

# 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of Catholic Priest Movements and Church Reform Organizations

Monday, 17th to Thursday, 20th October 2016

Wingate by Wyndham Hotel in Arlington Heights, Chicago IL 60005, USA

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## *Participants*

40 representatives of Catholic Priest Associations and Church Reform Groups from 11 countries and 4 continents (see appendix)

2 facilitators and 1 scribe from Austria and Canada plus: 1 monkey, a lion, a giraffe and the elephant

## *Steering Committee*

- Pfarrei-Initiative Switzerland (Markus Heil)
- FutureChurch USA (Deborah Rose-Milavec)
- Association of US Catholic Priests AUSCP (Fr. Dan Divis)
- Association of Catholic Priests Ireland ACP (Fr. Tony Flannery)
- National Council of Priests of Australia (Fr. Ian McGinnity)
- Pfarrer-Initiative Austria (Fr. Helmut Schueller)
- Pfarrer-Initiative Germany (Max Stetter)



## *Our Donors - with great thanks*

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# German Pfarrer-Initiative # and other private donors

## *Purpose of the Conference*

"It is our third international conference, and we aim to enter into deep dialogue, understanding our similarities and our differences, enjoying our diversity, finding common ground that could lead to common action and practice together what could become models for the future of church. In this way we hope to strengthen our commitment and energize our work for Church reform."

## *Proposed Topics for Discussion*

1. Support for Pope Francis: What aspects of Pope Francis' agenda do we support? How might we help to push these forward? (Topic Host: Tony Flannery)
2. Full participation of women in the Church: What would it look like? (Deborah Rose-Milavec)
3. Basic Church Rights: How could the formulation of basic rights of all the baptized in the Church help to overcome the concentration of power exclusively with the ordained, and the problem of clericalism? (Helmut Schüller)
4. New Models of Ministry: How to support emerging new models of ministry and Eucharistic celebrations? (Wolfgang Gramer)
5. Solidarity with LGBTI: How can we best show solidarity with the LGBTI community? (Jeannine Grammick)
6. Engagement of Bishops: How can we support and encourage our bishops to follow the lead of Francis to be more welcoming and compassionate? How can we engage our bishops in deeper dialogue with all Catholics, including those who have been historically excluded? (Ian McGinnity)



# *The HARVEST*

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## *Purpose of Harvesting*

- Picking the fruits: Creating a collective memory (recording)
  - >> What has been said, done, come out?
- Processing the fruits: Making collective sense and meaning (connecting the dots)
  - >> What have we noticed together?
  - >> What did we learn, understand?
  - >> Which patterns have emerged?
  - >> Which questions and seeds will shift us to the next level from here?

## *Picking the Fruits: Chronological Report*

- Day by day output

## *Processing the Fruits: Connecting the Dots*

- Insights and learnings
  - with respect to our international network (e.g. on purpose, structure, methods, values etc.): What have we learned/understood together?
  - with respect to our local communities/national group work: What insights will energize our work back home? (content, methods, ideas etc.)
  - with respect to the whole church: What insights will help us in creating the church we long for?
- Actions being taken
- Key questions, nuggets of wisdom, seeds to shift us to the next level

# Picking the Fruits: CRONOLOGICAL REPORT

## Agenda

### Day 1: Arriving and Connecting

Morning: Steering Committee Session – “Where are we at?”

- Welcome and opening prayer
- History of the international network
- Purpose and guiding principles
- Agenda / flow of the conference
- Check-In: “Who is in the room?”
- Circle Dialogue: “What do you really long for in the Church? How might we practice the Church we long for, while we are here?”

### Day 2: Unity in Diversity – Learning from each other

- Morning prayer
- Check-in: One word I took away from yesterday
- Story Telling: “Tell us a story about a project or an action of change in your reform work where a shift happened!”  
Focused listening with different ‘ears’
- Ear Sharing Round: “What did we hear on/learn about (1) pivotal moments, (2) breakthroughs, (3) application, (4) working together, (5) courage, (6) taking risks and letting go, (7) diversity?”
- Plenary session: Sharing our key insights
- Preparing the Liturgy for Wednesday night
- Circle Dialogue: “What hinders us to be the Church we long for?”

### Day 3: What collaborative action do we want to create together?

- Morning Prayer
- Check-in and Circle: What did I witness yesterday?
- Open Space: “What could create the Church we long for?” (2 Rounds)
- Check-out and Closing. Evening: Celebrating Liturgy together



### Day 4: Harvesting the Fruits

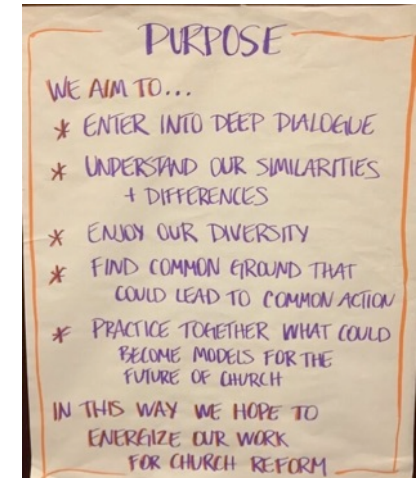
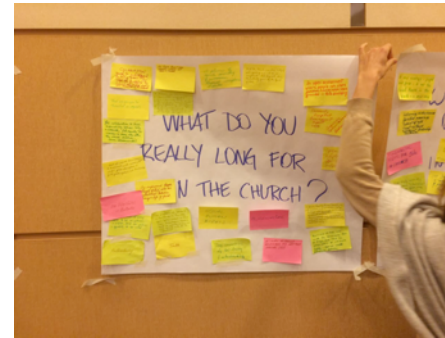
- Morning Prayer ceremony: Washing each others hands
- Next steps: Statements & invitations from the Open Space
- Circle Dialogue: “What have I learned/understood?”
- Collective Harvest: “What have we understood together?” – Harvesting Team report & circle exchange
- Check-out and Closure

