

COMPILED EVALUATIONS FOR OCTOBER 4, 2021 MEETING

by Sr. Susan Weber – 10/18/2021

1. OVERALL RATING OF THE VALUE TO YOU OF OUR MEETING

11-10's 10-9's 6-8's 1-7 1-6

COMMENTS ON WHY THE RATING WAS CHOSEN

- Very positive meeting
- Hard to stay hopeful for a scattered community
- Concern about work and responsibilities for the Leadership Team
- Encouraging, life-giving, loved the connection with friends
- Well planned, honest and thought provoking, good questions
- Small groups were very good
- Some technology problems especially with SSC
- We needed more time in small groups
- Value being a community of communities

2. RATING OF SSC VIDEO UPDATE

5-10's 7-9's 7-8's 4-7's 3-6's 3-5's 1-4

COMMENTS ON WHY RATING WAS CHOSEN

- Wish there was time for questions
- It would have been better if it were a separate Zoom
- Not clear, too much information too fast
- Did an excellent job, it is obvious a lot of hard work went into it
- We should share with other associations
- Who (how many) are actually benefiting from these services
- Trouble hearing
- Send video ahead of time so we could discuss at meeting

3. RATING OF THE CLEVELAND/BEACON COMMUNITIES VIDEO

23-10's 4-9's 3-8's 1-6's

COMMENTS ON WHY YOU CHOSE THE RATING

- Helpful to hear insights on what were learning's along the way
- Journeys very real
- The sharing communities became closer to me
- Honest, transparent, open, real
- Sense of joy and peace
- Importance of planning ahead
- Hope presentations will inspire all communities to assess and move forward
- Both communities faced what is/was hard

4. WAS THE SMALL GROUP A BENEFIT?

EVERYONE SAID YES

WHAT WERE KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Many said we should continue the small group process
- Keep communicating.
- Helps us see the big picture of CCA
- Connecting with all sisters
- Found a lot of unity
- The Spirit is at work.

- We need to learn from what communities have gone through
- Many similarities

5. THOUGHTS/IDEAS THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE LT

- What is happening with affiliations, synod documents, sisterly visits
- More connection with other English-speaking Associations in US and international
- Did not have time to share about the future of CCA
- Have 2 more communities share
- Continue to build trust
- Burden of Cor Orans and what we can do about it
- Like small groups
- Have meeting just to update us
- Small and large groups sharing on CCA

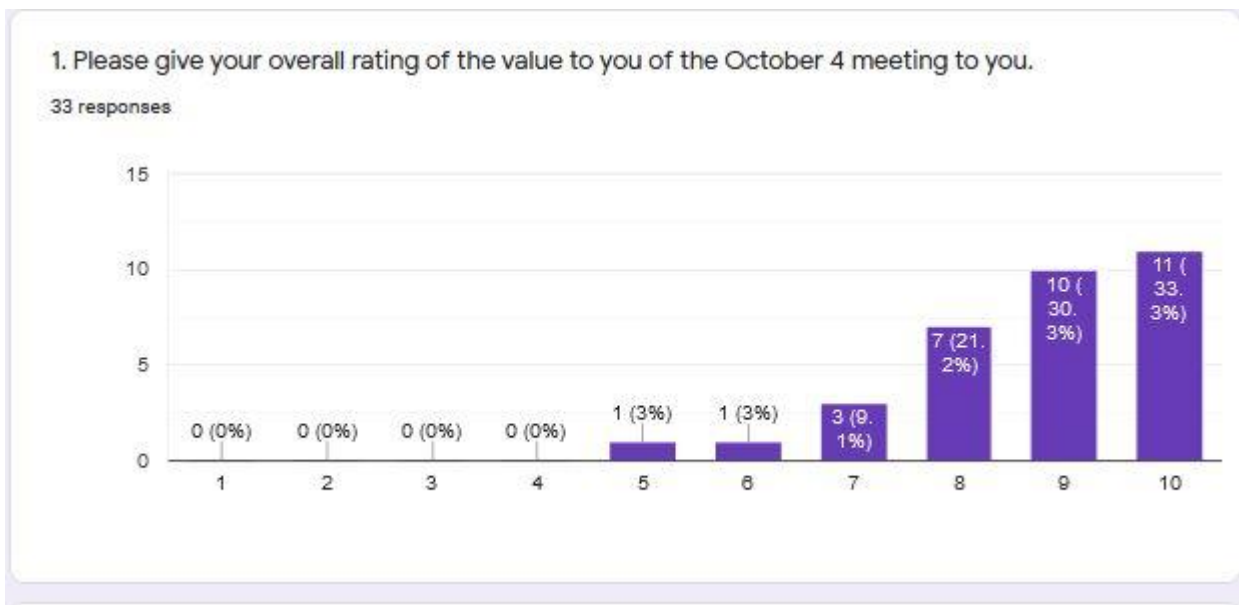
WOULD YOU LIKE FUTURE SESSIONS?
ALL SAID YES

