

Consensus Role Play

Contemplative Outreach Guideline for Service #7. *We reach decisions through prayerful discernment, aiming toward consensus especially in matters of major importance.*

In view of the prayerful discernment process, consensus for us does not require unanimity, but all members in the group need to have a voice in the discussion. If consensus cannot be reached after adequate consultation in the group as well as with those who will be directly affected, a simple majority can decide. When time is of the essence a person or small team may be entrusted to resolve the impasse. Once decided, all honor the decision in the spirit of unity. For ordinary matters, those to whom a particular responsibility has been delegated do what is necessary to fulfill their appointed task.

The Conference Team is invited to Participate in the Role Play:

Roles:

- Chapter event organizer
- Chapter Coordinating team
- Chapter Coordinator

Setting: Chapter Coordinating Team Meeting

Script:

- **Chapter Coordinator:** The first item on our agenda is our next Silent Saturday Gathering. _____ will be organizing this event, so I have asked her to present the plan and solicit input from our team regarding where to hold this event.
- **Event Organizer** gives a brief overview of the plans in place so far and concludes asking for ideas of where to hold the event.
- **Coordinating Team Member X** suggests a place and give a reason — perhaps where the previous Silent Saturday was held.

- **Other coordination team members** agree adding reasons for choosing this place.
- After listening to the discussion the **last coordinating team member** respectfully suggests a different location for consideration—perhaps as a way to attract more people to attend.
- **The team** continues to discuss the pros and cons of each place. If consensus emerges, the event organizer articulates the decision making sure everyone is in agreement and then thanks all for their help in choosing a place.
- If consensus does not emerge in the time allowed, **the event organizer** proposes a choice explaining why she is making this choice and asks if all can support the choice. Each member of the Team has the opportunity to offer support and affirm the process.