Afternoon: Press Conference



## Day 1: Arriving & Connecting

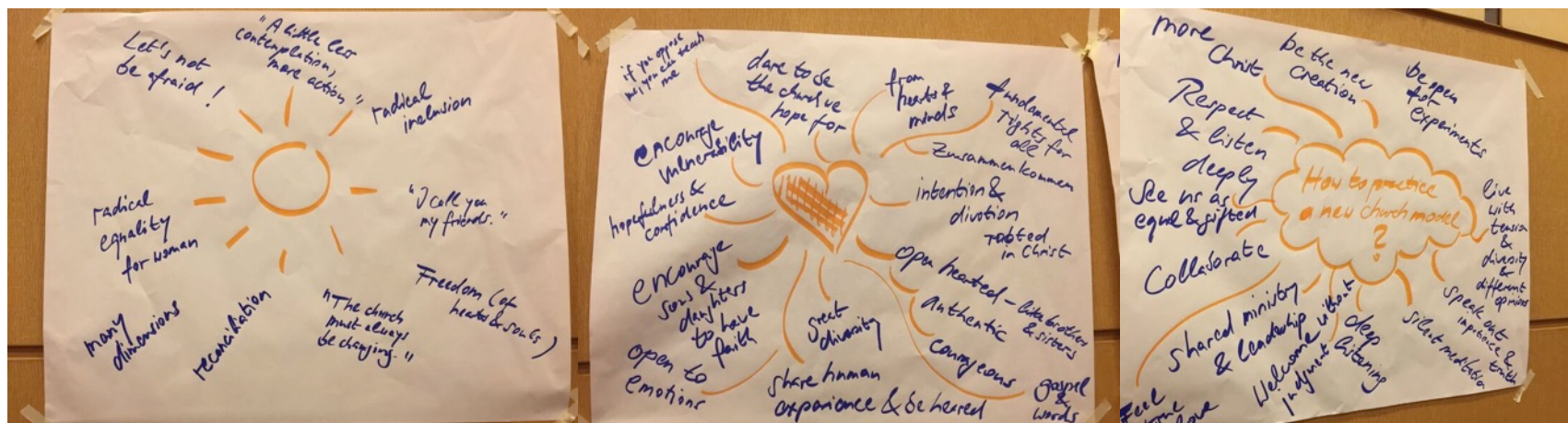
1. Welcome and Opening Prayer "Let our Church Doors be Open"
2. History of International Network (report by Markus & Tony)
3. Purpose of Conference and Guiding Principles
4. Agenda and Flow of the Day (Holger & Amanda)
5. Check-in: Who is in the room?



### 6. Circle Dialogue: "What do you really long for in the Church?"...

- A new energy – joyful and full – to set the Gospel loose in the world in a new way
- Spiritual worship
- Trust restored
- Fundamental rights for all in Church
- To be the true home of the human family via Christian unity, concerted action for a just world and Recovery community open
- Connection
- Dialogue being heard by the bishops
- Having a say in the election of bishops
- Inclusion and promotion of peace & human rights
- A place that is safe, welcoming, inclusive of all, where all participate in the life of the Church. Also prophetic in justice issues.
- An alternative to the egoistic world
- Welcoming inclusiveness
- Encuentro meeting
- Equality of hierarchy and Christians
- That its institutions become more Christ-like
- Room for liberation and joy
- Radical inclusivity where all gifts are recognized, nurtured and used for the community – more of "this"
- Sharing of Resources
- Gospel-based community
- House for the poor
- True Equality
- Renewed sacramentality
- Authentic Christianity in an authentic community

... "And how might we practice the Church we long for, while we are here?"



- Be the new creation
- Be open for experiments
- Live with tension, diversity & different opinions
- Speak out impatience and truth
- Acknowledge many dimensions
- Silent meditation
- Deep listening
- Respect and listen deeply
- Welcome without judgment
- Come together - Collaborate
- Shared ministry and leadership
- More Christ
- Intention and devotion rooted in Christ
- "I call you my friends."
- Fundamental rights for all
- Radical Inclusion
- Radical equality for woman
- With reconciliation
- Open-hearted
- Like brothers and sisters, equal & gifted
- Authentic
- Courageous - let's not be afraid
- Gospel & words
- Encourage sons and daughters to have faith
- Hopefulness and confidence
- Encourage vulnerability
- If you oppose me, you can teach me
- Dare to be the Church we hope for
- A little less contemplation, more action
- From our hearts and minds
- Freedom (of hearts and souls)
- "The Church must always be changing."
- Great diversity
- Open to emotions – Feel true love!
- Share human experience and be heard

## Day 2: Unity in Diversity - Learning from Each Other

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### 1. Morning Prayer

### 2. Check-In: "One word I took away from yesterday!"

Connect ++ hope ++ respect ++ intentional ++ talent ++ hope ++ friends ++ longing ++ diversity ++ collaboration ++ gifted ++ community ++ inclusive ++  
diversity ++ courage ++ listen ++ community ++ sharing ++ relational ++ inclusivity ++ prophetic ++ communio ++ challenging ++ church-new-practiced ++  
hope ++ energy ++ unity ++ action ++ participation ++ Jesus ++ joy ++ anticipation ++ desire ++ creativity ++ relationships ++ Love





### 3. Story Telling - Learning from and with each other

**Task:** "Tell us a story about a project or an action of change in your reform work where a shift happened!" >> Focused listening with different 'ears'.