TIMEFRAME

- Two time a year
- In a few months
- 2-4 months
- Spring
- Before Lent

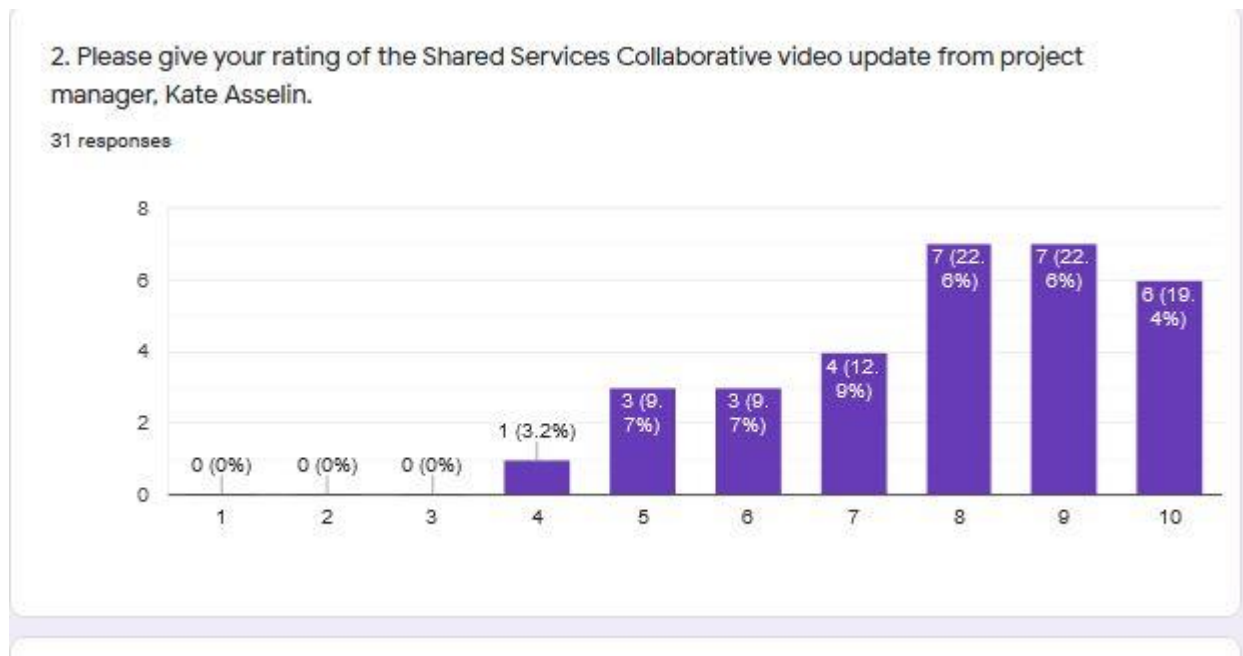
EVERYONE WAS VERY GRATEFUL, THANKFUL, APPRECIATIVE OF ALL WE ARE DOING

2021-10-04 All Member's Meeting Evaluations by Question
As of 10/29/2021



ID#	Please provide comments on why you chose this rating.
1	Lovely meeting. A few computer freezing issues. The visual quality of the slides for the prayer service was not as crisp as it usually is
2	I am thinking that the next meeting may need to be 15 mins. longer--the moderators will never be content to relay just one take-away. This meeting went very well, though.
3	I assume you meant Oct 4 meeting - it was very good. However, the struggle to maintain a hopeful perspective when one is part of a scattered community is difficult and really needs time for discussion and healing and a vision for the future. I also am concerned about the amount of work, activity, responsibilities, time, energy, involved in leadership becoming too complex, too much - but maybe this is just me and where I'm at within myself?
4	I found the meeting encouraging and enlivening, which at this particular time I believe to be very important.
5	Good content, flowed well, well-done!
6	there was a good deal of technical difficulties
7	very good to hear from Sisters of other Carmels and their story and passion for Carmelite life.
8	
9	Some things were time constrained and/or not clearly understood.
10	The connecting with old friends
11	very well planned, group time too short, would have liked a closing prayer
12	
13	I'd give a 10 except for presentation by Kate. Shirley's intro was quite clear; Margie's intro came from her heart; the prayer was especially meaningful as were both the videos from Cleveland and Beacon--so honest and though provoking! Small group sharing powerful
14	
15	It is vital to CCA at this time and into the future that we stay connected, sister to sister and community to community, in order to discern our common future and to offer one another support in the present. Even though Zoom is not the same as in person, I really value that so many sisters are able and willing to be present, and that we can do this more than every two years!
16	Connecting with the sisters and sharing on the level we did was encouraging. I felt the presentation from Beacon and Cleveland gave us good content for our small groups
17	I felt the group covered well and the sharing was good
18	The questions were good, had a wonderful group. The whole meeting was very well planned.
19	Presentations from Beacon and Cleveland were very good . Honest sharing in small groups.
20	
21	It was meaningful time with all the sisters sharing together and i hope we continue to share deeply for our future.
22	Good dialog in our small group
23	well organized; sufficient time for sharing
24	I think that hearing people's experiences was good; we need to go deeper, good first step
25	Coming together to discuss the future of CCA is of great value and as a member, to show support and have the opportunity to say something is also important.
26	
27	It's always a blessing to be with our sisters. However, I found the sharing of the last meeting more beneficial
28	It was good to hear from two other communities and from individual sisters in the small group were "they are" and how they fared through the heights of the pandemic.

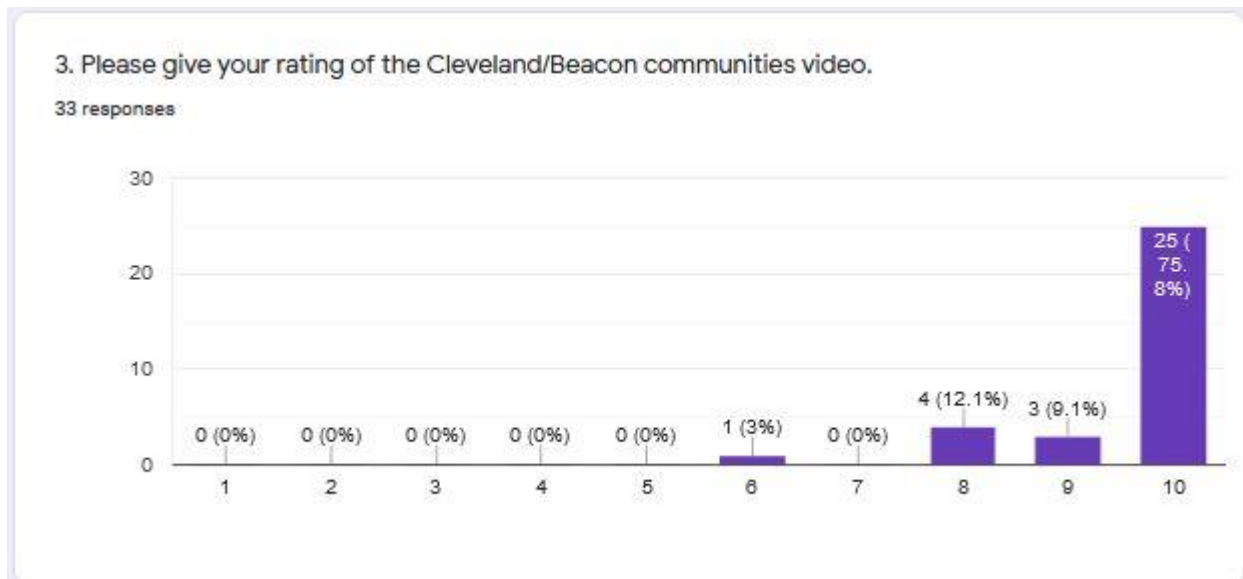
29	Just seeing and interacting with each other is life-giving. Hope we continue.
30	The meeting itself went very well and I think provided a good experience for the sisters. I was a little disappointed with the technology side.
31	I THOUGHT THAT THE MEETING WAS WELL PLANNED AND RAN Very smoothly. The sharing in our group was very honest and open and I do believe that it was a really wonderful way of connection. I was very interested in the sharing by Cleveland and Beacon. I thought that Margies points at the end of her sharing on Beacon were excellent and so true.
32	So good to be with everyone and to catch up on important news.
33	Being connected through the prayer, updates, presentations, and sharing is so important. It says to our sisters, I think, how much we value being a community of communities at this time in our history. I felt our sisters appreciated the time & effort the LT took to prepare for the meeting, that we are committed to find ways of being in communion with one another.



