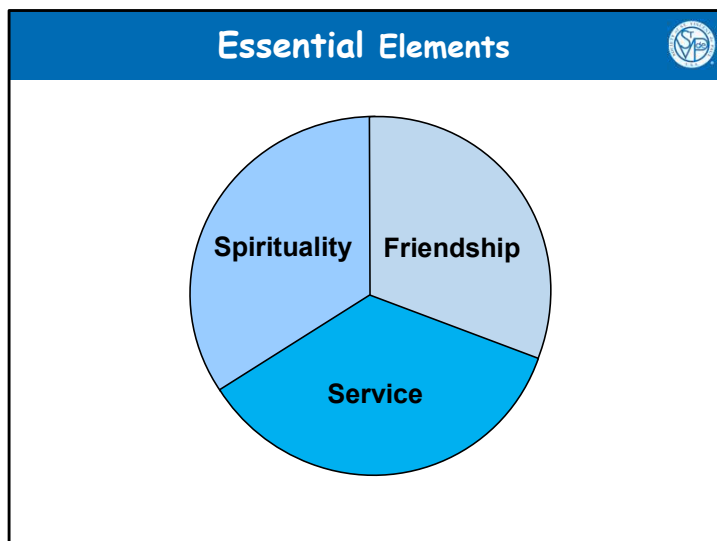
L: St. Louise de Marillac, **All:** Pray for us.

L: Blessed Frederic Ozanam, **All:** Pray for us.

L: Blessed Rosalie Rendu, **All:** Pray for us.



One of the main purposes of the Society is to serve those living in poverty. Conferences are at ground zero...that is where most of our service occurs...and healthy conference life is needed for us to serve our friends in need, and to grow in our faith.



The 3 Essential Elements of Spirituality, Friendship and Service have been the very foundation of the Society, from its beginning in 1833. To become real, they must be lived out in conference life.

Our primary goal is spiritual growth. We pray together and we pray with those in need.


We strive to see Christ's face in the needy and show God's love to them.

We build friendships working together on home visits and on special projects, collaborating with other conferences, celebrating together at retreats and festival meetings.


(Festival Meeting is a Liturgical celebration by Conference as a whole)

We help those in need through person-to-person service - - providing financial assistance (rent, utilities, travel) and material aid (food, clothing, furniture, housing) through our Special Works (stores, pantries, housing). In all these, we strive to show God's love to those in need.

What does our Rule say about Conference meetings?



3.3.1 “Conferences meet regularly and consistently, usually weekly, but at least every fortnight (twice a month).”



Our Rule calls us to meet at least twice monthly.

People do miss meetings, so if you don't meet at least 2x/month, someone may only attend once in a few months.



Regular meeting attendance is one of the criteria to be a full or Active Member of the Society.

What does our Rule say about Conference meetings?

Statute 5 "...meet weekly, or at least twice a month.

This is to **affirm** the **importance of the spiritual and social dimensions** of Vincentians coming together as a community of faith and love, prayer and action.

....Conference members consistently strive to develop a three-fold relationship with God, the poor and one another – mutual support and friendship."





The value in meeting at least twice a month, is not just to conduct more business, but to allow the time needed for both spiritual reflection and discussion, and to foster friendship and provide support to each other.

What does our Rule say about Conference meetings?

3.3 “Members meet as brothers and sisters with Christ in the midst of them, in Conferences that are genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action.


Spiritual bonds and friendship between members are essential, as is the common mission to help the poor and marginalized. The entire Society is a true and unique worldwide Community of Vincentian friends.




Frequent gathering as Vincentians is essential to build a common purpose and shared understanding of the Society's mission.

Conference meetings are where we share our lived experience in serving the poor, and study Vincentian formation materials that enable us to grow.