#### ► Key insights & Learnings from our Stories: "What have we learned about ...?"

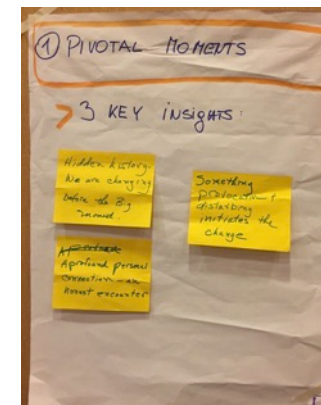
##### (1) Pivotal Moments and breakthroughs: When did breakthroughs occur, what did we learn?

- Hidden history – we are changing before the big moment
- Something provocative/disturbing initiates the change
- A profound personal connection – an honest encounter

##### (2) Application: What can we learn from these stories for application in our own or other reform work?

It is helpful for reform groups to ...

- Seek common ground through dialogue and vocabulary that avoid rigid boundaries

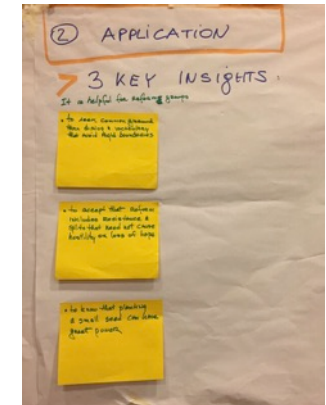




- Accept that reform includes resistance and splits that need not cause hostility or loss of hope
- Know that planting a small seed can have great power

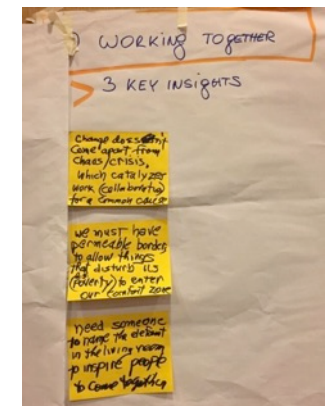
**(3) Working Together: What can we learn from these stories about the importance of relationships and how we can work well together?**

- Change doesn't come apart from chaos/crisis which catalyzes work (collaboration) for a common cause
- We must have permeable borders to allow things that disturb us (e.g. poverty) to enter our comfort zone
- Need someone to name the elephant in the living room to inspire people to come together



**(4) Courage: What can we learn from these stories about acting courageously?**

- Courage builds courage
- Courage is an expression of conscience
- Courage is the development of voice
- Be authentic
- Develop critical knowledge - be prepared
- Step out of your comfort zone
- Stand up to authority
- The future health of the Church is dependent on our courage

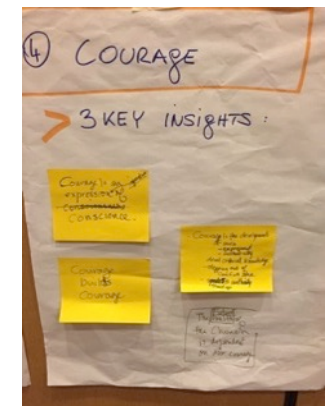


**(5) Taking Risk & Letting Go: What do our stories tell us about taking risks and letting go?**

- Prayer discernment: "The Holy Spirit is real" – Have confidence!
- Risk comfort: Going outside our comfort zone in order to discover real world solutions – It could get messy!
- Letting go: of certainties, of pictures of Church, of dysfunctional governance

**(6) Diversity: What can we learn from these stories about the gifts of diversity?**

- Diversity of Giftedness can produce miracles
- Openness to seeing/hearing/learning and acting from, with or because of a new, different perspective
- Commitment to common ground, shared responsibility, hopes, etc.

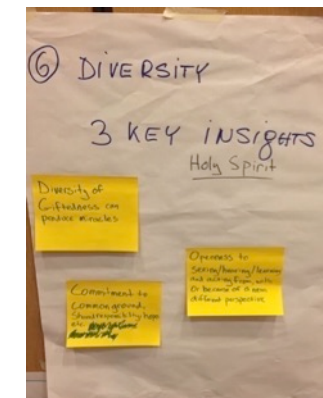
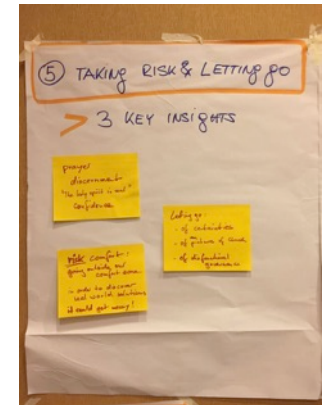


#### 4. Preparing the Liturgy for Wednesday night

- ▶ Headed by Tony Flannery & Kate McElwee

#### 5. Circle Dialogue: “What hinders us to be the Church we long for?”

#### 6. Check-out



## Day 3: What Collaborative Action do we want to Create Together?

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*"Where does God want to move us to?"*

### 1. Morning Prayer – Opening Song

*Open my eyes, God, help me to see your face.*

*Open my eyes, God, help me to see.*

*Open my ears, God, help me to hear your voice.*

*Open my ears, God, help me to hear.*

*Open my heart, God, help me to love like you.*

*Open my heart, God, help me to love.*

### 2. Check-in Circle: "What did I witness yesterday?"

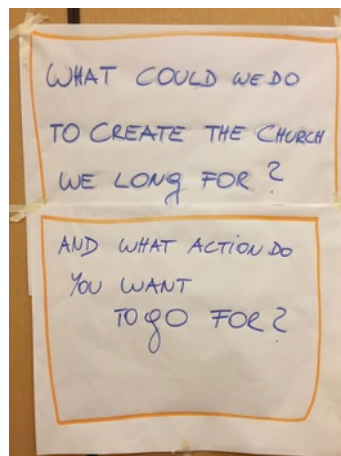
- ▶ See also Marilyn Hatton's Report to Renewal Groups in Australia