ID#	Please provide comments on why you chose this rating.	If you have any ideas/recommendations for the SSC please provide:
1	I have trouble understanding how this program benefits our community and Kate's explanation didn't really make it any clearer for me.	Who is actually benefitting from these services? How many of our communities are taking advantage of what is offered? How much are people being paid for what is actually being done to benefit our CCA Carmels?
2	She was clear and informative and open to helping the sisters if they need help.	
3	She was good but it would be good to have more time for questions someday	
4	a bit of trouble hearing her and reading the slides - but may have been my machine	
5	Concise and informative	
6	i was not able yto get onto the zoom in time for tihis presentation so i didnot give a rating	
7	Very informative	

8		
9	Accomplished a lot with the time allowed, though seemed to have needed a little more time.	Be sure the main topics covering have enough time before giving so much time for the small groups.
10	We did not join but I found it very interesting	
11	could not hear her clearly, maybe better if document was sent beforehand of what she covered and then people could just ask questions during the Zoom meeting	
12		
13	Unfortunately I was distracted by her delivery which had minimal eye contact with us listening even though she was reading what was on the graphics	
14		
15	Very thorough, clear presentation. A great deal of work has been done on the collaborative, especially by Kate, and I am impressed and pleased with the results.	Continue periodic updates by Kate on what is available to communities, and perhaps at a future meeting some communities could share briefly on how the services are working for them.
16	It was clear but I am not sure we are numbers are sufficient to be of benefit. Is the money going into it cost effective. Are the services (help line) really being used	
17	Kate's presentation was hurried and often garbled	
18	Hard to hear her, too much info in a short span of time.	
19		
20	Not sure she provided what info I expected - who from CCA is using the services.	
21	Opening prayer was wonderful and whole program was well done.	
22	We could have received it in an email.	Let's hear about vocation recruitment. Some communities have new people.
23		share with other associations
24	I think Kate gave a good explanation of what is happening, what is becoming available	
25	It's good to update members of matters that concerns them.	
26		
27	Kate is doing a great job, but she has an internet problem. She was cutting out during her presentation and we had a similar experience meeting with her for our community meetings	
28	Could the video have been forwarded to the communities? I felt that it didn't really fit in with the overall more reflective atmosphere and focus of the meeting.	
29	Kate is very clear and knowledgeable, and i feel this is a very important part of our going forward together.	

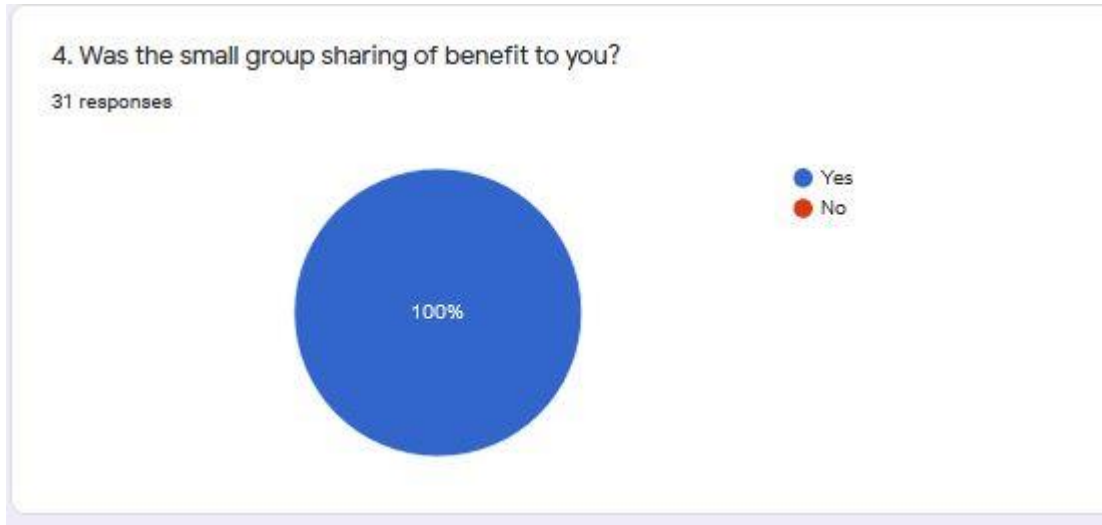
30	I am still not sure that communities and individuals have the information they need to be comfortable with reaching out to utilize these services.	Perhaps Kate could provide examples of which Carmels have made use of the services (with the Carmel's permission of course), what they have used, and the names of other sisters they could contact to discuss their experience. I think encouragement to use the services is going to have to come by those who are using the services helping others recognize the benefits.
31		
32	Not enough time for all Kate had to share all that she had. I wish she had had more time to explain things bit more also.	I'm hoping that the sisters will make good use of the helps that are available to us! We have been given a lot of help [financial and personnel] with this; I'm hoping that the communities will take advantage of it while we have the it.
33	Kate worked long and hard on preparing the update and probably felt limited by time. There probably were questions sisters had but we couldn't schedule a Q&A time. I don't think a Q&A with the whole assembly would have been that profitable. I wonder if all the sisters in our communities are interested in or can follow the particulars of the SSC.	Going forward, perhaps a separate zoom meeting with Kate of prioresses/local leaders/treasurers/infirmarians/tech sisters and others in our communities who are actually involved in the services would be more helpful? Time for Q&A, fuller explanations of services and benefits, how communities can make use of them etc.



