

What was challenging in this experience?

2. What was challenging in this experience?

I have found other Chapters more challenging!

My own apprehension from previous experiences

I have a sense that this process may have been a challenge for some "Js". However, being more of an introvert, I was comfortable "moving with the spirit". And this was not a surprise because we were forewarned and prepared for a "flexible" schedule. I felt prepared for whatever was to be during Chapter. At times, it was somewhat like slowly opening a special gift with anticipation.

It was challenging to hold my thoughts lightly as I heard other ideas and weighed each of them in light of their value to community.

my not remembering or not even knowing some of the underlying concerns individuals brought to the conversations--- hence, listening was so important

The days were long, especially when there was something scheduled during the evening. I saw the need to meet at 9:00 on Sunday, but I missed having Mass that day.

I always find it challenging during our "word smithing" sessions.....but the results are worth it! Many days I found the day tiring, so appreciated free evenings sprinkled with simple socials (New Year's eve was amazing!)

Coming in the winter. Sickness around the house.

What does radical hospitality draw me to in my circumstances? I move on in communal discovery.

Putting together a new Directional Statement and selecting the last two council members.

I drove to Dubuque thinking I would be a Canonical Delegate. After missing Day #1 due to sickness I became a Supportive Participant. I still felt very included in that role. The Process was designed to keep even the Supportive Participant very involved and having a voice that was heard. This was especially true for the Chapter of Affairs. With the Chapter of Elections it was harder to be involved, which I understand.

The biggest challenge was the picking of certain words and being picky.

That a small group seemingly stayed with a pre-planned agenda throughout.

The only thing I found challenging was the time- it seemed like a long time for the elections to take place- I did understand and appreciate the process, but after awhile I thought it could-just happen.

I did not really experience difficult challenges; all seemed to go smoothly in regard to meeting times, table arrangements, and open sharing of each Sister of those with whom I shared at various tables.

The schedule was very full and required time for table and large group conversation. Though I understand why we did not have a retreat day on December 31, I missed not having personal time.

What was challenging in this experience?

When questions/comments are invited from the floor, it is inappropriate for the facilitator to comment on those. This is not about direct questions that she could answer, but about concerns that people expressed, etc. Sometimes she rose to the defense of the Council. It is sufficient for a person to comment and for another delegate to respond, if so desired, but it is not the place of the facilitator in those circumstances. "Facilitate" doesn't mean to defend; it means to move the process along and to give the participants the opportunity to respond or not.

I felt at peace throughout and didn't sense challenging situations.

I was personally challenged in a healthy way to sit with a variety of sisters and not just the people with whom I feel really comfortable.

I was disappointed that we really did not have a retreat day. The community had asked for a different process for elections with more discernment. I don't believe we had a new process because, we did not really do anything significantly different.

Being at tables with sisters who are very hard of hearing, keeping myself open to the working of the Spirit and not wanting to rush the process

It seems that we need to explore different modes of voting for Leadership -- in the chapel, if that is necessary.

The difference between commitment statements and directional statement in the beginning when given paper. Sometimes we want to get to end product faster than we should-makes it take ownership with discussion.

Nothing comes to mind.

"Challenging for me, were comments which seemed to take our history of change lightly, or which seemed to insinuate that change is new and happening just recently. Today, I trust we can fully embrace and live into the approved Directional Statement with deep and persevering commitment on the part of each member.

Trying to make sure supportive participants part of the whole experience.

Staying focused, as the afternoon sessions became lengthy, at times.

It was challenging to do the process the way it was presented and not slip back into old patterns of discussion. I appreciated the facilitator's instructions, pointing out temptations and pointing out what was different to help us move into the new processes.

Keeping up with the process.

I am not vocal and contributing to the animated conversation was difficult; One of the early days it was difficult sitting at a mixed table (delegates and non) and listening to a delegate criticize the lack of communication; sitting through the rewrites and clarifications.

It was challenging to not be well informed about the process of elections.

What was challenging in this experience?

Searching for words for Directional Statement and Commitments.

I did not find it helpful to try to configure leadership team. Just elect good people under the Holy Spirit's guidance. They'll work it out.

The long hours and the many days

Some of the discussions and sharing the final two days.

Sometimes the length of a session without a longer break. We worked hard.

Realizing how the Holy Spirit was leading us. How our preparation for Chapter before it began to come forth as we moved to various topics. The article on Radical Hospitality by Wolfe that we studied with associates, different circles and personally

A lot to listen to

The challenging part was to stay with the conversation and listen, but not respond to what another sister was saying. At times there didn't seem to be enough time for the in-depth sharing.

To let go of the directional statement as crafted at previous chapter.

It was hard not to be a canonical delegate.

#2 We did not seem to share a significant amount of common ground about the essence of leadership. We as a community were all over the map regarding what Leadership is and does. I heard everything from the ability to plan to someone who will take care of us. This was disappointing."

I found the table discussions on mission a bit challenging. I couldn't get a sense if the community was going in the direction of one common issue like immigration and everyone would focus on that or if we would continue to do as now attending to the issue/s in the area where we live and have passion for. I sensed we needed more direction here from Catherine. I was also unclear during the time of writing...what was the directional statement and what was the commitments.

On the personal level, to find my voice and to speak it.

It seemed that it was hard to stay engaged in the conversation if the session extended beyond 4:30pm.....My head was FULL by then.

Struggle to agree on Statement in essence; supporters not present during elections

Begin patience with the election process. Didn't find the time at the tables where we were putting difference teams together that helpful. We didn't really talk openly about the strengths/shortcomings of the combinations. Maybe that was too risky.

There were many good things in the election process but I was disappointed that conversations were not included in the actual voting process. I think I would have liked time to imagine teams rather than just individuals via conversations. This could have happened earlier than the election process itself.

Chapter of Affairs included conversations with a variety of diverse groups and time for whole group processing. This stopped when we entered the Chapter of Elections. We do better when we can talk things through together and I was disappointed this didn't happen during the Chapter of Elections. It felt

What was challenging in this experience?

very disconnected from the way we operate. I wonder what elections would look like if they used a consensus process like that used during chapter of affairs.

I'm glad supportive participants were included in many of the chapter of affairs conversations. However they had an unclear task and role at the end of chapter of affairs and during chapter of elections. If specific tasks or directions could be given to them each time delegates are given a task or direction it would help the process be more inclusive. Perhaps a facilitation team with one person dedicated to facilitating or being mindful of the supportive participants.

A few canonical delegates seemed to get confused often and dominated the open mic at times.

Revising the participation structure for members in formation. This process needs to be started now so that it's ready for the next chapter. As a new member it's painful to not be fully included in community decision-making.

Revising the participation structure for supportive participants in the Chapter of Elections. It was painful to watch our senior sisters leave the chapel before the Chapter of Elections. I would like to see this change.

We need facilitated community conversations about associates and the ways in which they are invited to participate so that we are all in agreement. The uncertainty is difficult.

I felt relaxed and comfortable throughout the days. I attribute this to the excellent planning of the Chapter Preparations Committee, the expertise of the facilitator, our communal prayer for Chapter and my personal prayer for openness to the Spirit and to all weeks and months prior to chapter.