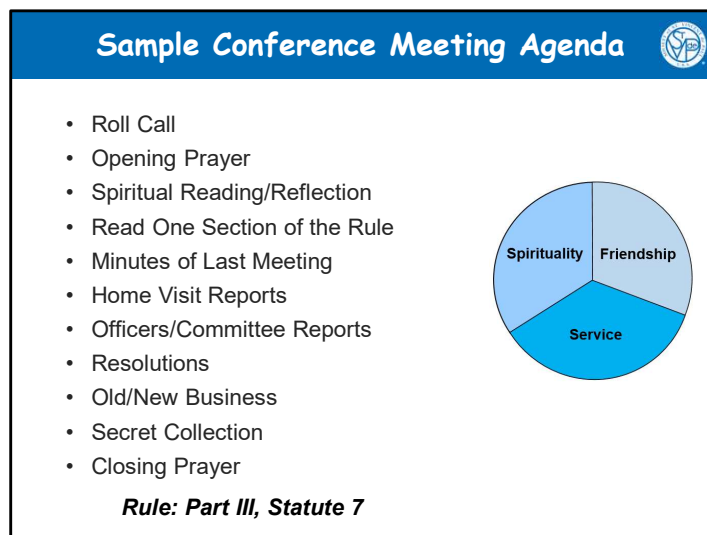
What does our Rule say
about Conference meetings?



3.4 “Meetings are held in a spirit of fraternity, simplicity, and Christian joy.”



Friendship is one of the 3 essential elements of the Society. A healthy conference builds relationships between its members founded on trust, mutual respect, and genuine friendships and caring for each other. Our meetings should support that goal.



Statute 7 in Part III of the Rule provides a suggested meeting agenda (more detailed than summarized here).

Notice that prayer and spiritual reflection come first, as they foster the Society's primary purpose - - the growth in holiness of its members.

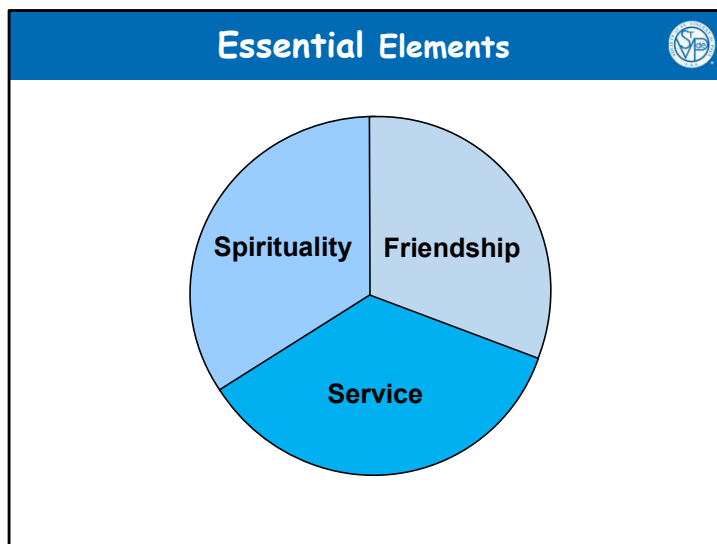
Reading a section of the Rule takes a minute or two and in a year's time you will have covered it all.

Home visit & Officer reports: President, Secretary, Treasurer, membership / special works.

Dates and times of next conference meetings....district council meeting...region and national meetings...Ozanam Orientations or other training.

If you don't have time for reflection because there is too much business, here's some things to think about:

1. Are you meeting at least twice a month?
2. Could you spread out the work? For example, appoint subcommittees to come up with a completed recommendation and its background for the conference to approve; or empower your home visitors to make assistance decisions based on agreed upon guidelines; send materials prior to the meeting.
3. Does everything that you do in the meeting need to be done? E.g. home visit reports need not be detailed.



Our 3 essential elements are the foundation of effective conference meetings.
Ideally, you want to achieve balance between them in our meetings.

Let's talk about how each can be emphasized in our meetings.

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Why is Spiritual Growth Critical?