ID#	Please provide comments on why you chose this rating.
1	Loved hearing the experience of our sisters. It was lovely to have each one in Cleveland to part of the sharing about their situation. I didn't previously know all that the Beacon sisters had done to explore their future, their reasons for remaining in place etc. I admire the courage, prayerfulness and wisdom of these 2 communities. Prayer/liturgy/connecting with our world came through as essential to what feeds our life as Carmelites. It was inspiring.
2	Both groups of sisters were honest and their sharing was helpful.
3	they related their journeys and shared insights learned along the way- always helpful
4	It made the 'journeys' that the sisters took very real, and brought them closer to me

5	I appreciated the honesty and transparency with which they spoke. It was nice to see the sisters in Cleveland and Margie provided helpful information for communities to consider. Their presentations also engendered hope and life.
6	both communities were open about their situation and thir ptrsentations were well prepared and delivered
7	Love to see and hear them
8	
9	Whatever their experience is bound to be helpful since it is theirs.
10	I loved seeing them - the filming was not clear
11	Cleveland was esp good to see because each sister in community was able to share, felt they both were honest and helpful as to changes we all need to face, sooner or later
12	
13	Honest sharing of process of moving to smaller residence, challenges especially with Covid, finding connections via virtual prayer services, Mass, bonding as a community, and sense of joy and peace. Helpful reflection questions from Margie about looking at ourselves where we are now and facing the challenges of our own futureâ€”sharing how they had prepared and researched possibilities and then Covid gave them time to reflect and change directions gives hope.
14	
15	Very helpful to know what has happened and is happening in the communities. Videos were well done. Such sharing and information helps our sense of unity. Since we all have to be involved in thinking about the future, both for our own community and for CCA, it is valuable to listen to one another's process and experience. We can learn from each other and better offer support where needed.
16	The sharing from both communities were clear and honest. It was good to hear how we have to plan ahead and at the same time be open to change. It was also helpful to hear how the communities are choosing life in their present situation
17	The Sisters were at ease with us and I was honored by their honesty in sharing
18	Excellent presentations and sharing. They are working with their reality to choose what they want not what may be imposed on them in the future. They are not giving up hope but letting the Spirit lead them to a place they know not and are open to that. Their Carmelite life is their priority.
19	
20	It was wonderful to hear the personal experience of our sisters.
21	I was deeply touched about the presentation and thank you to all.
22	Good to hear about their processes.
23	
24	I have hope that it will inspire other communities to assess their own position and move forward.
25	They are open, generous and sincere in sharing their experiences, personal and as a community. It enabled other members to know the reality of our present time/situation.
26	
27	I appreciate our sisters generosity in sharing their experiences
28	Honest and helpful. It was nice to hear from all the Cleveland sisters.
29	I enjoyed both but felt Cleveland's could have been a bit clearer concerning their process.
30	The presentations were very well done and the answers to the questions ask we honestly and thoughtfully answered.
31	I liked the diversity of the speakers in Cleveland and I thought the report on Beacon was not only informative but it also was challenging.

32	Good to hear; hard to do! I'm aware that there were so many hard things that needed to be discerned and acted upon ... many threads still hanging.
33	I experienced much energy and good responses of the Cleveland sisters to the lockdown. They strike me as a healthy, cohesive community, intelligent women who have worked together to accomplish all they have in recent years. Their presentation demonstrated that. The Bozo who spoke for Beacon looked like she was out to lunch!!!! She tried her best, I know!



ID#	What was the key takeaway for you?
1	Flexibility, openness to an unfolding future and trust that where we are now is exactly the right place to be.
2	The communities of CCA need more ways of connecting and sharing with each other and with groups of sisters outside of CCA: other Carmelite Associations/Federations and other groups of sisters. Broadening our outreach to English-speaking communities not living in the U.S. would be a good idea too.
3	the need for creative, imaginative, ways to strengthen connections and expand ways to serve Carmel and the world
4	to keep the energy flowing
5	It's important to remain connected.
6	there was genuine concern to live our charism in today's culture in a faithful and authentic way
7	Their worry and insight for the future of their community
8	Need To keep connected to Carmels closed but sisters who are on their own...
9	Not totally clear on what doing with questions and needing for moderator to give a summary. Need more of a facilitator if this is going to be done. Thoughts free but scattered and hard to quickly with no time to summarize in a brief sentence or two. Each said what they wanted even if all questions not really covered.
10	Connecting in the wonder of zoom
11	It is so good to share among ourselves and realize how much we all are on the same Carmelite journey with many differing paths.
12	
13	How important it is to connect via small group sharing to deepen our understanding of each other and support each other especially as fewer of us are able to go to in person meetings

