

Discernment Circles analysis – US - Africa work

	Area/theme/movement	Goal	Rationale	Actions	Questions/issues
1.	Build relationships through exchange and collaboration	<p>Build and deepen relationships between U.S. and African Sacred Heart Dominicans through exchanges, projects and collaborative programs in person and through technology (x3)</p> <p>Share how we live the OP Pillars and our best/promising practices in collaboration strategies among Sisters, Associates and Lay Partners</p> <p>Share human and financial resources and materials to create retreat experiences that can be used by all (x3)</p> <p>Preaching: pool energies across continents in creative ways in response to the signs of the time (x2)</p>	<p>To understand cultural differences and build meaningful relationships with one another</p> <p>Mutuality is of primary importance (x2). Be responsive to ways of participation that African sisters invite us to. A mutual exchange of ideas will benefit all of us</p>	<p>Formulate a clear definition of collaboration together. Examine what already works well & what needs to be strengthened</p> <p>US/Africa inter-congregational exchanges to explore charism, life, ministry (x3)</p> <p>Form a joint retreat planning team & develop a model (x2)</p> <p>Connect wisdom figures one on one with younger members and lay partners to encourage and affirm leadership and envisioning skills (x2)</p> <p>Conversations re how to balance out the younger members in African congregations with the older members in US congregations</p>	<p>We need to be vulnerable and sensitive in building new relationships across all cultures because we all have gifts and richness to share</p> <p>We experience in the sisters from Africa a strong sense of Dominican charism and mission. Can we in US learn from them and foster a recommitment to this? Can we receive their passion as gift that builds a mutual relationship between us?</p>

<p>2.</p>	<p>Technology at the service of mutuality</p>	<p>Gather and pool resources to acquire the latest equipment, materials and skills necessary to develop mutual exchange and communication between and among US and African Dominicans and lay partners in U.S. and Africa. Work with other groups and partners to maximize our capacity to communicate via technology (x5)</p>	<p>Technology could help connect us and build mutual relationships regardless of geographic location</p>	<p>Examine what currently works well and what resources we already have, and what is needed for future collaboration (x2) Create educational videos for common use Take cultural differences into account (x2) Provide training when needed Develop digital presentations on our experiences of the Liturgy, new cosmology, Biblical themes and justice issues (x2)</p>	<p>Lay partners and grants can help with the funding of such programs (x2) Research ways the internet can become more accessible to our sisters in Africa. How can we strengthen this? (x2)</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Collaborative approaches to formation and education; Sharing learning and best practices</p>	<p>Explore ways to share resources for formation Support African formators Share our resources with Dominicans in Africa e.g. education in the U.S. (x2) Engage in mutually collaborative learning from best practices in: theology, spirituality,</p>	<p>Such mutuality would assist with lifelong formation, including human development and spirituality, across all parts of our family/partners</p>	<p>Explore ways the CDN can collaborate with the African formators. Offer peer formation mentoring connections, skill building as desired Using technology, set up one-on-one inter-congregational exchanges on formation (x3)</p>	

		evangelization, preaching, justice, business and sustainability		Share best practices and templates with one another	
4.	Collaboration for mission and ministry	<p>Identify a global development or justice issue we could jointly address through use of our education and resources (x3)</p> <p>Explore how to support ministry sustainability</p> <p>Create shared conferences with planning teams from both continents to create or organize the experiences, share templates? Shared assessment of the experience</p>		<p>Identify a justice issue and specific actions we can focus on in both worlds</p> <p>Work together on smaller projects partnering in relation to a shared need, particularly for younger people, in real-time– not via technology (x2)</p> <p>Offer support to an area of ministry that needs financial support</p> <p>Share high school preaching conference as template to share between sisters and lay partners</p>	Is there a role our Colleges can play?