- Keeps us focused on our true mission
- We can't give to others what we don't have ourselves
- Helps in challenging situations
- Invokes the Holy Spirit in all activities



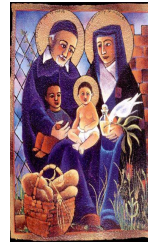
A real focus in our meetings on Spirituality keeps us aligned with the Society's primary purpose - - growth in the spirituality of its members

We are not simply a parish service committee or another community social service agency

We can't give to others what we don't have ourselves. We have a special accountability to model Vincentian virtues, especially in difficult situations/relationships...which requires the grace of the Holy Spirit. Call on the Holy Spirit in your meetings.




- Importance of Spiritual Advisor
- Assure time for prayer, reflection, discussion
- Provide funds for resources and make time for member formation, e.g.
 - Spirituality of the Home Visit Journal
 - Serving in Hope study guide series
 - Books on Vincentian spirituality, Saints & Blesseds



Your Spiritual Advisor is a key resource in fostering conference spiritual growth. Make sure she or he has the full support of the conference


Dedicate at least 20 minutes in conference meetings for prayer, reflection, and discussion

Provide conference funds to purchase Vincentian formation materials like the Rule, Manual, Member Handbook, Spirituality of the Home Visit Journal, the Serving in Hope study series...USE THEM IN YOUR MEETINGS...you will find Spiritual enrichment in all of them

Spirituality in the meeting


- Share responsibility for leading the opening and closing prayers
- Use the weekly Vincentian Reflections and participate in the discussion
- Ensure all meetings are conducted in a spirit of Vincentian friendship

(Spiritual Advisor Guidelines, Part III, B)



While the conference Spiritual Advisor is critical, **EVERYONE** has a role to play in bringing spirituality into our conference meetings.

Take turns in leading the opening and closing prayers.

When using the Vincentian reflections, actively participate in the discussion questions.

When differences arise, **STOP**, reflect, call on the Holy Spirit, listen to one another, and pray!

(light candle, blow it out when “the Holy Spirit has left the room”)

Keep the focus on loving those who are poor as Christ does (kind, gentle, nonjudgmental, etc.)

Be open to the Spirit for new or different ways of doing your service

Spirituality – Rituals and Ceremonies

- Commissioning of new members
- Annual renewal of service (with parish at Mass)
- Attend Eucharist together on our feast days

Vincentian liturgies:
<https://www.svdpusa.org/members/Programs-Tools/Tools/Spirituality-Formation>

Vincentian celebrations:
<https://www.svdpusa.org/members/Programs-Tools/Programs/Vincentian-Formation> (see Documents & Tools)



Our Catholic tradition has rich resources to draw upon! There are some great Vincentian materials for use in commissioning new members and leadership (include pinning).


Schedule an annual renewal of your commitment to Vincentian service at a Mass for all members, including spouses and children. During this Mass, commission new members into the Conference, pray for those we have visited, pray for our benefactors, pray for poor, pray for deceased members, and for continued good work.

Attending Eucharist together, especially on Vincentian feast days:


- Ozanam Sunday (the last Sunday of April)
- The feast day of Blessed Frederic Ozanam (September 9)
- The feast day of St. Vincent de Paul (September 27)
- The Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Society (December 8)

Read about these in the Manual. Vincentian liturgies and celebration rituals can be downloaded from our website using the links noted on this slide.

Vincentian Friendship



- Mutual example and true friendship draws us nearer to the Divine Model, Christ
- Vincentian bonds enable us, in the Spirit of Christ, to perform our duties, share our experiences, and grow in our love and spiritual maturity
- Friendliness springs from charity in the heart and shows how very glad you are to be with a particular person. It's the joy you feel when you see a person you love and it shows in your face.



After Spirituality, Friendship is the 2nd of our Vincentian Essential Elements.