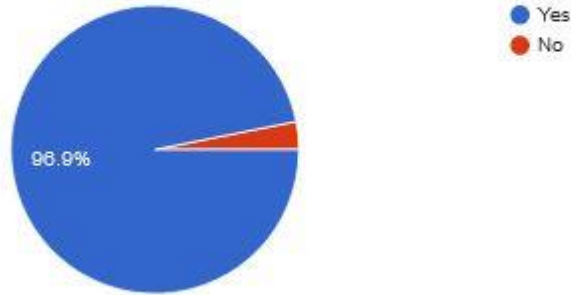
14	
15	How much in common we have with one another, how much we value CCA, and how much it helps to listen to one another.
16	How important it is to stay connected and to share new insights and ideas
17	We need to continue the process
18	Connection, communication and compassion for each Carmel's individual situation.
19	Communities are at different points on the spectrum. It is heartbreaking to see the diminishment. It is important to keep up communication.
20	Keep communicating.
21	Our deep desire through our mission.
22	Good to share. Helps big picture of CCA.
23	the conversations amongst communities need to keep going
24	I had to leave....
25	I am an introvert, being able to share my thoughts and listen to other sisters sharing means a lot. And, to be with someone who was ill and very eager to participate is an inspiration.
26	
27	We need to address the viability of CCA operating as outlined in Cor Orans with the current membership statistical reality
28	
29	How, coming from diverse Carmels and situations, we find a lot of unity in what we come to -- maybe the Holy Spirit??
30	Communities that have moved or disbanded are really hurting and those that have not should take their advice and begin to seriously look at their situations and the future. A good facilitator is a necessity for this process to work effectively.
31	I think Carolyn captured it well
32	Lots of similarities. Sometimes the smiles hid tears.
33	Sisters are open to how other communities are responding to life at this time--the present as well as looking to the future. Even though we don't have clear answers, I find sisters are less afraid of asking the questions, pondering options.

ID#	5. Please share any thoughts/ideas with the LT that would be helpful to them in their carrying out their service of leadership for CCA?
1	
2	The LT is doing a fine job now; continue doing what you're doing and follow the Spirit's lead.
3	I'm just grateful for all you are willing and able to do for us - but watch your health.
4	to keep positive, don't get overwhelmed, know you are part of something that the Spirit is carrying
5	
6	any sister in need provide financial aid CONTINUE TO REACH OUT TO COMMUNITIES FACING CLOSURE ENCOURAGE COMMUNICATION DREAM NEW MODELS and "OFFER WAYS TO EXPERIMENT EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF HELP FROM OTHER ASSOCIATION/OTHER ENGLISH SPEAKING CARMELS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATION
7	
8	

9	Would it ever be a good idea for each LT person to see if they could just get the communities they work with for a simple group sharing sometime.
10	It helps to know what others are doing, to get ideas, to give and feel support
11	for those of us without support of living in community please don't forget us
12	
13	1. Although US associations share their newsletters, as do we, are the councils of the 4 associations meeting by Zoom to share challenges, ways they are finding to meet the needs of their members, ways we might help ,each other? 2. We in CCA have been learning so much from each other about the process of Affiliation, the challenges involved, possible resources, feedback from individual sisters and communities...CCA has much to share with our sisters in other associations and, hopefully, they with us (initially through leadership sharing with leadership)
14	
15	
16	Continue to help us stay connected and share insights and ideas
17	
18	
19	How do we deal as members of the association with the pain of seeing some communities go through the break up of their communities? More discussion and prayer needed regarding how we truly relate to Rome. Would they be open to other ways for communities and associations to address the future?
20	
21	Thank you so much for all the works and supports for CCA and hope we all corporate dream together.
22	Let us know whatâ€™s going on.
23	extra attention to the diaspora communities like Barrington where sisters feel isolated.
24	I think they are doing a good job; cannot think of anything else at this time
25	Just to be courageous to do whatever they think will be beneficial to all CCA members. We are in a very challenging situation right now, many are feeling isolated especially those in transition. It will be good to continue reaching out to them even just by online communication.
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	There probably needs to be an emphasis on staying in contact with the sisters and perhaps building stronger links with other Association/Federations.
31	I have nothing but praise and gratitude for the leadership team. I did like the idea of perhaps expanding CCA
32	I think you are doing a fine job; I'm not sure of just what you do but trust that you are following the Spirit, collecting and discussing ideas...keeping in touch with the needs of the sisters/communities.
33	Step back to look at how the association has changed, how communities have changed, how we have responded in fostering communion in the past 2-3 years. What is wanted, desired and doable for our next general assembly? How creative and inclusive can we be in planning for a general assembly when so much has changed?

6. Would you like to have the LT host another future session

32 responses



ID#	timeframe	What would you like covered at such sessions
1	Maybe in a few months. Doesn't always need to be 90 minutes. Even a 60 minute update on what's happening would be a good connection.	What's happening in CCA with affiliations etc. that can be shared? What about the synodal document we just received? What will be done with it? Have sisterly visits been handled? Or is there a new way the LT is thinking of them?
2	spring--late April or early May, and fall--early October	We didn't finish thinking and sharing about the future of CCA. I think we could just continue, maybe even using the same reflection questions from the perspective of six months later.
3	You have the best info/experience to suggest	I see three topics: 1- Leadership : Affiliates and Charism , 2 - ways to witness to the integrity and purpose of a contemplative approach for our struggling world, and 3 - to identify expectations and hope for new vocations, relationships with our sisters in nursing care, and ways to tap into our commitment to be women of prayer and communities of love.
4		not too soon
5	Two times a year or whenever you have information to share.	More on discerning the future of CCA. Our small group didn't have time to discuss that question.
6	every two months or on special occasions	
7		
8	Spring	
9	Not until into the new year.	Update on what the LT team is working on for CCA, anything new on Sisterly visits, any new ideas for shared services, sharing by one or two monasteries on their situation at this time, and whatever the present day may make necessary or suggests.
10	Four to six months	I found Mary Wild's comments very interesting and Connie's response.
11	every 2 to 3 months?	What are strengths, gifts, creativity communities have that can be shared with all of us
12	once every six months	