### 3. Open Space "What could we do to create the Church we long for?"

- ▶ See Chapter "Processing the Fruits – Actions being taken" (page 19-24)

### 4. Check-out and Closing Prayer

### 5. Evening: Celebrating Liturgy together



### Voices from the Check-in Circle: "What did I witness yesterday?"

A safe space to speak out the neuralgic points of the church today \*\* Witnessed "church" in action. \*\* Open wounds, open challenges, commitments to vows and allegiance, blaming and shaming and an intentional violation of mindfulness and respect. \*\* I long for a mindful Church \*\* I witnessed fear: of getting in trouble, of bishops, of hurting various groups, of being marginalized, of falling short of our stated ideals \*\* I witnessed pain: of being left out again, of sexism, and clericalism even in this setting, of becoming what we dislike in others, of our uniting prayer bringing pain to too many others. \*\* Until the people of God and the Gospel-call take precedence over fear of bishops, justice is not possible. \*\* Being in renewal means working through pain, patience, listening, persistence, strength and courage. \*\* Courage is an issue of conscience. \*\* Courage builds courage. \*\* If church-reform should have a chance it needs to arrive at ordained priesthood. If ordained priesthood should have a chance it needs to have a chance to check the need of the laity. \*\* That liturgy which should be the worship of God and the source of commune being a source of diversity and difference. \*\* The tension between varying reform ideas and current practice. \*\* This meeting confirms and enriches me in my personal engagement in building a more inclusive and compassionate church. I have found new motivation to enrich my local movement. P.S.: to all women of the group a big hug, with gratitude – you make me a better man (and priest)! \*\* A model for being church. \*\* Rich conversation – challenging conversation \*\* Surfacing unconscious clericalism / privilege \*\* The pain of women voiced. \*\* Can lay and ordained be equal? \*\* Authentic dialogue about how we are church together.



**Closing Prayer:**

*Loving Creator, we ask for wholeness for ourselves and for your church.  
Do not allow fear, ignorance or pride, to limit the action of your spirit,  
Nor allow mere custom to prevent  
The divine creativity within us  
From bearing fruit.*

*We ask for the insight to understand  
The needs of people today,  
That we might grasp the complexity  
Of the situations that face us  
And the absolute simplicity of human need:  
The poor have a right to hear the gospel,  
The hungry a right to food,  
The oppressed a right to freedom.*

*Enable us to be women and men  
Enthusiastic for your ministry,  
Contagious in our love  
And eager to be among your people as ones who serve.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ,  
Who come as brother and servant to us all.*

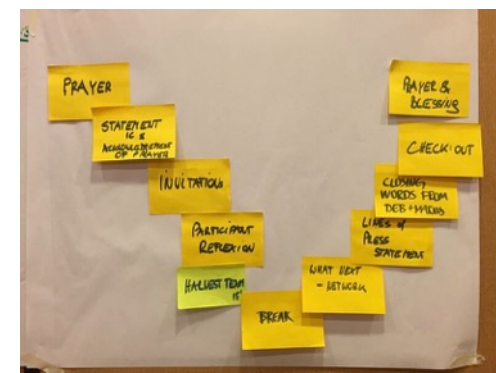
*Amen.*





## Day 4: Collective Harvesting and Next Steps as a Network

1. Morning Prayer Ceremony: Washing each others hands
2. Check-In Circle
3. Taking it forward: Collective Actions looming at the horizon
  - ▶ **See Chapter “The Fruits - Actions being taken/Concrete Results & Next Steps” (page 21-23)**
    - >> Statements from yesterday’s Open Space working groups: Next steps and invitations to bridge over to our further cooperation
    - ▶ Any further ideas: “Post it and host it!” – Do invite the group to collaborate with you on this.



### 4. Final Harvest

*Individually: What have I learned/understood? What was meaningful for me? Voices from the Circle*

- ★ Relationship – being with each other, hear each other, speak to each other
- ★ Scripture is about relationships – We saw Church relationships in action.
- ★ My notion was: The statement is not so important, important is who is speaking
- ★ How can and will we translate /pass on this new movement in Church to the young generation?
- ★ How hard it is to escape the damage of the hierarchy and power structure!
- ★ Importance of context
- ★ Great gift: the sympathy for the complexity of an international Church with a 2.000 years history
- ★ How long it can take for Vatican II to work it’s way in our DNA



*Collective Insights and Learnings. Harvesting Team Report and Voices from the Circle*

- ▶ **See Chapter “Processing the Fruits – Insights & Learnings” (pages 14-17)**
  - with respect to our International Network: What have we learned/understood?
  - with respect to our local communities/national group work: What insights will energize our work back home?
  - with respect to the whole church: What insights will help us in creating the church we long for?
  - Key questions, nuggets of wisdom, seeds to shift us to the next level