Share experiences in your meetings - - when we've been truly touched by Christ during our encounters with his poor...when we've struggled...and be open to receiving the loving support and insights of your Vincentian friends....that helps us to grow together.

Relationships are Central



Conference meetings are privileged occasions during which members manifest Christ's love to one another and experience his healing presence.

Conferences meet regularly and frequently, at least twice a month, in celebration of mutual friendship and out of a passion to serve the Lord

(Rule: Part I, Article 3.3, 3.3.1 and 3.4; Part III, Statute 5)

Good relationships are central to good conference meetings and to healthy conference life.

Our meetings should reflect our love for each other and our connection to God.

Our friendship is a reflection of the way God circulates in and among us.

Relationships are Central



Unlike other organizations within and outside the Church, the Conference meets less to conduct business than to celebrate and deepen its unity for essentially spiritual reasons.

Opening and Closing Prayers, together with the Vincentian spiritual reflections, heighten our awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence.

(Rule: Part 1, Article 2.3)

Yes, of course, there IS business that must be conducted in our meetings. But to truly live the Vincentian charism, we must put priority in our conference meeting time on celebrating and deepening our unity and friendship.

Fostering Friendship



- Ensure meetings are conducted in a spirit of fraternity, simplicity, and Christian joy
- Encourage participation in district, diocese, region, and national meetings
- Fellowship afterwards over light snacks
- Potluck meals with members, families, pastor... summer picnic
- Celebrate members birthdays, anniversaries, get well cards (corresponding secretary)



There are many things we can do to foster this friendship.

Certainly, we can really work to ensure our meetings are grounded in fellowship and joy.


We can broaden the circle of friends by meeting with other conferences in our district, diocese, and region.

If you can limit the meeting time, it will encourage people to stay afterwards over coffee or snacks.


Many conferences have regular potluck meals or a seasonal picnic.

Some conferences have a volunteer keep track of members' birthdays, anniversaries, illnesses, how long they've been a conference member, and recognize those special dates.

Service



- Spend time sharing home visit experiences
 - Lessons learned
 - Keep it positive – focus on what you can do better
- Use *“The Spirituality of the Home Visit Journal”*
 - What touched my heart, what were my feelings
 - Where did I find God’s presence
 - What did I learn that can make me a better home visitor




The 3rd Essential Element is Service.


In your conference meetings, make time to talk about home visit experiences. This isn’t all the details of each visit, but what was learned that others could benefit from. Take care in those discussions - - it is not a time to gripe about our friends in need - - keep the discussion emphasis on what WE can do better (not what THEY could have done differently!)

The Spirituality of the Home Visit Journal is a wonderful resource – both in sharing the spiritual dimensions of our home visits, but also in providing a framework to reflect on what we learned and how we were touched in our visits. That can provide a great way to focus your home visit sharing in conference meetings to foster real spiritual growth.

Service



- Periodically bring in outside speakers
 - Community service agencies
 - Identify resources for friends in need
 - Learn how you can collaborate
- At least annually, devote significant time to discussing how you can improve your service





Some conferences periodically bring in outside speakers from community social service agencies to help home visitors grow in their understanding of community resources for referrals.

At least once a year, take time - - perhaps in a dedicated meeting or retreat - - to stop and think about the services you provide and how you do them. Should you add a new service? Should you change your conference guidelines and do your service in a different way that would have a more lasting effect on our friends in need, or a deeper impact on our growth in friendship and spirituality?

The Secret Collection

- Based the tradition of our Founders
- Before the close of the regular meeting
- The hat or bag is passed in secret

One last thing before we go to breakout rooms for discussion - - The Secret Collection.