13	Every 3-4 months	Two more communities being videotaped sharing where they are, what they are doing, what has worked, what hasn't, challenges, hopes, dreams and creativity
14		
15	Maybe sometime during Lent 2022	Sharing from two more communities; input from sisters about whatever programs/opportunities sponsored by CCA they have participated in, and suggestions for future such offerings; update about SSC; small group sharing in some way. Perhaps we will have received response from Rome about our statutes by then.
16	Beginning of next year	
17	In 6-8 weeks if possible	Continue to build trust with one another
18		How can CCA continue to be an association in the future? International monasteries joining us?
19		
20	6 month	Another sharing by selected communities. Continuing to plan about the future
21		
22	February. Before Lent	See above
23	January?	ways of collaboration
24		
25	The usual time.	Anything that will enrich each member. And, business matter that concerns all members.
26		
27	Jan-22	The burden of Cor Oran's on our leadership and what to do about it
28	2-3 times a year. Time that has been allotted for those meetings is just right .	Continue with other communities who have not had a presentation yet or a sharing based on a text.
29	Perhaps every two months, or three, for an afternoon such as this last one.	
30	3-4 times a year	Where CCA is going.
31	There is no doubt that the meeting is a wonderful way to connect and that is a priority for me	
32	Same time, I guess. Same amount also.	Carmelite life, spirituality, our lives today. Whatever bubbles up as a need.
33	2X a year	As well as small groups, larger group interaction & sharing on the life of CCA at this time. Perhaps sharing around questions I've already mentioned?

ID#	7. Is there anything else you would like us to know?
1	Thanks and gratitude for all!
2	No--thanks for asking.

3	May God's grace and moments for laughter keep you connected with good spirits and your vision clear.
4	
5	Thank you for all your good work!
6	can you help communities who might want a visit or assistance with ZOOM
7	
8	
9	
10	Just so much appreciation for our leadership, past and present
11	A million thanks for each of you and all your hard work in making these Zoom meetings happen
12	
13	Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be together and for your excellent planning of these zooms. Communication with each other in this mode truly helps us know each other in new ways and also provides for sharing in small groups, feeling safer at times, than sharing what is on our hearts in our own communities
14	
15	It matters that each of you takes care of herself in her leadership role, and talk together about your individual and collective well-being! Thank you so much for all you do.
16	My deep gratitude for all sisters are doing in service to their community and CCA We need to continue to capture the joy of our years of being together
17	Thank you!
18	Thank you for all your work and dedication to CCA.
19	I prefer having small groups with moderator and note taker or have large group sharing with facilitator.
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	Congratulations for this first meeting you hosted. Very well done!
26	
27	It would help if the moderators knew ahead of time what was going to be asked of them. Last time we were given a very different "job description" and I accepted to do it this time based on that same idea. I was not prepared for the change since we were still being called moderators and not facilitators. Taking notes and moderating/facilitating at the same time are a challenge, but having to instantly give a report with no time to formulate it was tough
28	Thank you very much, LT, and thank you to each one of you for your individual contributions to put this together!
29	
30	
31	
32	I pray much for each of you!
33	Thank you so much! You are a great team to work with!

Key Points from Small Group Sharing
October 4, 2021 CCA Membership Zoom
Consolidated by Sr. Shirley Marie – 10-29-2021

Please Note: In some cases, a “quote” from a group may appear under 2 or more “categories”. Not all groups had input in each “category”

Categories Gleaned from Responses

1) *Importance of our living out the Carmelite Charism:*

Group 1: The quality of our prayer life and community life is vital at whatever stage we are on our journey. It is essential to continue to offer contemplative life/contemplation to our world.

Group 2: Focus on how we sustain our life and make appropriate adaptations. We are called to live out our Carmelite charism wherever we are. The Carmelite call remains the same and God continues to call us forward into the next new call. God’s presence is always with us. Liturgy and communal prayer forms were extremely important and meaningful during the pandemic. We adapted to fit our situation.

Group 3:

Group 4: There are no clear answers—fidelity to our charism in whatever situations in which we find ourselves—trusting in God and living in hope as we are open to what unfolds

Group 5: The importance of our life of prayer and the importance of community life were stressed. It was brought out that our houses and locations were meant to serve our life of prayer, and that we should be ready to let go of them, or anything, once we become aware they do not serve our life of prayer.

Group 6: Because of how we have lived our vocation, we had the resources to live fruitfully the lockdown and distancing associated with the pandemic.

2) *Pandemic Response:*

Group 1:

Group 2: Liturgy and communal prayer forms were extremely important and meaningful during the pandemic. We adapted to fit our situation. What first appears to be dreadful in a situation can also be a source of grace and insight.

Group 3: We were all still hopeful after the experiences of the past year and a half. During that time, we had opportunities to share our life and prayer via zoom with many people, in addition to our Carmelite sisters, and to collaborate in new ways

Group 4: Covid was both a challenge and an opportunity; There was more time within community for quiet reflection, and we became even more aware of our connection with people everywhere who were “isolated” by circumstances of Covid (prayer requests, phone conversations, etc.). Despite not being able to have people in or to visit family, technology offered us ways to be connected, to be creative in sharing our prayer, Masses, charism in new ways.

Group 5: It was brought out how we came to know each other at a deeper level during the time of ‘shut down’, and how this strengthened community. It was also brought out how the internet has broadened our communities in so many ways, making it possible to ‘meet’ with those who could not come to in-person meetings. We spoke of the richness and possibilities that technology has brought into our lives, but still, we recognize the need and benefits of in-person meetings.

Group 6: Because of how we have lived our vocation, we had the resources to live fruitfully the lockdown and distancing associated with the pandemic. The restrictions of the lockdown seemed to free our creativity, especially in the area of liturgy.

3) **Connecting and Supporting Our Sisters**

Group 1: We seek to stay connected with our sisters who are separated and not living together. We also hope to connect the younger vocations in Carmel for their support and encouragement. We need to discover new creative ways that enable us to give members the ability not only to receive but to give and share their talents. Everyone's voice is important

Group 2: There is much pain and heartbreak in seeing what has happened to some of our sisters in community. Acknowledge that loss and grief exist. We have to keep in touch, communication is key at this point in our history. Meeting person to person is the best way, however, Zoom has in some ways bridged the gap and is an important tool.

