

THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2018



PREPARATION - SHARING- DISCERNMENT

THE MENNAISIAN FAMILY.

(Provincial or District Commission, various groups)

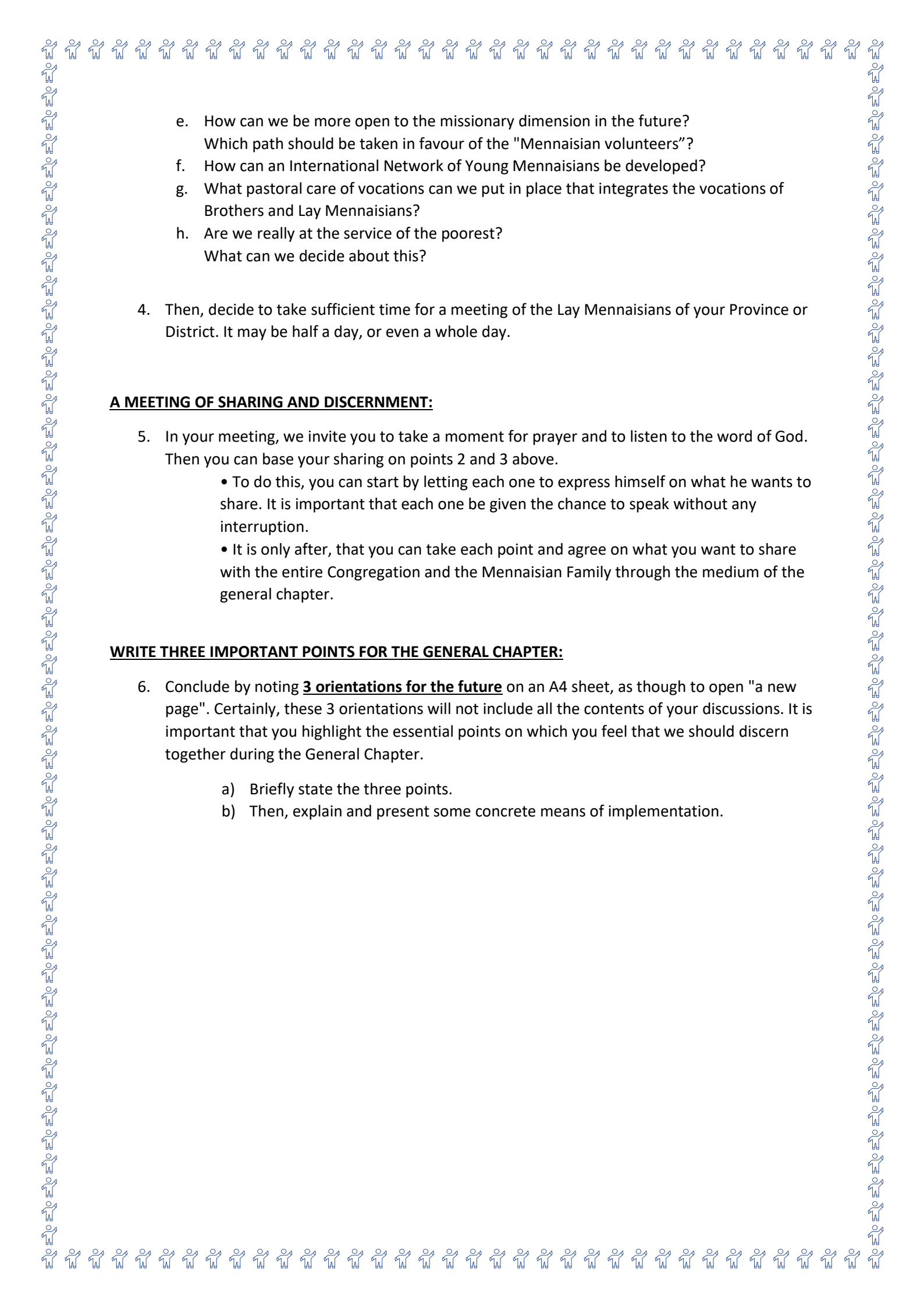
To prepare for the General Chapter, the general Council decided to invite the Lay Mennaisians to make their contribution.

We therefore propose that you enter into this process in a spirit of community discernment of the demands which the Holy Spirit addresses to us today. You will carry out this discernment, of course, by sharing your own identity, as Lay Mennaisians. You will also try not to halt there, but to open up to the Mennaisian Family as a whole.

We invite you to scrutinize the horizon beyond your own borders: As a way of helping you, here is the action that we invite you to take.

SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE MEETING TOGETHER TAKE TIME FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. Personally read the two texts attached to this letter:
 - I. A brief presentation of the Congregation and of the Mennaisian family, today.
 - II. An Except of the **Joy of the Gospel** from Pope Francis.
2. Note what these two texts should inspire you in the following areas: formation; the Mennaisian Family; the educational mission; our openness to the most disadvantaged, shared culture; the pastoral care of vocations; etc.
3. Then try to respond individually to the following questions, by going beyond your own area, and thus taking into account the entire Mennaisian Family.
 - a. How can we invite people to enter into the spirit of a large family that goes beyond the limits of our country?
 - b. What kind of relationship should we develop between Provinces /Districts of the same continent with regard to the Mennaisian Family?
 - c. What projects can we have in common?
 - d. What steps should the Congregation take to fully integrate the experience of the Mennaisian Family, Brothers and Lay people united by the same charism?
What type of association would you like?
What do you expect in terms of formation?

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- e. How can we be more open to the missionary dimension in the future?
Which path should be taken in favour of the "Mennaisian volunteers"?
 - f. How can an International Network of Young Mennaisians be developed?
 - g. What pastoral care of vocations can we put in place that integrates the vocations of Brothers and Lay Mennaisians?
 - h. Are we really at the service of the poorest?
What can we decide about this?

4. Then, decide to take sufficient time for a meeting of the Lay Mennaisians of your Province or District. It may be half a day, or even a whole day.

A MEETING OF SHARING AND DISCERNMENT:

5. In your meeting, we invite you to take a moment for prayer and to listen to the word of God. Then you can base your sharing on points 2 and 3 above.
 - To do this, you can start by letting each one to express himself on what he wants to share. It is important that each one be given the chance to speak without any interruption.
 - It is only after, that you can take each point and agree on what you want to share with the entire Congregation and the Mennaisian Family through the medium of the general chapter.

WRITE THREE IMPORTANT POINTS FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER:

6. Conclude by noting **3 orientations for the future** on an A4 sheet, as though to open "a new page". Certainly, these 3 orientations will not include all the contents of your discussions. It is important that you highlight the essential points on which you feel that we should discern together during the General Chapter.
 - a) Briefly state the three points.
 - b) Then, explain and present some concrete means of implementation.