Poll – does your conference take up a collection at your meetings? (Yes, No – 1-2 mins. Share summary)


The first conference did not have money with which to purchase supplies when they began making their home visits under the guidance of Blessed Rosalie Rendu

The fashion of the day for men was to wear Top Hats. So they would pass a Top Hat behind their backs and each person would donate what they could

Without anyone else knowing what they had put in the hat

Many conferences continue this tradition at their meetings by passing a bag or hat

In this way, every member contributes to the needs of the people we serve or to the growth of the conference (e.g. funding purchase of Vincentian formation materials)

BREAKOUT Room Questions

Small group breakout questions:

What could your conference do to make its meetings better in growing your spirituality, friendship, and service?

Questions about what we've covered thus far?

Breakout discussion – 8 mins. 10 mins Q&A.

Let's now talk about a key aspect of conference life - - making decisions.



Decision-making

3.10 “All decisions are made by **consensus** after the necessary prayer, reflection and consultation. The democratic spirit is fundamental at all levels of the Society, and when appropriate, matters are put to a vote.”

Part III, Statute 16: Subsidiarity and Democracy

The Society accepts the principles of subsidiarity and democratic consensus as the basic rules of its functioning.

*To ensure democracy in the Society decisions are often made by consensus. **Consensus decision-making requires that everyone agree with a decision, not just a majority as occurs in majority-rule processes. In consensus-based processes, people must work together to develop an agreement that is good enough, though not necessarily perfect.***



A key area to keep conference life healthy is how you make decisions.

In this material, we will talk about both discernment and consensus-based decision making.


Our Rule says that the primary way we should make decisions is through consensus; voting is secondary.

Some decisions, like updating your bylaws, require a formal vote by Active members of the conference. Otherwise, most decisions should be made by consensus.


Consensus-based decision-making requires that everyone agree, not just a majority. People must work together to develop an agreement that is good enough, though not necessarily perfect.

All decisions, of course, should be consistent with the Society’s Rule and Statutes, and your conference Bylaws.

Vincentian Polarities



- **Contemplation and Action**
- **Stewardship and Charity**
- **Friendship and Boundaries**
- **Leadership and Followership**
- **Organized Works and Providence**



Achieving consensus is not always easy. There are natural tensions that exist in our vocation, and these crop up in various decisions....

Think of these polarities like two ends of a teeter-totter...The key is balance.

Contemplation and Action: To achieve consensus takes prayer, reflection and discernment, which takes time...on the other hand, our service orientation tends to be biased towards action.

Stewardship and Charity: In decisions regarding conference finances, there is a tension between being good stewards of the funds our parishioners have entrusted to us....and our mission of charity (which is WHY parishioners donated to the Society!). Over emphasis on being excellent stewards of our resources can end up in rigid conference guidelines that exclude neighbors in need and lead us to hoarding of funds. And while we want our service to be characterized by boundless charity and compassion, too much can end up enabling behaviors that do not foster empowerment of our friends in need.

Friendship and Boundaries: On the one hand we want to develop productive relationships, mutuality, and friendship with our friends in need and other Vincentians in our conference **AND** we need to be careful to establish appropriate boundaries that support the privacy of Vincentians and their personal lives and families.

Leadership and Followership: We are all Servant Leaders - - not just the elected President and the appointed officers - - so we should strive to rotate formal roles within the conference and create the conditions for conference members to flourish. At the same time we must also be "servant followers", respecting the role of the formal leader, while encouraging effective dialogue and consensus.

Organized Work and Providence: On the one hand we engage in works that address the needs of the poor and marginalized in our communities. Sometimes these works, and how we do them, stay in place for many years and Vincentians become attached to them. Our Vincentian tradition, however, also calls us to be open to changing needs in our community and accept the Providence of God when he leads us away from one work to another that is needed, or to a better way of doing our work that will have a greater impact on our friends in need.

These valid contrasting tensions should tell us that there is no ONE WAY of doing things...we must balance each in our decisions.

What is Discernment?

- **An Openness to God's Will**
 - In me, in a unique Conference, Council, the Society
- **To be Led by the Spirit in Freedom**
 - Free to be, act, go in a certain way without resistance
- **A Choice between Two Goods**
 - Where does my body, time, money belong now?

