

CCA Proposal

Subject: **Newer Members**

In this proposal the Newer Members group is proposing four related things that share the same background and rationale. For this reason, we have included them all in one document. The four things we are proposing, which are explained below in greater detail are:

1. Proposal to change the name of the group from “CCA Newer Members” to “CCA Dream Weavers”
2. Proposal that the CCA Dream Weavers work collaboratively with the Association Formators
3. Proposal for a CCA Dream Weavers Gathering
4. Proposal to delegate 2 Dream Weaver Liaisons

Background Information:

The CCA Newer Members group exists to foster relationships among us for the purpose of enlivening and nurturing our Carmelite charism so that CCA might move confidently into the future. While CCA has offered many programs for the Newer Members throughout our 50-year history, the most recent iteration has included 3 Gatherings:

- 2015 – Darien – *CCA Newer Members Meeting*
- 2017 – Beacon – *A Reflection of the Beauty of Carmel: Embracing our Contemplative Identity and Articulating our Carmelite Charism for the World Today*
- 2019 – Faulkner – *Together We Journey: Embracing Our Past, Illuminating Our Future*

as well as the opportunity to give a presentation at the CCA Assembly (2016, 2018, 2020), a study of the *Charter of Life*, several Zoom meetings in relation to *Women at the Well Dialogues*, and the Communications Workshop. The Newer Members were integral in making *Women at the Well Dialogues* a reality and we continue to be contributors to CCA.

There has been substantial growth within this group since our Gathering in 2015 where we were just getting to know one another and where we expressed our desire to:

- Embrace our history
- Proclaim our passion for Carmel
- Wake the world to the fire of God’s Love

We were delighted to have international participation (Kirkintilloch) in 2017 and in 2019 to have sisters from other associations both nationally (Queen of Carmel, St. Teresa Association) and internationally (Kirkintilloch, Mexico). As the vision of the newer members continues to expand and widen, we recognize the importance of this group in deepening bonds of friendship and collaboration with newer sisters from other associations. As we are all aware, the relationships we form now will serve CCA and Carmel well into the future. In this way the newer members continue to deepen and bring to light for a new generation the foundational work that has been done by CCA over the past 50 years.

Rationale:

We believe that it is important for the future of CCA for sisters who are newer to CCA to have the opportunity to come together to deepen relationships among us for the purpose of serving CCA now and in the future, as well as to be better equipped to serve our own communities.

We are convinced of the importance of our meeting together as a way to continue our incorporation into CCA as well as to foster relationships among the newer sisters from other associations both

nationally and internationally, which we feel will continue to bear much fruit and bring renewed energy to our individual monasteries as well as to CCA as a whole.

Proposal:

- We recognize that the name “CCA Newer Members” is no longer reflective of who we are as many sisters in this cohort have completed initial formation, are well integrated into their communities, and are no longer “new.” We would like to propose that the name of the group be changed to “CCA Dream Weavers” as we understand ourselves to be carriers of a dream that began 50 years ago. This name is reflective of our desire to focus on CCA’s future, to create opportunities to dream and discuss future possibilities, and to find support in expressing such dreams and vision for the future. The primary focus of this group is growth, new life, vision for the future, and a deepening understanding and interiorization of our Carmelite charism. Our suggestion of a more inclusive name reflects both: 1) our desire to give priority to the current “Newer Members” cohort as well as future new members of our monasteries and 2) our desire to continue to invite the participation of all the dreamers in CCA. (Y/N)
- With the implementation of *Cor Orans* and the role of the Association Formators, we propose that the CCA Dream Weavers work collaboratively with the Association Formators. (Y/N)
- We propose that the CCA Dream Weavers plan a gathering between now and the next CCA National Assembly focused on Carmelite Spirituality that is held near one of our monasteries and is open to any sister who would like to attend so long as the newer members from each community are given first priority. (Y/N)
- We propose that the Leadership Team, in conjunction with the Association Formators, delegate 2 Dream Weavers to serve as the “Dream Weaver Liaisons” whose responsibilities would include planning the Dream Weavers Gathering in collaboration with the Association Formators, serving as the liaisons between the Association Formators and the Dream Weavers, preparing a presentation to be made at the Assembly, and working to incorporate newer sisters more fully into CCA. (Y/N)

Budget:

Based on past experience, we recognize that a Dream Weavers Gathering will require funds of approximately \$6,500. We realize this gathering is one of several formation initiatives (including *Women at the Well Dialogues*) for which funding will be required. For that reason, we hold our desire to have another gathering lightly, opening ourselves to the Spirit, recognizing that other ways to move the desires and hopes of the newer members forward may emerge at the Assembly.

Submitted by:

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