**Check-out and Closure: One final word or sentence of acknowledgement or gratitude ...**

*MODELING A CHURCH for me that is mercifully and FULL OF GRACE  
the RELATIONSHIPS, getting to know each other  
THE LION IS SMALL BUT HE HAS FORCE.  
Grateful to the STRUGGLE  
Dialogues leading closer to UNITY  
UBUNTU  
PLURALITY of many faces of Christ here  
RESPECT FOR WORDS - to understand when they heal, when they hurt, when they hinder or foster...  
Centuries of Church reform life in this room - reform needs this long LONG BREATH  
Thanks to the "old fighters" (in the good sense)  
BEING CONNECTED with good people who have not lost their nerves  
I found HOPE again, can see Christ in everyone of you.  
HOLY EXPERIENCE in a sacred place  
JESUS is really present in this room. May it continue among us all!  
I got energy FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS. ENERGY I will take home.  
I learned (again) about the variety, strengths and weaknesses of reform groups - LEARNING JOURNEY  
International FRIENDS I have met  
My CAREFUL LISTENING and being listened to  
CONNECTIONS  
It has been a COMPLEX STRUGGLE  
Moving pessimism inside to a more OPTIMISTIC VIEW  
Readiness to struggle for collaborative change, WALK IT TOGETHER instead of alone, however difficult it be  
I have been TRANSFORMED. Learning things about myself I didn't know.  
You are my brothers and sisters. DEEP LOVE.  
EXPANSION OF HEART AND SOUL  
Deep encounter of all of you inspired me to stick with the GOOD FIGHT.  
LOVE FOR BROKENNESS  
Wishing for a HEALING FORCE in the world.  
To all who supported us who are not with us in the room.*

## Processing the Fruits: INSIGHTS & LEARNINGS

### 1. Insights & Learnings with respect to our International Net-work

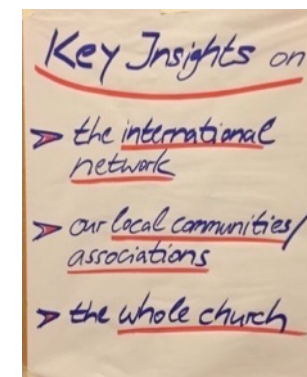
#### 1.1. Current State of the Net-Work: "Where are we at?"

##### What could be improved / hasn't worked?

- ✗ Steady flow of communication/interaction between the Skype calls
- ✗ Keeping in contact with those who come to conferences / broader network
- ✗ Feeding ideas from conferences back into the associations/organizations presented here
- ✗ Harvesting from conferences & Skype circles, spreading the word to wider circles
- ✗ Engaging other participants – get more diversity in the network (region, age...)
- ✗ Lack of publicity
- ✗ Taking further-reaching collaborative action, moving ideas into practice (productivity)
- ✗ Lobbying those in power to change
- ✗ International collaborative website (open and password accessible areas)?
- ✗ Shared clarity of purpose as a strong collective motor: "What is this all about?"
- ✗ Making clear what our network is (not), including purpose and objectives, chances, potentials and limits of our cooperation
- ✗ We need a name / clear identity

##### What has worked well?

- ✓ Regular Skype calls (good attendance)
- ✓ Successful Doodles
- ✓ 3 international conferences set up
- ✓ Mutual trust, respect and openness
- ✓ Listening to, supporting and learning from each other
- ✓ Relationships deepened ("we came together here as old friends")
- ✓ Continued connectivity of network (around the globe)
- ✓ Identifying common issues/topics and ways of dealing with them
- ✓ Support for like-minded initiatives
- ✓ Ongoing interest in developing an international presence that can influence church politics
- ✓ Commission on woman deacons seems to fit the idea that we worked on in Limerick of getting an advisory council for the Pope on the "woman question"
- ✓ German-speaking D-A-CH circles
- ✓ Conference website



(Day 1: Morning Prep Session Steering Committee)

## 1.2. Guiding Principles and Purpose

*"We are not an organization, we are a network. This is not a consensus model where everyone needs to agree but we share our gifts together. We do not enforce anything on anyone, we invite and some take the invitation on, while others don't. Not everyone has to agree to everything but we hope you will find yourself in what we have collected."*  
(Markus Heil)

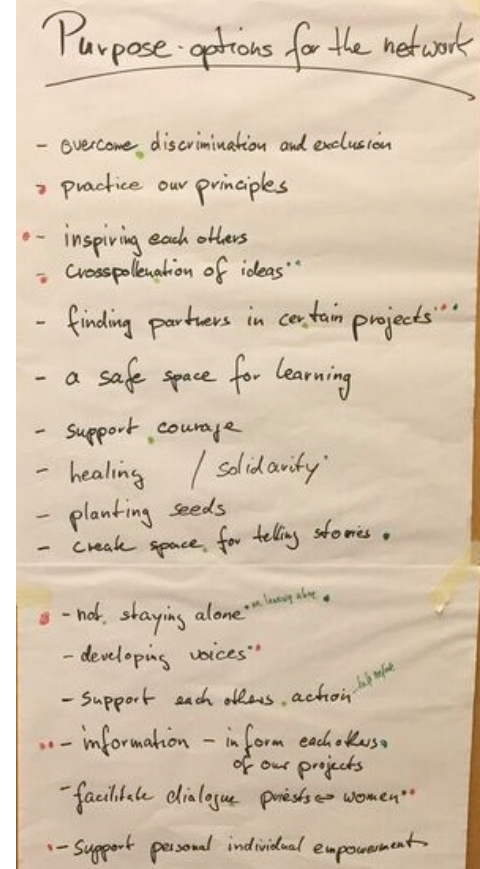
### Our Guiding Principles

- ❖ We practice mindfulness.
  - Listen & speak from the heart
  - No judgment but compassion
  - We speak about pain and do not hide tears
- ❖ We practice unity in diversity.
  - We operate transparent – we speak what it is
  - We strive for inclusion – there is no discrimination
  - Enjoy common ground and honor diversity
  - Trust
  - We look for energy and courage
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is present.
  - We notice the spiritual dimension
  - We step back to see the bigger picture