Working through these polarities and achieving consensus in important decisions, will require discernment. So what is discernment?

Discernment is an **openness to God's will** – Listening to the way the Spirit is present to me as a person, in a particular unique Conference, Council, the Society.

Discernment is being **led by the Spirit in freedom** - “The Spirit calls us, invites us in our freedom to go in a certain direction, to act in a certain way, to BE in a certain way.”

Discernment is a **choice between two “goods”** - - not between good and evil, but in THIS choice, where do my body, time, money belong?

Vincentian Discernment



- **Discernment** is essentially a *prayerful process* through which, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can come *to discover the difference between what is our will and what is the will of God*.
- Vincentian Discernment is simple and radical, it *demand*s *faith and trust*, and it is rooted in honesty and *openness to the Spirit* in Prayer.



Discernment is rooted in the faith that God can and does direct our lives, that God loves us tenderly and he only asks that we trust him and entrust our lives to him.

Openness to the Holy Spirit comes through practice in growing in the Vincentian Virtues of Humility, Selflessness, Simplicity, Gentleness and Zeal.

Vincentian Discernment



Two key components:

We must be led by the Spirit

We must stand in complete freedom

- The Spirit calls us, invites us in our freedom to go in a certain direction, to act in a certain way, to be in a certain way
- Discernment is not a democratic voting process, or a decision making process of the head
- Discernment is not about negotiating a “good deal” with God



We must be led by the Spirit: This is the contemplative aspect of perceiving the will of God.

Can I quiet myself to perceive the voice of the Spirit? Can I engage the Spirit holistically - - mind, body, and spirit?

Discernment challenges us to be aware of our will and where it is urging us...and to see where my biases, judgments, and presumptions might stand in the way of the voice of God

Imitation of Jesus Christ



- What would Jesus do in this situation?
- How does this decision help me to better serve others?
- Am I seeking my own ego needs?



This is the “What would Jesus Do” step

WWJD sounds right on, but in the end are WE willing to DO what Jesus would DO?...even when it is hard and means giving up something we strongly believe in?

This requires us to recognize our blind spots and to set aside our ego

Unrestricted Readiness



- Am I willing to let go of my prejudices?
- Am I willing to step outside my preconceived plan?
- Am I willing to give up control?
- Am I willing to accept a “yes” or a “no”?



What would Jesus do...challenges us to give up control....

More importantly, if conference consensus moves in a direction that I would not have selected, can I support the will of the group with a good attitude?

Significance of Events



- What are the objective and subjective facts?
- What are the events and circumstances?
- What are my feelings and intuition?
- How is God speaking through events?
- How is God speaking through people?
- How is God speaking through authority-civil, community, and Church?
- What does the Rule say?



Once we imagine what Jesus would do, and we are willing to suspend our own hopes and fears during the discernment process, we are ready to unpack the objective and subjective facts

This process recognizes feelings and intuitions as part of what must be included because of their profound influence on behavior

This process also calls us to examine how God might be speaking through people and events

Spiritual Advisors can play a key role acting as a neutral mediator....gently influencing how we infuse our dialogue with the Spirit, reading tone and body language and helping folks re-center when emotions are strong.

What is Consensus Anyway?



If we have discerned well, we are ready to work towards a consensus decision. So, what is consensus?

Not unanimity. In brief, in Robert's Rules, it is “general consent” or agreement

Voting vs. Consensus



How does consensus contrast with majority voting?

Voting can sometimes be like two wolves and a sheep deciding what to eat. Voting can be a process in which we abandon our empathy, our friendship, and our community. Sometimes it can be winning at all costs.

2nd click - - Consensus is more like a group of friends making plans for lunch.

What is Consensus?



