

THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2018



PREPARATION - SHARING- DISCERNMENT

THE MAIN ACTORS OF THE EDUCATIONAL UNDERTAKINGS.

(Mission team, Directors of our schools, Management team, etc.)

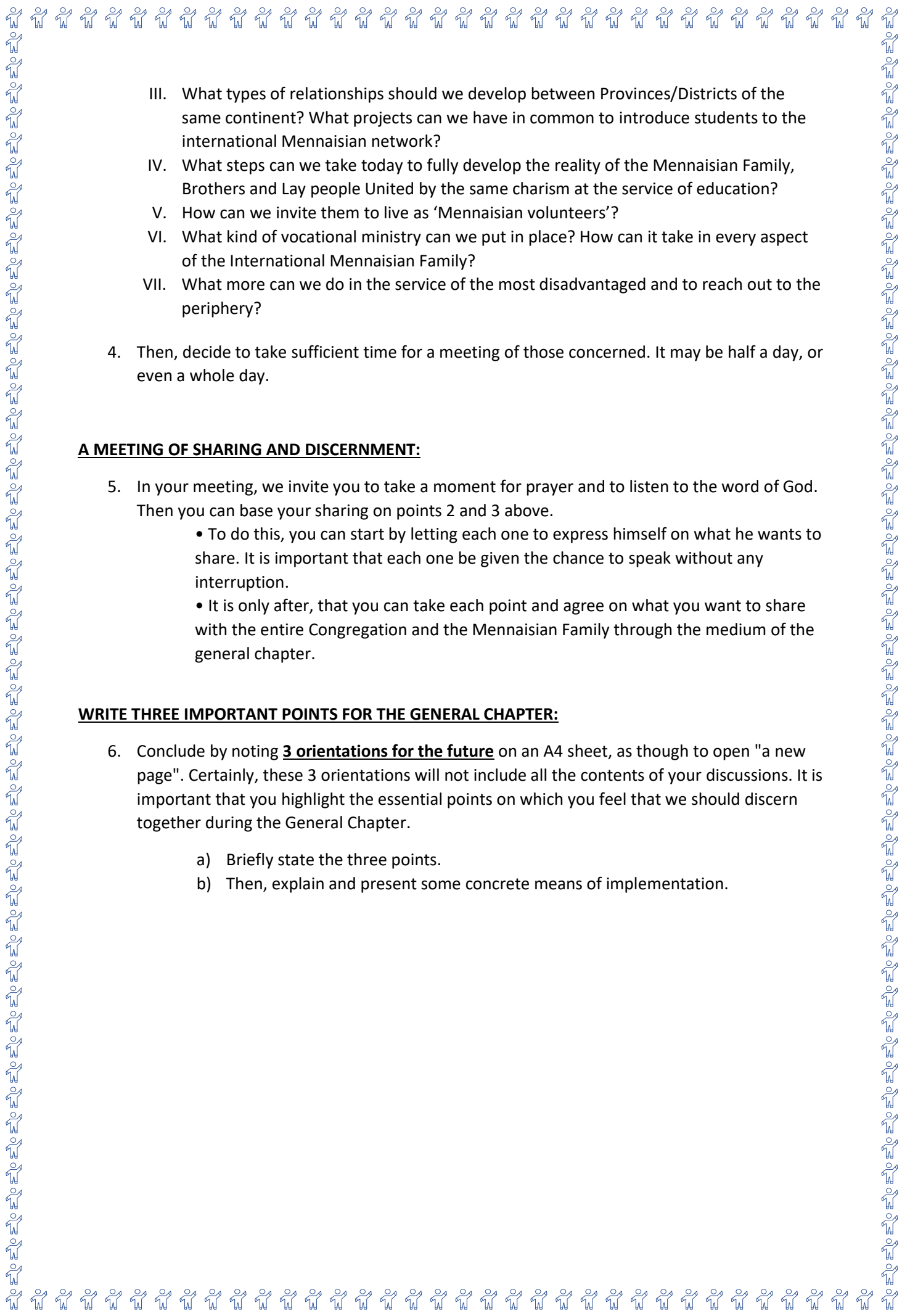
To prepare for the General Chapter, the general Council decided to invite members of the Mennaisian educational establishments to make their contribution.

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 responsibility in the educational establishments or at the level of the Province / District. You will also try not to halt there, but to open up to the Mennaisian family and to the Congregation as a whole.

We invite you to make a real effort 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. Excerpts from Chapter 3 of the text which was used to prepare the Congress that was held in Rome in November 2015: **EDUCATION TODAY AND TOMORROW, A RENEWED PASSION - EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES TODAY AND TOMORROW**
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 personal experience, and thus taking into account the entire Congregation.
 - I. What are the fundamental axis on which we should work to implement the Mennaisian Charism, since it is our mission?
 - II. In the areas of the holistic education of each person, of pastoral care, and of the openness to the transcendence, what initiatives can we take?

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- III. What types of relationships should we develop between Provinces/Districts of the same continent? What projects can we have in common to introduce students to the international Mennaisian network?
 - IV. What steps can we take today to fully develop the reality of the Mennaisian Family, Brothers and Lay people United by the same charism at the service of education?
 - V. How can we invite them to live as 'Mennaisian volunteers'?
 - VI. What kind of vocational ministry can we put in place? How can it take in every aspect of the International Mennaisian Family?
 - VII. What more can we do in the service of the most disadvantaged and to reach out to the periphery?
4. Then, decide to take sufficient time for a meeting of those concerned. 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.