



# Carmelite Communities Associated

## CCA 2025 Proposal

Baltimore, MD

Barrington, RI

Beacon, NY

Boston, MA

Cleveland, OH

Clinton, IA

Danville, PA

Latrobe, PA

Oldenburg, IN

Reno, NV

**Subject:** Proposed "model/option" for the functioning of CCA during the next term.

### Background Information:

The future functioning of CCA as an association is uncertain, given the current reality of our CCA Communities, including:

- aging of all of our sisters
- lack of new membership
- diminishment of some communities
- current status of five autonomous communities,
- stages of suppression for Concord and Barrington
- affiliated status of Cleveland, Danville and Clinton

At the GA in 2023, the assembly adopted a goal to explore and propose options for the future functioning of CCA by the end of the current tenure (2025). It was further proposed at the 2023 GA to hold a discernment retreat for all members, which concluded with a final session on January 21. The Leadership Team listened to ideas and discussions from the participants regarding possible options and ideas. These have been taken into consideration with this proposal.

### Rationale:

CCA's future is dependent on the future and vitality of its member communities. The challenge to obtain leadership from its membership has proved to be increasingly difficult. Just as each member community has been putting in place a realistic plan for its own future, CCA has been exploring options for functioning as it goes forward given the fragility of its current membership. The governance of affiliated communities has proved to be extremely time-consuming not only for the present Leadership Team but also for the two previous Leadership Teams. Several sisters of communities coming to final closure have been incardinated but not all. The care of these dispersed sisters and the financial burden associated with such has been challenging.

It is anticipated that going forward, the leadership of the CCA must address how the association will provide for its 1) financial requirements and responsibilities; 2) on-going formation; 3) care of the affiliated sisters who are not incardinated and are dispersed; 4) bring to final closure those affiliated monasteries that are still need to be closed/officially suppressed (Danville, Concord, Barrington and Clinton); 4) address the needs of its members as they arise.

## Proposal:

We propose that the CCA:

- 1) hire or contract with a part-time Executive Director (ED) to direct the administrative/operational responsibilities of the association for the two year term of the next LT;
- 2) continue to utilize the services of an Administrative Assistant (AA);
- 3) elect up to four sisters to a leadership team that has oversight of the ED, and that is supported by advisors/consultants consisting of at least two to three past CCA presidents;
- 4) continue to use the volunteer services of its current facilitator;
- 5) elect a treasurer who will continue to be supported by the services of BMT to manage its finances with oversight from the ED and LT.

In order to implement this proposal, the current LT will serve in a transition capacity until Sept. 1.

This proposal assumes that sisters from the member communities will serve in various delegated roles to support the Association's needs (e.g., the CCA newsletter, the CCA website, the CCA fundraising committee, coordinating formation, designated volunteer "companion contacts" to dispersed sisters, moderator of prioresses' meetings, etc.).

**Submitted By:** The CCA Leadership Team

**Date:** March 19, 2025

**Presented By:** To Be Decided

**Addendum:** *Executive Director Job Description*