Limerick Conference, April 2015

### Purpose of Network – Options to be explored:

- ▶ Overcome discrimination and exclusion
- ▶ Practice our principles
- ▶ Inspiring each other
- ▶ Crosspollination of ideas
- ▶ Finding partners for projects
- ▶ A safe space for learning
- ▶ Support courage
- ▶ Healing and solidarity
- ▶ Planting seeds
- ▶ Create a space for telling stories
- ▶ Not staying alone
- ▶ Developing voices
- ▶ Support each others action
- ▶ Information: inform each other of our projects
- ▶ Facilitate dialogue priests – women
- ▶ Support personal individual empowerment



### 4 Fellows to support us:

- ✚ MONKEY: for the FUN
- ✚ GIRAFFE: for the different perspective and the OVERVIEW
- ✚ LION: for the COURAGE
- ✚ ELEPHANT: for the unseen SHADOW in the living room, what comes forward to us for healing



### 1.3. *What have we learned and understood on working together? Voices from story telling and final harvesting*

- ▶ Our common base is our baptism in Christ as priest, prophet and servant-leaders – that is how we must gather, putting off for our dialogue time other identities such as male/female, priest/lay, this group/that group.
- ▶ Enabling every person to speak is incredibly important to enable real communication.
- ▶ Relationship – being with each other, hear each other, speak to each other.
- ▶ Scripture is about relationships – We saw Church relationships in action.
- ▶ Diversity of Giftedness can produce miracles.
- ▶ Openness to seeing/hearing/learning and acting from, with or because of a new, different perspective is crucial.
- ▶ Commitment to seek a common ground and shared responsibility is essential.
- ▶ It needs someone to name the elephant in the living room - to inspire people to come together.
- ▶ We must have permeable borders to allow things that disturb us (e.g. poverty) to enter our comfort zone.
- ▶ Change doesn't come apart from chaos/crisis which catalyzes work (collaboration) for a common cause.
- ▶ How to move to some actionable outcomes.



## II. *Insights & Learnings with respect to our Local Communities/National Group Work*

### *What insights will energize our work back home? Voices from story telling and final harvesting*

- ▶ It is helpful for reform groups to...
  - seek common ground through dialogue and vocabulary that avoid rigid boundaries
  - accept that reform includes resistance and splits that need not cause hostility or loss of hope
  - to know that planting a small seed can have great power
- ▶ Unity and diversity – we are different in so many ways, to find the common ground to respect each other and value our gifts
- ▶ The voice of courage
- ▶ It takes courage to go out to the margins.
- ▶ Start liturgy groups, in little groups, of priests and lay people to come together in dialogue
- ▶ Reform includes resistance – I need to accept this.
- ▶ A small circle is more important than a great.
- ▶ Look for understanding from the heart.

### *III. Insights & Learnings with respect to the Whole Church*

*What insights will help us in creating the Church we long for? Voices from story telling and final harvesting*

- ▶ Prayer discernment: The Holy Spirit is real. Have confidence!
- ▶ The future health of the Church is dependent on our courage.
- ▶ Be authentic.
- ▶ Develop critical knowledge - be prepared.
- ▶ Risk comfort. Step out of your comfort zone.
- ▶ Stand up to authority.
- ▶ Let go! Of certainties, of pictures of Church, of dysfunctional governance.
- ▶ Be open to discover real world solutions.
- ▶ The goodness in people and the tension. This is a microcosm of the larger worldwide Church. The hopes, the dreams, the passion, pain and tensions. I hoped the spirit would emerge and that happened.
- ▶ It is about expanding who we are as Church – not about right or wrong, winning or losing.
- ▶ Stay with the dialogue! Go out to the margins, listen and share – that seems a courageous and crucial thing to do.
- ▶ How to hold this immense body of Christ? Not by isolating, only by coming together.
- ▶ Breakthroughs for change occur when...
  - something provocative/disturbing initiates the change
  - a profound personal connection sparks an honest encounter
  - Hidden history is being acknowledged – we are changing before the big moment
- ▶ Is this what it's like to be Pope Francis?



## Processing the Fruits: ACTIONS BEING TAKEN

*What collaborative action do we want to create together? Open Space (Working Groups)*

### 1. Topics (to be) worked on and Key Insights

Open Space – Round 1: “What could we do to create the Church we long for?”								
Topic	Bringing the Hopes and Ideas of Amoris Laetitia to life	What can we do to create the Church that LGBT people long for?	What are immediate first steps to achieve full equality for woman?	Against Clericalism: Fundamental Rights for all in our Church	Elder Priests – Lobinger Model	Wording for the Liturgy tonight	Becoming intentional / mindful	Reclaiming scriptural foundations of Church
Host	Christian	Jeannine Gramick	Marilyn	Helmut	Wolfgang / Max	Markus	Janet	Mick Crosby
Key Insights	Concept of conscience. Pastoral approach. Concernment.	Inability to speak about LGBT topics creates division in a family, a parish, a diocese, a larger Church community.	Women still experience silencing and dismissal even in this room.	Conscience! Community! Clericalism is a question of power. No real reform without rights.	How the model works. Special application in third world context. Time scale for different levels.	What to say. What others could ask.		We need a new vocabulary. The paradigm of Trinity - authority reclaiming the Gospel.
Powerful Ideas	Make this paper better known. Asking and watching the bishops.	The commitment to eradicate violence to LGBT people should be fundamental to our Church. We need to share our stories.	Write a letter to our brothers and sisters in this room.  Develop a new vocabulary for Trinitarian relationships.	Little groups. Being unnerving. Connecting, bring together people and resources. Tell stories.	Presiders at local level would be woman and men, married or celibate, whoever emerged as community leaders acceptable to all. We will discuss	We will call it a “Eucharist” and celebrate it as a feast of Thanksgiving, hope and joy.  No pictures, no priestly vestments.	Always make sure to respond to my inner calling (and not act without it)	We are missionary disciples who create a positive statement of belief.

					the Lobinger Model in our national groups			
Essence Sentence	Don't let this papal paper of hope & ideals be forgotten!	We need to apply the social justice teachings of the Church to LGBT people <u>within</u> the Church.	Our anger & pain is a gift to you and the whole Church.	No real Church reform without fundamental rights for all.	---	"We gathered as a priestly people with at least 15 ordained priests present." If asked: "We didn't identify a presider as we gathered in a sense of equality among us."	I was awakened to my call, my life mission during the clerical...	We create a positive statement of belief, a vision of Church that reflects Trinitarian relationships and use a new vocabulary freed from patriarchal constricts.

