

THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2018



PREPARATION - SHARING- DISCERNMENT

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

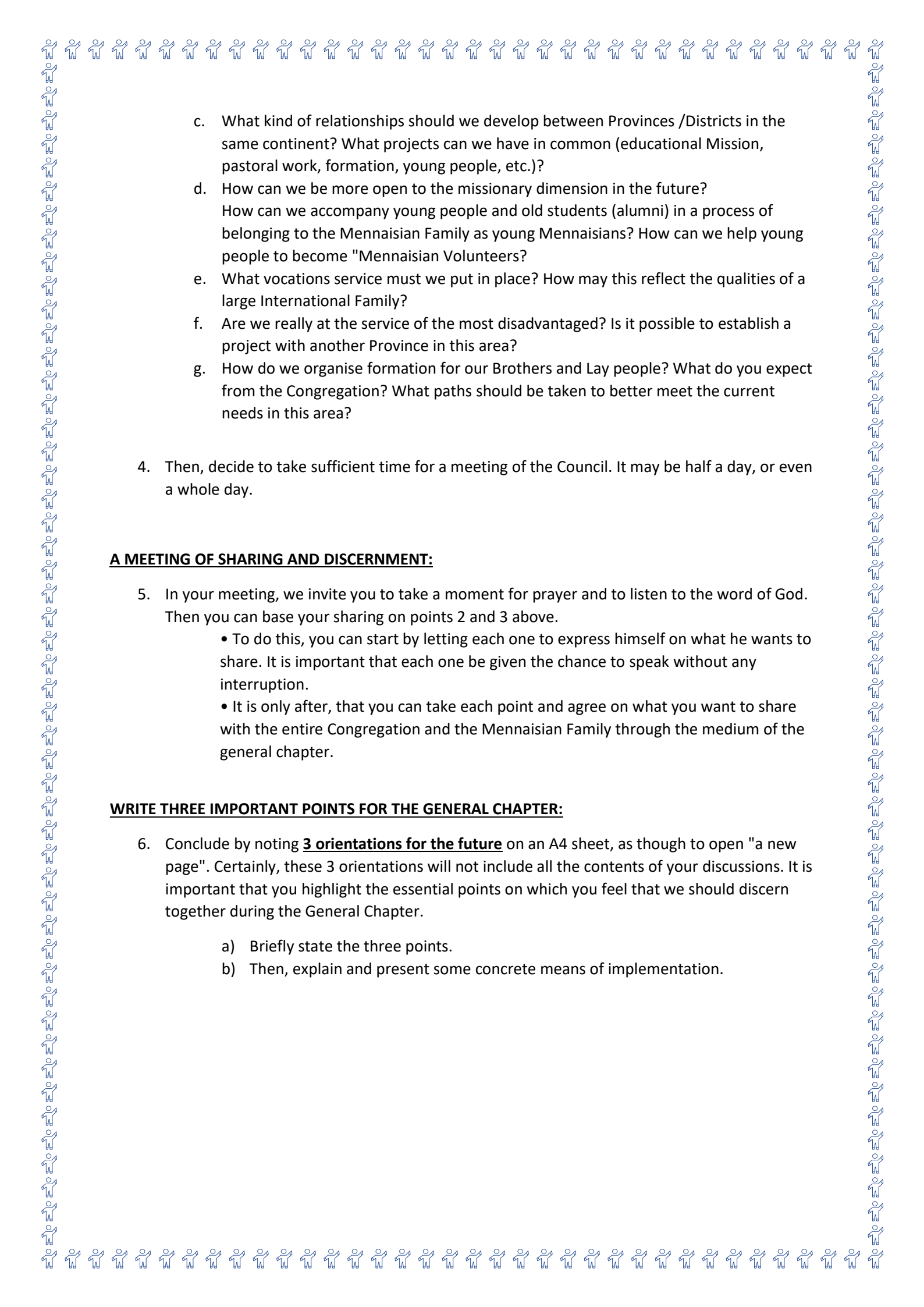
To prepare for the General Chapter, the general Council decided to invite you to make your contribution.

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. You will also try not to halt there, but to open up 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. An extract of the **JOY OF THE GOSPEL** of 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 house of formation, and thus taking into account the entire Congregation.
 - a. How do you help the Brothers to live their vocation in the community and for the mission? What initiatives have you engaged in? How does the international dimension of the Congregation enter into your reflection when you elaborate your animation projects?
 - b. How do you make others feel that they are part of the Mennaisian family? What steps can we take today to fully integrate the reality of the Mennaisian family, Brothers and Lay people united by a same charism at the service of education?

- 
- c. What kind of relationships should we develop between Provinces /Districts in the same continent? What projects can we have in common (educational Mission, pastoral work, formation, young people, etc.)?
 - d. How can we be more open to the missionary dimension in the future? How can we accompany young people and old students (alumni) in a process of belonging to the Mennaisian Family as young Mennaisians? How can we help young people to become "Mennaisian Volunteers"?
 - e. What vocations service must we put in place? How may this reflect the qualities of a large International Family?
 - f. Are we really at the service of the most disadvantaged? Is it possible to establish a project with another Province in this area?
 - g. How do we organise formation for our Brothers and Lay people? What do you expect from the Congregation? What paths should be taken to better meet the current needs in this area?
4. Then, decide to take sufficient time for a meeting of the Council. 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.