Definition: Consensus is a cooperative process in which group members develop and agree to support a decision in the best interest of the whole

Main reasons to use consensus as a decision-making method:

1. High quality decisions
2. Builds connection among members
3. More effective implementation

Source: www.treegroup.info

Consensus is defined as (read)

Consensus based decisions include the wisdom of the whole group. When we take the time to work through tensions and build consensus, we make the solutions stronger.

We find ways to connect and become stronger friends.

Most importantly, consensus based decisions are better implemented.

If you want to study it more, check out the website. You will find tools like a decision flow chart. This organization's process is the one now used at National Council meetings to approve national resolutions.

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- Unity, not unanimity, not everybody's first choice
- Arriving at a "sense of the meeting" - something you can support, are willing to let go forward, or you "can live with it"
- Value all kinds of input (rational, emotional ...)



In consensus based decisions, We seek unity, leveraging Vincentian Friendship - - that doesn't mean everyone agrees on everything, but that we are more committed to honoring consensus and recognizing our own ego traps when we find common ground and support and accept the will of the Group that reflects our discernment of God's will.

Value all kinds of input: We say we are all equal in the society, and that we honor the dignity of one another and those we serve. But does this philosophy show up in our conference meetings and relationships? Are some folks overpowered by others? Does everyone get a chance to speak? Do we honor the needs of different temperments? Do we give our introverts time to process so that their wonderful ideas can emerge? Do we spend our time listening and learning...or figuring out how we can convince others that our idea is best?

Building consensus is an opportunity to practice Spirituality and Friendship in our decisions.

Consensus Synthesizes Group Wisdom





- Consensus is a questioning process, more than an affirming process
- Share, question, and learn from each other's experience and thinking
- Encourages lifting everyone up to their highest potential, instead of knocking down your opponents



Building consensus requires asking the right questions....to fully gather the wisdom of the entire group. It encourages everyone to be involved, not just a few dominant voices.

Spiritual Consensus

- Facts plus Spirit's guidance
- Not majority vote or victory of the dominant - - compromise
- Not unanimity – all feel heard & OK
- Not on your schedule



Spiritual consensus comes about through **using the facts, but waiting for Spirit's guidance in regard to them**

Consensus is based on a discovery of what God wants.

It doesn't always result in everyone in full agreement, but that everyone feels heard & can go along with solution

And achieving consensus may take time, God's time, not our schedule

This is a radical approach to leveraging Love and Friendship and Common Mission to achieve solutions that are creative, innovative and supported by all.

Role of Spiritual Advisor



- Introduce the spirituality of Vincentian discernment
- Create reflections that encourage respectful sharing around differences
- Encourage the discipline of hearing all the voices.
- Identify win/lose scenarios and encourage both/and solutions
- Invoke silent reflection or conciliatory prayer in moments of conflict



Your conference Spiritual Advisor can play a key role with both reflections that create fertile ground for discernment and listening....

and being a gentle neutral mediator to help guide discussion, reminding folks that our spirituality and friendship **REQUIRES** we maximize the quality of participation and mutuality

Friendship, mutuality, and reverence for one another flows from Vincentian spirituality and charism and animates our meetings...allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us to cooperation and consensus

The Decision



- Is the decision reasonably clear?
- Is it rooted in peace?
- Is the decision just?
- Is the decision compassionate?

- If these conditions are not met, return to the steps for discernment.
- If these decision are met, ACT....and do not look back.
- Confidence in God
- Firm regarding the goal, flexible regarding the means




Read the first 4 standards - - If we can meet these first four standards, we have likely reached the decision through consensus, our preferred decision-making model.

If not, we may need to return to the start of the process

If we are at peace, and all can actively support the consensus decision, then no second-guessing, move forward.


During the implementation, when trouble occurs, remain clear about the goal, but be willing to be flexible and creative regarding the way we get there.

Consensus-based Decisions:
Cooperation is the Basis



We all get more of what we want when we cooperate

- We genuinely try to work together, typically based on some shared interest, purpose or calling
- We search together for the best solution for all; it's "us against the problem" not "us against each other."
- We optimize creativity when relationships support an atmosphere of solidarity
- No "winners and losers"



In conclusion our Rule, Mission and Ministry all point in the direction of the conditions necessary for Consensus.