Group 3: We deepened our understanding of what "presence" can be, and were stretched beyond what we were before. It was noted that in the challenging situation of the past year and a half it became clearer that we need to be sensitive to caring for and supporting the younger members of our communities as well as the older members.

Group 4: Some communities have younger applicants (in their 20s) and this calls for creativity in formation and facilitating more fun times (this re-invigorates all).

Group 5:

Group 6: There is a strong desire for connection, and felt need to find ways to make it. There was also a recognition of the importance of collaboration, even perhaps, with other associations.

4) **Future of CCA:**

Group 1: We realize it is essential to dream together for our future. We want to keep CCA alive as long as possible. It is a bridge for the future, continuing to be a prophetic voice to wherever God leads us especially in view of young people. We cannot see where the dream will take us, but if we continue the connections and conversations, the Spirit will open it up to us

Group 2:

Group 3: In the future, some would like to see increased collaboration with others, including adding a Carmelite voice to sharing's beyond the Order. We are all very grateful for the generosity of those who serve in our CCA leadership. We see the burden of the responsibilities added through Cor Orans as calling for more dialogue among us - both in community and association wide - to address new ways to handle the burden going forward. The current situation is not sustainable given our demographics

Group 4: Communication is so very important: zoom and small groups allows for connections and "face to face" with sisters we might not ever see or share; we need each other for support and consolation; Connection with other US Associations so important because of our shared charisms and because we will need to be even more connected with each other in the future. Collaboration among us and beyond our own communities is vital. Find a new model for CCA as some of our communities have already closed; some in new living situations; smaller groups, etc. Need to be open and continue to dream.

Group 5: We expressed how we are committed to CCA and its future, and acknowledged that CCA in the future, may be something quite different than we can envisage now.

Group 6:

5) **Planning and Dreaming:**

Group 1:

Group 2: There has to be good planning for the future. Working with a facilitator can be helpful in unearthing the truths that already exist in a community. How did the sisters in Beacon come to acknowledge the reality of their present situation and possible future? Admire their courage and dedication to their process. We have to own the truth of our limitations no matter where we are. Study options for your community before they are no more. There is no one solution for our communities. One size does not fit all. Our communities are at various places on the spectrum. Our age, vitality and vibrancy run the spectrum.

Group 3:

Group 4: We are in different places regarding looking at and/or planning our future. From being quietly aware of our own circumstances, to beginning discussions on what is important for us, to inviting a facilitator to help us be more specific or intentional, and also for another community: collaboration with individuals who love our charism and want to be an integral part of moving with us into sharing our charism as non-vowed “members” beyond the time when we are physically present as a vowed community

Group 5: We appreciated the presentations from Cleveland and Beacon and addressed some of the issues they had mentioned. “We stressed the importance of acknowledging the truth of our situation as community and also of recognizing that no two communities are in the same place, therefore our choices in moving forward will differ. It was noted that long term planning has been replaced by strategic planning due to the rate at which change is accelerating. We now need to be more open and be ready to move into what is new, and as we do, we need to live in hope, expecting what is good and better, though still unknown. It was brought out that our houses and locations were meant to serve our life of prayer, and that we should be ready to let go of them, or anything, once we become aware they do not serve our life of prayer. We need to trust ourselves and the riches and maturity that we possess, and not fear moving on our decisions and ideas.

Group 6: It is necessary to own the truth of our situations. That might even include being open to others’ opinions of it.

6) **Suggestions:**

Group 1: We need to discover new creative ways that enable us to give members the ability not only to receive but to give and share their talents.

Group 2: We have to make good use of our time and return to a sense of optimism

Group 3: In the future, some would like to see increased collaboration with others, including adding a Carmelite voice to sharing’s beyond the Order. We are all very grateful for the generosity of those who serve in our CCA leadership. We see the burden of the responsibilities added through Cor Orans as calling for more dialogue among us - both in community and association wide - to address new ways to handle the burden going forward. The current situation is not sustainable given our demographics

Group 4: One idea: perhaps CCA sponsored Zoom Prayer time together for those who want to do so: Mass 1x month; other prayer service? Find a new model for CCA as some of our communities have already closed; some in new living situations; smaller groups, etc. St. Joseph Association has already done something new: they accepted a community in a distant country to become part of their Association—perhaps this may be in our future, also or perhaps not...

Group 5:

Group 6:

8) **Other Comments:**

Appreciation for the sharing of Cleveland and Beacon and specifics they shared. The sisters in our small groups reflected a variety of situations.

October 4, 2021 CCA Membership Zoom Meeting:
Individual Reports from Moderators of Each Small Group

CCA 10/4/2021 Small Group Report #1 Judy Long *, Colette Ackerman, Marita Biscotti, Sue Lumb, Donna Schultz, Bernadette Therese Huang, SaRa Lee

The quality of our prayer life and community life is vital at whatever stage we are on our journey. It is essential to continue to offer contemplative life/contemplation to our world. The pandemic opened up numerous internet possibilities that helped to keep us connected. We seek to stay connected with our sisters who are separated and not living together.

We realize it is essential to dream together for our future. We want to keep CCA alive as long as possible. It is a bridge for the future, continuing to be a prophetic voice to wherever God leads us especially in view of young people. We also hope to connect the younger vocations in Carmel for their support and encouragement. We need to discover new creative ways that enable us to give members the ability not only to receive but to give and share their talents. We cannot see where the dream will take us, but if we continue the connections and conversations, the Spirit will open it up to us. Everyone's voice is important.

CCA 10/4/2021 Small Group Report #2 Maria Viatori ,* Shirley Marie Ahern, Celia Ashton, Hilary Case, Teresa Susan Dreyer, Michaelene Devine, Rosemary Kluepfel, Beth Shainin, Luisa Santa Cruz

Key points from our conversation.

