

Discernment Procedure for Election to MCCW–Worldwide Board of Directors

Executive Board and Regional Coordinator Positions

(May also be adapted for Chapel Boards.)

Prior to the Discernment Procedure, the nominees, Discernment Committee, Policy and Procedure Chair and Executive Board members should have an opportunity to meet in person in a social setting for fellowship and if possible share a meal together.

Nominees should also have contacted sitting board members with questions they may have regarding positions for which they are interested. At the discernment, nominees may ask not to be considered for positions for which they are not being called or for which they do not qualify. For example if a nominee does not reside in the region, then she would not be considered in the discernment for that region.

For the actual Discernment Procedure, stage the room with a table and chairs large enough to accommodate all who will be participating in the discernment (to include: nominees, Spiritual and/or Episcopal Moderator, facilitator, Policy and Procedure Chair and members of the Discernment Committee.) Executive Board members may be present for observation purposes and for a combined single vote cast by the President to be used in case of a tie. (Please note that nominees may come to the Discernment Procedure with a position in mind but the Holy Spirit may work through the Discernment Procedure to guide them to a different position. Nominees must be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.) Before beginning the discernment, facilitators explain how the procedure will take place. Materials needed: A candle, a copy of this procedure for each person attending, a white board, flip chart or paper and tape, pens and small blank paper ballots for voting and someone to lead opening hymn which is optional. Light candle and begin.

Optional opening hymn: THE SERVANT SONG by Sr. Donna Marie McGargill

What do you want of me, Lord? Where do you want me to serve you? Where can I sing your praises? I am your song.

Jesus, Jesus, you are the Lord. Jesus, Jesus you are the way.

I hear you call my name, Lord, and I am moved within me. Your Spirit stirs my deepest self.

Sing your songs in me.

Jesus, Jesus, you are the Lord. Jesus, Jesus, you are the way.

Above, below, and around me, before behind and all through me. Your Spirit burns deep within me.

Fire my life with your love.

Jesus, Jesus, be the warmth of my heart. Jesus, Jesus, you are the way.

I am your song and servant, singing your praise like Mary. Surrendered to your Spirit, let it be done to me. Jesus, Jesus let it be done to me. Jesus, Jesus you are the way.

All pray together:

God our Father,

You have a plan for each one of us.

You hold out to us the future full of hope.

Give us wisdom of your Spirit,

So that we can see the shape of your plan

In the gifts you have given us,

And in the circumstances of our daily lives.

Give us freedom in your Spirit

To seek you with all our hearts, and all our minds,

And to choose your will above all else.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen *(Based on Jeremiah 29:11-13)*

Facilitator: Discernment is an honest review of all aspects of a decision to be made and then with prayer, meditation, and input, we arrive at the best possible decision.

(Below are the 10 guiding principles that Saint Ignatius recommends in decision-making for personal decisions upon which each candidate should have already prayed and meditated during the nomination process.)

Let us all pray together: “Holy Spirit, please bring us clarity and truth.”

Nominees take turns reading 1–10:

1. As I stay in touch with reality, what pre-existing conditions exist in my life that I cannot change may interfere with my serving on the MCCW Board?
2. Have I prayed about serving and sufficiently thought through the sacrifices that may be needed to serve on the MCCW Board?
3. Have I confided in those who truly know me well, those who can recognize my strengths and weaknesses without being subject to my personal issues?
4. Am I coming from a place of common sense and not just the emotional side of this decision?
5. Have I kept to the core of the matter and replaced confusion and fear with acts of trust and courage?
6. Does my choice to be considered yield the most peace, justice, faith and love as well as will bear the most fruit? Have I cleansed myself of selfish tendencies?
7. I do not seek the cross, but am I prepared to accept it?
8. Am I able to let go of that which was not meant to be in my life?
9. Do I try to live the message of Jesus to all the people I encounter in my daily life?
10. Holy Spirit, please inspire the decisions to be made at this meeting.

Facilitator: In Mark 10:42–45 Jesus defines for us the servant-leader concept: Jesus summoned them and said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Personal sharing by nominees: Going around the table, each nominee will list 3 of their own gifts, talents or experiences that they have that will support their own nomination. A nomination committee member will list on a white board, flip chart or paper to display the nominee's name and gifts, talents or experiences.

Sharing about other nominees: At this time nominees may add to the lists of other nominees what gifts, talents and experiences that they see in each other. These additions are also to be listed on the board, chart or paper for display. These lists shall remain in view for reference during the entire process.

Moderator or Nomination Committee questions: Questions for clarification purposes may be asked of nominees.

Facilitator: At this time we will pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit before our first ballot.

Facilitator reads italics and everyone joins in on the bold font:

Let us pray for freedom and guidance: **Lord, help me to clear my mind from distraction and preconceived ideas.**

Let us cultivate a real desire to discover God's will: **Lord, help me to focus on ways to serve you better.**

Let us acknowledge an openness to discover what is in the mind and heart of God: **Lord, help me to see the gifts and talents you have given me.**

Let us distinguish between "what I want" and what is actually God's call to me: **Lord, help me to meet the needs of those you have placed in my care and acknowledge my current responsibilities in addition to the role in which I might serve MCCW.**

Let us reflect on the objective information about this decision, considering the pros and cons: **Lord, as I reflect on what I am able to do right now, please help me seek truth.**

Let us pray for the grace to understand the motives and feelings that move me in

one direction or the other: Lord, is the timing and position right for me?

Let us recognize that if there is peace and joy (butterflies are normal) or fear and anxiety around the decision: Lord, please give me clarity.

Let us tentatively decide to see if we continue to be drawn to our decision: Lord, am I confident in this decision?

Let us ask again for God's guidance and make the decision: Thank you Lord.

Policy and Procedure Chair: passes out ballots to all the nominees who will vote by private ballot for the nominee they discern to be President.

Moderator: privately counts the votes with the assistance of the facilitator and Policy and Procedure Chair and announces the President. In case of a tie, the Executive Board will have provided a combined single vote cast by the President. Use of the President's vote remains known only to the Moderator.

Once nominees are discerned into a position, they continue to vote even though they will no longer be considered for a position. Between votes there may be discussion and questions.

The ballot process takes place until all positions are filled in order of President, 1VP, 2VP, Secretary, Financial Manager and Regional Coordinators (in alphabetical order: Central, Europe, NE, Pacific, SE, West). Unfilled positions will remain open to be discerned at a later time.

Facilitator: Let us close by asking for the intercession of our Lady of Good Counsel for both our new and outgoing boards. Hail Mary, full of grace...