Our 3 Essential Elements of Spirituality, Friendship, and Service are fundamental to this way of working together in our conference life

We **ARE** trying to work together, we **DO** have a common and shared interest and calling.

We are journeying **TOGETHER** towards Holiness, with a foundation of commitment to friendship!

We **DO** believe that when we gather together the Holy Spirit is in and among us and deepens our mutuality and friendship and enhances our service to the neighbor

Conference Meetings – Final Thoughts




- Balance spirituality, friendship, and service
- Spiritual growth is the foundation
- There's no substitute for friendship

***Meetings should be fulfilling—if they're not,
then ask why, and change it!***




The quality of our meetings, our community spirit, is as important as the quality of our ministry with our friends in need. If meetings are not fulfilling, they can undermine the opportunity we have for personal fulfillment, journeying together to Holiness, and ultimately the service we provide

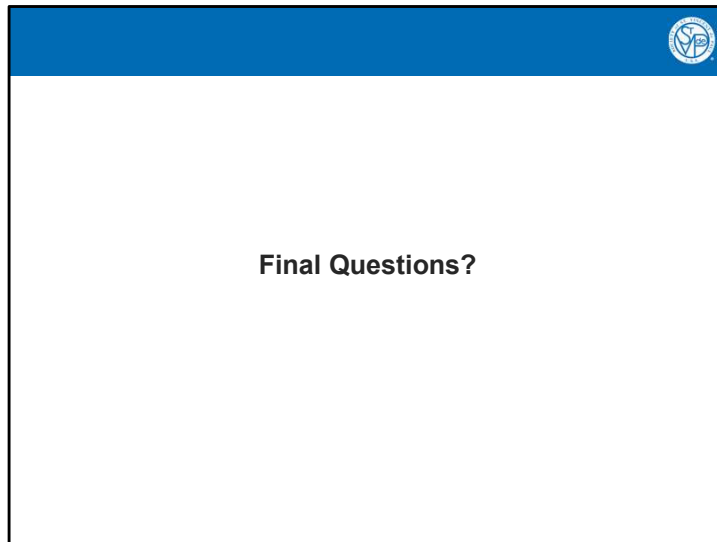
Resources



- Rule, Manual
- Serving in Hope series
- Member Handbook
- The Spirituality of the Home Visit – A Journal
- Prayer/Agenda Card
- Walking the Vincentian Pathway
 - Personal Guide
 - Conference Record & Planner
- Governance-in-a-Box
 - <https://www.svdpsa.org/members/Documents/Governance-in-A-Box>
- Conference formation & revitalization
 - <http://www.svdpsa.org/growth-revitalization>
- Consensus Decision Process
 - <http://www.treegroup.info>



Here are some resources that can enrich your conference meetings



15-20 mins



L: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

All: Amen.

All: Father, grant that we who are nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist may realize the depth of our needs, respond more spontaneously to the suffering of others, and come to love You more deeply by service to our neighbor.

Grant us also the wisdom and strength to persevere when disappointed or distressed. May we never claim that the fruitfulness of our apostolate springs from ourselves alone. United in prayer and action, may we become a visible sign of Christ and may we give witness to His boundless love, which reaches out to all and draws them to love one another in Him.

We thank You, Lord, for the many blessings which we receive from those whom we visit. Help us to love and respect them, to understand their deeper needs, and to share their burdens and joys as true friends in Christ.

L: That the Cause for the Canonization of Frederic Ozanam, who excelled in the virtue of Christian love, be advanced.

All: Lord, hear us.

L: That our departed friends and relatives, our Vincentian Brothers and Sisters, and those whom we have served, be welcomed into your Kingdom and joined in love.

All: Lord, hear us.

L: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit **All:** Amen.