

## Region of Oceania Pre-GA Assembly and Convention Report

### Pre-GA Assembly 13-15 November 2023

The online Region of Oceania Pre-GA Assembly was held from 13-15 November 2023. Forty-two Columbans from around the Region joined the Assembly – twenty-three priests, one deacon, two students, one lay missionary, thirteen co-workers, Fiji Columban Companions in Mission (CCIM) National Director and one CCIM member. Alvaro Martinez Ibanez (General Councillor), Tony Coney (Regional Director South America) and Lee Jeehoon (Myanmar Mission Unit GA delegate) also joined our Assembly. Michael Elphick was our facilitator.

During the Assembly we used the Spiritual Conversations process for all our small group sessions. For each session we were divided into 7 small groups each with their own facilitator and reporter. After each group session the reporters gave feedback to the large group.

#### Day One (Morning Session)

##### IRMU Recommendations 2 & 3:

2. To conduct a strategic, independent review of the Columban Society in the light of mission priorities (JPIC/IRD, etc.) and to create a strategic plan of action based on the review.

3. To facilitate an independent review and assessment of the vocation programs based on internal and external data, trends, and other congregational plans with a view to creating a strategic plan based on the outcomes.

Trevor Trotter introduced the Interim Report *Conversations in the Spirit* prepared by Dr Carolyn Evans. Our small group focus questions were:

##### ***What do you affirm in the Interim Report? What do you think the Report gets right?***

- The Report is challenging, positive and hopeful. There are hopeful signs to continue God's mission with the guidance of the Holy Spirit behind us.
- There is a need for a fresh expression of Columban mission. We just can't close mission at all. People can come and go, but the mission will always be there.
- One group stated that the Report was a little disappointing, but it is also a reality check for the group. Confronting the reality of the Society regarding the age of the members and how we can help to get more young people to join the Society.
- There is a sense of urgency but if there is a willingness and participation by everyone to change and to accept change and maybe work out what are the best changes then hopefully the Society can move forward a little bit better. We see the need for change and that what the reality is pointing out to us is that we need to do something about it.
- We follow the Church and along the path we've had many challenges, and this is another one of them that we will face, with faith and an appreciation and belief in the fact that God is with us in this.
- It is important to clarify willingness of the whole Society, including the process of letting go and adapting to a new reality. Otherwise, there is a sense that it would be pertinent to allow the Society to run its course.

- It's a way of trying to develop what's going to happen in the future in the same way that St Columban was on his journey of trying to figure out what came next.
- There are questions around what happens if things remain as they are. Question of whether to close, question of declining members – this is not a new question. The questions now are: What happens if things remain as they are and we don't do anything about it? Who is going to take the steps to change things?
- Configuration/reconfiguration is a huge priority. The choices must be hope-filled. Maybe rebirth is where the challenges are. We need to think outside the box, have a completely new birth, and that's where the reconfiguration has to come about.
- Collaboration of having everyone involved in the decisions – priests, students, lay missionaries and co-workers. Affirm what is already happening in the Region of Oceania – having more lay people in leadership roles. Working together as a team in our synodal journey. Leadership is to come from three groups – ordained, lay missionaries and co-workers.
- Rebadging in a clear way that's focused – this has been resisted in the past due to concerns of inclusiveness – this can now not be avoided. We need to be inclusive of everyone's gifts and skills. Not everyone identifies with the priority areas of the Society.

People were invited to offer general remarks. These were:

1. Any restructuring of the Society needs to be in service of a new expression of Columban mission. If we start looking at restructuring before we clarify a new expression of Columban mission, we are putting the cart before the horse. The structure needs to follow at the service of mission.
2. While our numbers are going down, I don't see us older members as being the ones who are going to lead the change, but we can add our comments and wisdom, but we need to have faith in the new members, they are the ones that are going to carry on, that they will respond as well. Even if we do try to reconfigure and restructure and get new concepts, I don't think it will happen immediately. It will emerge as we go along, and we need to be "flexible opportunists" with the mind of the Church.
3. The Holy Spirit and God is a part of our discernment. When we talk about faith, faith will be shown especially in the willingness to change and the willingness to be involved in the change rather than a faith and hope that God will solve it somewhere beyond our activities. A Spirit of God that we cooperate with. The first movement of the Spirit has to be a willingness.
4. Does the Society have to be what we think it is now? Can we extend and widen the Society? Especially considering where the world and the Church is, because there are a lot of people who would be willing to join us as volunteers. Are we limiting ourselves to the Society as we see it now?
5. The whole Church is to be a synodal Church that has emerged from the recent Synod on Synodality. Missionaries have to be synodal missionaries and all disciples are missionary disciples. When we are looking for vocations we must keep in mind what the future of the Society is trying to be – a synodal Society and a synodal Church, forming synodal communities as missionaries. It changes or adds to the dimension of our missionary task and our missionary characteristics throughout the Columban Society.