WHAT COULD WE DO  
TO CREATE THE CHURCH  
WE LONG FOR?

AND WHAT ACTION DO  
YOU WANT  
TO GO FOR?



WHOEVER COMES ARE  
THE RIGHT PEOPLE

WHENEVER IT STARTS IS  
THE RIGHT TIME

WHEN IT IS OVER, IT IS OVER

WHATEVER HAPPENS IS THE  
ONLY THING THAT COULD HAVE

IF YOU AREN'T LEARNING OR  
CONTRIBUTING, MOVE SOMEWHERE  
YOU CAN



**Powerful IDEAS**

- ★ Commitment to eradicate violence to LGBT people
- ★ We need to share our stories
- ★ Write a letter to our brothers & sisters in this room
- ★ Develop a new vocabulary (for Trinitarian relations)
- ★ Make the amon's Laebbe paper more known

- ★ We will call it a "Eucharist" and celebrate it as a feast of Thanksgiving, hope & joy
- ★ We will discuss the Lobinger Model in our national groups
- ★ Always make sure to respond to my inner calling (and not act without it)



Open Space – Round 2: “And what Action do you want to go for?”								
Topic	Create/ Endorse a Statement by the whole group which envisions a new Model for R.C. Church	How to call our Church to commit to stand against violence towards LGBTQI people in all forms and to prioritize the social justice, rather than sexual ethics	Refinement of Letter & Action arising for full woman equality	Fundamental Rights 2.0	We invite the group to promote the Lobinger Model	Nature & Naming of our Liturgy – Mode of Participation	Study of anti-depression liberation framework plus create an intersectional toolkit for Church	Stay connected in this network (name, purpose, needs, practices)
Host	Michael Crosby	Marianne	Marilyn	Helmut	Wolfgang	Bob	Kim	Markus
Essence / Next steps	“Since we are baptized into the Trinitarian God, our Church can only be repaired by rejecting the old order of patriarchy and clericalism...” The statement be endorsed by this group. And be disseminated to the seminaries to be discussed.	Brief statement to be part of press conference: Dignity of human person. “We commit ourselves to stand against any form of violence.”	Have completed a statement and will ask for endorsement tomorrow. Some collaborative actions will arise from that.	We began to distribute work. Margret will be the coordinator of the group.	Doc on Website	Some of the priests present feel they cannot participate in tonight’s Liturgy, much sadness around that. We will be in prayer while the Liturgy is unfolding here. In planning future gatherings there should be a more participatory process in preparing this.	Developing language and tools to address oppression – for those with privilege, for those with internalized oppression, for those already in the process of liberating themselves.  Please contact: kim@cta-usa.org	Exploring first options for a purpose. Paper drafted in 1-2 months.

## 2. Concrete Results and Next Steps – “What Action do you want to go for?”

1. **Purpose of the International Network:** First options have been explored, to be clarified and agreed upon by the whole group. A paper will be drafted in 1-2 months (headed by Markus Heil)
2. **An LGBT-Statement:** was drafted, affirmed by the assembly and included in the press statement. Between now and the next international gathering a working group will start to develop and implement concrete actions based on this statement (headed by Jeannine Gramick)

*We, the representative of an international network of priest groups and reform organizations (assembled in Chicago 2016), affirm that the dignity of the human person is clearly expressed in the Gospels and the social justice teachings of our Church. It is this dignity that should be the foundation of a truly Catholic response to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and their families.*

*We, therefore, commit ourselves to stand against violence in all its forms – physical, emotional, spiritual and temporal-- toward LGBT people. We encourage the Church's leaders and individual members to make the same commitment.*

3. **Full Equality of Woman:** A letter was drafted and read to the group, to be signed by who feels called to agree. It resulted in standing ovations and agreement from the whole group (headed by Marilyn/Kate).

*To our Brothers in Christ:*

*In this circle you witnessed our pain, anger, vulnerability and honesty. Our stories and our truths are gifts to you and to the whole Church.*

*We women came to this gathering as equal partners in the work of Church Renewal.  
If we are to collaborate in building the Church we yearn for, we all need to be fully valued and respected, too often women are ignored, rejected, silenced and dismissed. What we have experienced in the broader Church was echoed in this circle. This behavior is inconsistent with our commitment to justice and equality.*

*This caused pain and division.  
We are asking you to deeply listen to the women in this room. We are asking you to deeply listen to the women in your communities.  
In a spirit that invites transformation, we ask you to prayerfully reflect on male and clerical privilege.  
We ask that you risk stepping out and acting courageously for women's full equality in the Church.*

*We strive for radical equality in the Church.*

*We need to walk this journey together.*

*In hope and love*

4. **New Models of a Trinitarian Church:** A Statement of Belief in the Trinitarian God, to be emanated into schools and seminaries, has been developed (headed by Michael Crosby).

#### **THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS (IL, USA) STATEMENT OF BELIEF AS ROMAN CATHOLICS**

We are individuals and members of groups who have convened in Arlington Heights, IL for three days. We come from 11 countries of the North and the South with one common concern: the future viability of our Roman Catholic Church. We are inspired and challenged by the words from the Cross of San Damiano that came to St. Francis of Assisi, the patron of our present Pope: “Francis, go repair my house; you can see it is falling into ruin.”

