



REPORT FROM THE ASSOCIATES' TRANSITION COMMITTEE DECEMBER 2015

Dear Associates

As an organization, it is important that there is an Annual Report to the members. This is our Report on behalf of the Transition Committee on our activities for 2015.

A. FIRST MEETING

2015 began with our first meeting on the 27/28 March 2015 where the members of the Transition Committee reconnected with the material that was generated after the meeting in June 2014 that had been facilitated by Sr Margaret Endicott rsm. The theme we chose for this meeting was contained in two quotes from Isaiah.

*See I am doing a new thing;
See I have already begun.
Do you not see it? I will
make a pathway in the
wilderness. I will create
rivers in the dry land.*
(Isaiah 43:19)

*Make your tent larger;
Stretch your tent pegs further out.
Spare no effort,
Lengthen your ropes and pound your stakes
deeper*
(Isaiah 54:2ff)

The Transition Committee believed we were on the verge of something new emerging for the Associates.

The members of the committee were confirmed as Janette Dobson (Rockhampton), Erin Jones and Pauline McGuire (Townsville), Bernadette Roche (Gold Coast), Marie Sellin (Brisbane) and Moya Campbell rsj who was asked by Sister Annette Arnold, TransPacifico Leader to facilitate this Committee as it moved into supporting the Associate movement into a new future.



Figure 1 Transition Committee - Moya rsj, Erin, Pauline, Marie, Janette, Bernadette

At this first meeting we explored

a) Transition Structure

The Transition Committee was aware that Sr Maryellen Thomas from the Congregational Leadership Team with the International Josephite Associates Leadership Team (IJALT), was also exploring ways to ensure that the Associates were a sustainable group into the future. Therefore, it was too early at this stage to make any decisions for the Queensland Associates regarding the structure for the future.

b) Current Membership

The data base needed to be updated which we have done and hopefully the database can now be easily updated or names deleted as needed.

c) Communicate the Direction

The Transition Committee wrote to all the Associates (April 2015) to let them know what was happening and to assure them that they would be involved in whatever direction was taken in the future.



Another form of communication was through the Newsletter. We decided to take the theme of the Seasons for 2016

d) Future Membership

We decided this section would be better left until we have a clearer picture of the future of the Associate Movement. We did work on the formation and induction processes for aspiring members of the Associates.

e) Budget

The Transition Committee has a small amount in the Bank which can be used. The Regional Leader, Annette Arnold, has said that the Region would support meetings, fares and accommodation for our meetings. This is an area into the future that will need to be considered – a budget will be drawn up each year. Where the finance comes from is still to be decided.



We worked in small groups and decided the following:

1. Immediate Letter to the Associates and Sisters
2. Renewal of Commitment Form
3. Induction Process
4. Newsletter to be printed for June 2015

We decided that the Newsletter needed a 'new look' in keeping with the 'new thing' that we are doing.

It was suggested that we use the word PEACE

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| P | Prayer and Associates |
| E | Education and the Associates |
| A | Associates and happenings in the local area |
| C | Celebrations and Associates |
| E | Events involving Associates |



5. Further actions from this meeting

- Check on badges/handbooks and where and if we can obtain them
- Email material to Sr Maryellen Thomas Congregational Leadership Team
- Marie and Moya to meet with Annette Arnold (Regional Leader) regarding online website, results of this meeting, email address etc. Copy of these Minutes to go to Annette as well
- Stickers for Candles were designed
- Certificates of membership were designed

B. FURTHER MEETINGS

We have had 3 further teleconferences and one scheduled for the 21 November 2015. These have been very helpful in keeping us moving in a future direction.

C. ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE

All Transition Committee members attended the Associates' Conference in Sydney on the 16/17/18 October 2015. The Report of this gathering is in your Summer Newsletter. This Conference established very clearly that the Associates are a particular pathway for people to live out the spirit of Mary MacKillop along with Covenant Josephites and those who choose the Vowed Life.



D. VISITS TO ASSOCIATES IN VARIOUS AREAS

This year I was fortunate to be able to visit the Associates in Pittsworth and South Brisbane. The members are most enthusiastic and committed to their meetings and to living out Prayer, Friendship and Service. In 2016, I hope to visit many Centres where Associates are still active. The Transition Committee believes that this is the most effective way that we can meet with you and talk about the future plans. I will be in touch with

groups to ascertain the best time for a visit.

E. FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR THE ASSOCIATES

- a) What self-governance structure will support the Associates to be a sustainable and viable pathway for people into the future?
- b) How will the Sisters and Associates be in relationship? What will this relationship look like?



- c) Ongoing formation of all Associates.....
- d) Ongoing Formation in leadership for Associates into the future
- e) What kind of formation is needed prior to induction into the Associates?
- f) How do we inspire younger people and others to live in this spirit of Mary MacKillop and be part of the Associates?
- g) Budget for 2016
- h) Planning in relation to the Strategic Plan from the overall Committee of the Associates (formed at the Sydney Conference)

*Challenges are what
make life interesting;
Overcoming them
is what makes
life meaningful.*

2016 will be a year to continue to find the 'new pathway' for the Associates' Movement to be sustained into the future. The Journey has begun and like all journeys, there will be progress, struggles, aha moments, communications, times of reflecting, times of decision and through it all, we ask that each of us continues to pray for wisdom, be prepared to speak up for what we see as the future, be prepared to change our thinking and together we will build a sustainable Associates' Movement.

The Transition Committee

Bernadette, Erin, Janette, Marie, Pauline and Moya rsj