



September 8, 2019

Subject: CCA Statues

Dear Sisters,

Thank you for the feedback which each community submitted in response to the first draft of revisions proposed by the LT on our CCA Statues. We have studied your proposals and had them reviewed by our canon lawyer Sister Nancy Reynolds. Below is a summary of the feedback and proposals we received, outlined according to theme. We are also sending you the original comments from communities in an attachment.

1. Term of office of the Association President and Council and frequency of General Assembly meetings:

Of the 10 communities that responded, 8 communities were in favor of the proposed three-year term. 2 communities expressed a preference for a two-year term. It is important to remember that the proposed three-year term is a significant modification from the six-year term mandated by *Cor orans* (#110). We are asking you to revisit this issue based on the rationale offered by communities and our canon lawyer.

Rationale for two year term:

1. With aging members and diminishing numbers in our monasteries, it is difficult to free up a sister for a three-year term, especially with the added responsibilities *Cor orans* has given to the president and her Council. There is also increased travel involved with these responsibilities. Further, it is unlikely that a sister would be able to serve two consecutive three-year terms which would result in a lack of continuity in terms of leadership.
2. Sisters have expressed the opinion that 3 years is too long between meetings as they value the more frequent in-person interaction.

Rationale for three year term:

1. 3 year term allows the President and Council enough time to implement projects and goals proposed by the assembly without undue stress.

Baltimore MD Beacon NY Boston MA Concord NH Danville PA Eldridge IA
Barrington RI San Rafael CA Cleveland OH Latrobe PA Oldenburg IN Reno NV

Planning for a general assembly involves a tremendous amount of work and energy on the part of leadership and a two-year term puts a lot of pressure on the leadership to plan such meetings especially given the added responsibilities on leadership from *Cor orans*.

2. If the goal of a shorter two-year term is more in-person meetings this can be achieved by way of in-person ongoing formation programs or other such meetings during the term of the Council.
3. Travel for meetings is costly and also getting more difficult for sisters who are aging. Zoom meetings have provided a wonderful way for sisters to connect and establish deeper bonds, without the travel.
4. There is a shortage of sisters available for leadership and it is not easy to engage in a new search for leaders every two years.

These further reasons recommending a three year terms are offered by Sr. Nancy Reynolds:

We have a very good rationale for a three year term because it is the term of the Prioress in the monastery. Three year terms bring both of those positions into alignment, although I think you would not elect both at the same time in all monasteries. That is one reason and the other is the shortage of members today. We would not have as strong a rationale for changing to two year term. I would strongly suggest leaving the term three years for President and council. If you request two and do not have sufficient rationale, Rome could say no outright (which means reverting to original CO term of 6 years) I would think that the rationale for three years is going to be very strong and if there is going to be a reduction in the length of term, they would more easily accept three than two. Also, from my perspective, it usually takes a year or more for a person in leadership to really know what it is she is doing and then it takes a year to wind down. A two year term would give less time for the team to be effective... at least with 3 year term there is more time to be leaders.

We have conferred with other Associations who have informed us of the following. St. Teresa's Association, Saint Joseph's Association (SJA) and the UK Association will all ask for a 3 year term with the possibility of reelection for another term. Mary, Queen of Carmel Association is fine with *Cor orans*' 6 year term and at this point they do not intend to ask for an exception. SJA and the UK Association have already submitted their statutes to Rome for approval. MQC and STA are still in the drafting stage.

2. Term of Temporary Vows and Formation:

The Baltimore community has proposed that an additional section be added to the Statutes to shorten the mandated term (per *Cor orans*) of temporary vows in the monasteries of our association. Please see the attachment of responses from CCA communities to our first draft. We have incorporated this suggestion in this second draft by adopting the wording found in our Constitutions regarding the term of temporary vows. Please see Article III A 15a of this second draft.

Additionally, our Baltimore Sisters suggested a mentoring/formation/support program tailored to each sister who is less than 5 years in solemn vows. We would recommend this as an endeavor for member communities to undertake, supported by the association, rather than mandating it in our Statutes. Please see Article III 15b.

3. Introduction to Statutes

Our Cleveland Sisters have asked that the wording of the Introduction to our Statutes be updated to better reflect our current reality. We have attempted such a revision and attach it for your review and comment.

All other revisions from the first draft are highlighted in red in this second draft. They are our best effort at incorporating suggestions from you. Please review the draft and respond with your comments to your liaison by November 14, 2019.

Thank you for your cooperation on this important task.

Much love and many blessings,
Your sisters

Monika Roz Bernadette Thiara Cecelia

Attachments:

1. September 8, 2019 Second working draft of Statutes
2. September 8, 2019 Proposed Introduction to Statutes
3. CCA responses to the First draft of Statutes