In this spirit we share the following Statement of Belief which we hope will help repair the Church we love:

1. We believe, as articulated by the Nicene and Apostles Creeds, that the Roman Church is constituted of believers who have are defined by their baptism into the Trinitarian God (Mt. 28:16-20).
2. Unfortunately, for too many, the existing understanding of the Trinity has done a disservice to the three “I am’s” in God by the use of male terms in some Church documents that many see as excluding their “I am.”
3. Aware of Avery Dulles’ “Models of the Church,” we recognize the need to reclaim this ultimate model of church articulated by Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel: this demands that the Trinitarian Reality of a Community of Equals be recognized as the governing model for our lives as Catholics at every level: personal, communal and organizational.
4. We believe God is Trinity, the Divine Architect of everything in creation. Therefore the ultimate “model” of the Church in its architecture or structure, must be based on the Trinitarian Archetype.
5. We believe, with Pope Benedict XVI, that, at every level of life—from the most microscopic to the most telescopic—all creation is stamped with Trinity. All things in creation, especially women and men, have been created by this God in their unique “I am” to image the Divine members in their “I am.” Thus we are ordained to relate to each other in ways that reflect Trinitarian ways of relating wherein there is no discrimination among persons, no domination in relationships and no deprivation in the resources available. Indeed we believe anything that reflects inequality among persons, their relationships and the sharing of their resources is untrinitarian and, therefore, ungodly and in need of the conversion Jesus proclaimed (and which led him to be delivered over for death by his religious leaders).
6. We believe that Jesus, the Ambassador of the Trinitarian God, came into the world of Caesar Augustus with its gospel of the Kingdom (*basileia*) of Caesar, with a radically different Gospel: that of the Reign/ Rule (*basileia*) of Trinitarian Relationships that must take place at all levels on earth as it is in heaven. And we believe that, today, we must reinterpret what made sense in that world about the “Gospel of the Kingdom of God,” in contemporary language that is free of its historically-determined patriarchal constructs in ways that are more faithful to what we know of the dynamics of the Trinity itself which are a “kindom” rather than a “kingdom.” This makes us believe that we who are Catholic must be “perfected” in this Trinitarian way of life and relating in our individual lives, our families and communities and the institutional organization of the Church itself (Mt. 5:48).

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7. We believe that, while the charisms were the ultimate grounding of the early church's functioning (wherein the gift of administration was just one of many equal charisms enabling the church to function), within a few hundred years the community of missionary disciples returned to an imperial model of "kingdom" and its "gospel" that reflected the very "gospel" which Jesus preached against. Furthermore in a world wherein science and culture, at least in "The West," has revealed a world that reflects what we believers interpret in Trinitarian ways, we believe a retrieval of the Trinitarian model might overcome the present loss of meaning among increasing numbers of the faithful, especially our younger members.

8. We believe with Karl Rahner that "the Christian of the future will be a mystic—one who has experienced something—or nothing at all, that the mystical experience articulate by our great mystics and others, ultimately envisioned a new way of relatedness in which one comes from old constructs to see everything as new, reflecting inclusive love. This was articulated by Paul, theologian of the Church, who wrote: "If anyone is in Christ, that one [or those ones] is the new creation; the old order is gone" (2 Cor. 5:17).

9. This leads us to conclude: Since we are baptized into the Trinitarian God, our Church can only be repaired by rejecting the old order of patriarchy and clericalism in a way that gives rise to a new order of Trinitarian equality wherein there no longer is discrimination against any of its members, domination over the many by the few, and the resources of its sacramental life open and celebrated by all.

10. Our belief in God as Trinity demands no less.

Group Leader/Draft: Michael Crosby

5. **Local Dialogue Circles:** "Back home, I will assemble small groups of priests and lay people to be in dialogue and hear each other's stories." (Martha Heizer/IMWAC)





## *Processing the fruits: KEY QUESTIONS, NUGGETS of WISDOM and SEEDS to Shift us to the Next Level*

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### *1. What Questions (if answered) will shift us to the next level?*

- What is the point/value of this network? Purpose!
- How could we become a more significant presence in the international movement?
- What has shifted since the beginning?
- What and who do we privilege here? Whom do we really serve?
- How might we practice the Church we long for, while we are here?
- How can and will we translate /pass on this new movement in Church to the young generation?
- Will it move us forward?
- Does it contribute to the wellbeing of the whole?
- Where does God want to move us to?
- What could we do to create the Church we long for?
- How to hold this immense body of Christ?
- Is this what it's like to be Pope Francis?
- How on earth do we do this - come together?
- I heard and witnessed for the strong desire of wholeness in this group. Is dialogue the tool to help us there?
- How can we mercifully handle our differences in this network?
- Which weapons are being used in Church?

### *2. Nuggets of Wisdom*

- ★ If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. (Hopi-Saying)
- ★ Who we are together, is different and more than who we are alone.
- ★ The way to heal a living system is to connect it to more of itself.
- ★ 0,0004 % of all Catholics are bishops.
- ★ These meetings are, in all their intensity, nourishing and enriching – that's exactly what we lack in our everyday's work.
- ★ In this gathering, we saw Church relationships in action.

### *3. Seeds*

- Let's clarify the network's purpose together.
- "Post it and host it!" – Found local circles. Invite the network to collaborate on whatever is calling for action.
- Let's reach out – Who else could come? Use your contacts!
- Should hierarchy be part of our gatherings?



Next conference: April 2018, in Slovakia?

## *Annex: List of Participants*

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<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Email</b>
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