**CCA 2025 PROPOSAL**

**ALTERNATE PROPOSAL TO #3 of the**

**Proposed “model/option” for the functioning of CCA**

**during the next term.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Facing similar situations as CCA, communities in the U.S. are experimenting with models of governance that fit their present reality.

CCA’s current membership is complicated, confusing, and shifting—autonomous, affiliated, sisters incardinated, closed monasteries, suppressed monasteries, sisters with unusual status, sisters in various phases of transition.

CCA is no longer an association of autonomous Carmelite Monasteries. It is both an association of autonomous monasteries and a communion of sisters—a sisterhood.

**RATIONALE**

A serious study of the current census of CCA’s membership raises the question of holding elections at this time.

This is the smallest in-person participation at a national meeting in CCA’s history, with 40+ sisters registered for zoom participation.

Rome seems very open to options or experiments that communities are choosing as they look to the future: various models of governance; new means of ongoing and initial formation; opportunities and options for the care of their members.

With fewer viable member Carmels, it is unfair to draw sisters from their communities into full-time leadership in CCA when they are needed in their communities.

Allowing ourselves to consider an “experimental” model of governance reflects the careful discernment and responsible functioning that has always been a characteristic of CCA.

It is important to have a means for handling sensitive situations, while guarding confidentiality, in an appropriate manner (with the ED).

**PROPOSAL**

#3 of the Proposal submitted by the LT reads: *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.*

We propose an alternate to #3 of the Proposal:

We will not hold elections at this time but will choose an Advisory Group. The Advisory Group is made up of the prioresses and past presidents of CCA and will have oversight of the ED. The proposed Advisory Group is already a functioning group within CCA which meets regularly, with Sr. Susan Weber as moderator.

The sisters of the Advisory Group would function as a unit, sharing among themselves necessary responsibilities, experience, expertise, and requirements for CCA leadership. They will decide and choose who within the Group will carry out various roles.

Submitted by: The Carmelite Communion Date: April 13, 2025

Presented by: Sr. Marjorie