- There has to be good planning for the future
- Working with a facilitator can be helpful in unearthing the truths that already exist in a community.
- Focus on how we sustain our life and make appropriate adaptations.
- We are called to live out our Carmelite charism wherever we are. The Carmelite call remains the same and God continues to call us forward into the next new call. God's presence is always with us.
- How did the sisters in Beacon come to acknowledge the reality of their present situation and possible future? Admire their courage and dedication to their process.
- We have to own the truth of our limitations no matter where we are.
- Study options for your community before they are no more.
- There is no one solution for our communities. One size does not fit all. Our communities are at various places on the spectrum. Our age, vitality and vibrancy runs the spectrum.
- There is much pain and heartbreak in seeing what has happened to some of our sisters in community. Acknowledge that loss and grief exist.
- We have to keep in touch, communication is key at this point in our history. Meeting person to person is the best way, however, Zoom has in some ways bridged the gap and is an important tool.
- We have to make good use of our time and return to a sense of optimism.
- What first appears to be dreadful in a situation can also be a source of grace and insight.

- Liturgy and communal prayer forms were extremely important and meaningful during the pandemic. We adapted to fit our situation.

CCA 10/4/2021 Small Group Report #3 Mary Wild *, Connie FitzGerald, Mary Theresa Lamothe, Mary Teresa Wisniewski, Barbara Losh/Bernadette Kamin, Jean Alice McGoff, Susan Weber, Agnes Ahn

We were all still hopeful after the experiences of the past year and a half. During that time we had opportunities to share our life and prayer via zoom with many people, in addition to our Carmelite sisters, and to collaborate in new ways. We deepened our understanding of what "presence" can be, and were stretched beyond what we were before. In the future, some would like to see increased collaboration with others, including adding a Carmelite voice to sharings beyond the Order.

It was noted that in the challenging situation of the past year and a half it became clearer that we need to be sensitive to caring for and supporting the younger members of our communities as well as the older members.

We are all very grateful for the generosity of those who serve in our CCA leadership. We see the burden of the responsibilities added through Cor Orans as calling for more dialogue among us - both in community and association wide - to address new ways to handle the burden going forward. The current situation is not sustainable given our demographics.

CCA 10/4/2021 Small Group Report #4 Rosalind Forrest *, Mary Fleig, Barbara Jean La Rochester, Roseann Gillice, Marieleth Trinidad, Jeannette Doran, Mary Elizabeth Krug

Appreciation for the sharing of Cleveland and Beacon and specifics they shared

The sisters in our small groups reflected a variety of situations

Covid was both a challenge and an opportunity;

There was more time within community for quiet reflection, and we became even more aware of our connection with people everywhere who were "isolated" by circumstances of Covid (prayer requests, phone conversations, etc)

Despite not being able to have people in or to visit family, technology offered us ways to be connected, to be creative in sharing our prayer, Masses, charism in new ways

We are in different places regarding looking at and/or planning our future

From being quietly aware of our own circumstances, to beginning discussions on what is important for us, to inviting a facilitator to help us be more specific or intentional, and also for another community: collaboration with individuals who love our charism and want to be an integral part of moving with us into sharing our charism as non-vowed "members" beyond the time when we are physically present as a vowed community

Some communities have younger applicants (in their 20s) and this calls for creativity in formation and facilitating more fun times (this re-invigorates all)

There are no clear answers—fidelity to our charism in whatever situations in which we find ourselves—trusting in God and living in hope as we are open to what unfolds

Re: future of CCA

Communication is so very important: zoom and small groups allows for connections and “face to face” with sisters we might not ever see or share; we need each other for support and consolation;

Connection with other US Associations so important because of our shared charisms and because we will need to be even more connected with each other in the future

Collaboration among us and beyond our own communities is vital

One idea: perhaps CCA sponsored Zoom Prayer time together for those who want to do so: Mass 1x month; other prayer service?

Find a new model for CCA as some of our communities have already closed; some in new living situations; smaller groups, etc.

St. Joseph Association has already done something new: they accepted a community in a distant country to become part of their Association—perhaps this may be in our future, also or perhaps not...

Need to be open and continue to dream

CCA 10/4/2021 Small Group Report #5 Mary Clare Doherty *, Marjorie Robinson, Lupe Gallo Romo, Eileen Nassar, Joann Gartner, Claire Sokol, Cecelia Kang, Monika Bies

We appreciated the presentations from Cleveland and Beacon and addressed some of the issues they had mentioned.

“We stressed the importance of acknowledging the truth of our situation as community and also of recognizing that no two communities are in the same place, therefore our choices in moving forward will differ.

It was noted that long term planning has been replaced by strategic planning due to the rate at which change is accelerating. We now need to be more open and be ready to move into what is new, and as we do, we need to live in hope, expecting what is good and better, though still unknown. It was brought out that our houses and locations were meant to serve our life of prayer, and that we should be ready to let go of them, or anything, once we become aware they do not serve our life of prayer.

The importance of our life of prayer and the importance of community life were stressed.

It was brought out how we came to know each other at a deeper level during the time of ‘shut down’, and how this strengthened community. It was also brought out how the internet has broadened our communities in so many ways, making it possible to ‘meet’ with those who could not come to in-person meetings. We spoke of the richness and possibilities that technology has brought into our lives, but still we recognize the need and benefits of in-person meetings.

We need to trust ourselves and the riches and maturity that we possess, and not fear moving on our decisions and ideas.

We expressed how we are committed to CCA and its future, and acknowledged that CCA in the future, may be something quite different than we can envisage now.

CCA 10/4/2021 Small Group Report #6 Carolyn O'Hara *, Robin Stratton, Jeanne Marie Graham, Claudette Blais, JonFe De Torres, Carol Sachse, Ann Weber, Marian Steffens

All participated freely in the discussion. The takeaways are:

1. Because of how we have lived our vocation, we had the resources to live fruitfully the lockdown and distancing associated with the pandemic. The restrictions of the lockdown seemed to free our creativity, especially in the area of liturgy.
2. It is necessary to own the truth of our situations. That might even include being open to others' opinions of it.
3. There is a strong desire for connection, and felt need to find ways to make it. There was also a recognition of the importance of collaboration, even perhaps, with other associations.