## Day One (Afternoon Session)

Our small group focus questions were:

### ***What do you find difficult or challenging in the Interim Report?***

- The Report itself is very challenging. It sheds a negative light on the stark reality we are currently facing. There is no clear pathway on what steps to take in dealing with these current realities.
- There is the realisation that we can't continue in all the countries we are in now. We just don't have the numbers. It might be time to think about which countries might be a priority and how many people can work in those countries. Change the structures so that Regions can run with smaller numbers. Not actually clear what reconfiguration will mean.
- Re-reading history – find hope and trust in God because this is not new to us. We were once small, so we need to learn from history and look forward to the future with hope.
- How can we keep the spirit of mission alive if a country is closed? How can we still encourage mission?
- There is maybe some fear that some enthusiasm throughout the Society is gone, so therefore it is difficult to encourage new vocations if the sense of community and mission isn't there anymore.
- The statement was made about the inevitability of closing the Society. This creates mixed feelings about where we are as a Society and what will happen if we close the Society.
- There is a sense of grief coming through in what's being said and that should be recognised and accepted as part of the reality.
- Do we need to read Kubler-Ross or something similar? As we face dying or closing or radical change – is it negative? Does it have to be negative or really depressing? Can we not actually evolve into something new with fewer people to carry on – ordained, co-workers and lay missionaries? There can be life there. Dying and letting go is a part of life – the whole kenotic spirituality.
- Accepting change – we do that because we believe that the future of mission is lay, especially in the work of IRD and JPIC. In accepting this change, we need to trust in the visionary leadership that adequately understands this new sense of being on mission.
- There is the challenge and the reality of Columbans who are comfortable in their own ministries and find it difficult to change and to take up new ministries that's needed for the reality of who we are today. The challenge and willingness to change is difficult.
- Challenge is an opportunity to make hard decisions but also to be hopeful about what we can do with our current realities particularly with a sense of cooperation.
- Sustainability – what does sustainability really mean? We hope it's not only just looking at the numbers. What other things are needed to sustain the Society?
- Ethics of accepting new vocations with the view to the future if we're not going to continue or if we don't see that as a real possibility.
- The need to have a flexible attitude towards vocations. Formation doesn't have to be done with Columbans, it can be done in seminaries other than our own.
- We should keep going because we have something to offer.
- Need to rewrite the clear purpose of the Society and the ministries coming from that.
- There is a real challenge for the younger Columbans and co-workers to take on reforming the Society – determining where they want to take the Society in the future with an openness to the

guidance of the Spirit, and at the same time a recognition by the older members that it will be the younger Columbans and co-workers carrying the burden of what that new reality will be.

- Even though older members will contribute to the discussions, they should be prepared to stand back a bit and let the younger members make those important decisions for themselves.
- There is the question of what part will finances play in this. Do we know the reality of our financial situation? This will surely determine several things.

***What is the one message your group would like the delegates to convey to the General Assembly?***

- Be positive, because we believe we are called by God to continue our mission and to reshape the Society in a new synodal way in a synodal Church. Synodality is a way of being in mission. It's about listening, conversation, discernment and trusting in how the Spirit is at work in our lives and others.
- Be bold and make decisions – make decisions about mission. There's hope and there's commitment to forge ahead.
- To have courageous conversations about our desire to see the Society continue in a way that is honest, ethical, and open to the Spirit in the light of our need to reconfigure our Columban future. God's not going to let us down but we have to be open to a new future.
- To have hope, faith, and to be open to the Holy Spirit in finding new ways in facing our own challenges and a willingness to have that open heart as well to change, in taking initiative to do something new.
- Is the Society serving the mission of God's people in our time? We ask the GA to be clear about what our mission is about in the context of our realities as we move forward into the years to come.
- We have confidence in our delegates, and we ask them to be courageous, to be open to the Holy Spirit, and to be conscious of the younger members of the Society. Older members might need to stand back a little to give the younger members greater room and freedom to express, as they see, the future of the Society.
- Invitation to have more dialogue and listening between younger and older members, and more faith and trust in our younger members. There is wisdom in the older members and plenty of experience to share with the younger members. We also need to listen to co-workers and others.
- We ask the delegates to approach the GA from the point of view of mission rather than maintenance.
- To prioritise vocations.

**Day Two (Morning Session)**

**IRMU Recommendation 1:** To create a culture of accountability supported by rigorous policy procedures and ongoing monitoring.

Felisiano Fatu introduced Recommendation 1. Our small group focus questions were:

***What can we do to create a culture of accountability within the Region?***

- Encouragement to take care of oneself and accountability to look after each other in our health and spiritual life. We are responsible to one another. To seek support when we are struggling.

- Personal accountability is important. We are all on board with the synodal process and making sure that personal accountability is taken seriously so that when something occurs, it's not just reflecting an individual, it's reflecting the Society as a whole.
- There is an accountability to mission. We are all here to work for the one cause.
- To support and help each other in our work and not to take co-workers for granted, being responsible for and to them.
- To provide training on certain policies for new members to the Region and new co-workers and to review our policies. Safeguarding is very much a part of our thinking which we need to apply throughout our work and relationships.
- Within the Church there has been a lot of cover-ups particularly around sexual abuse. Not having women in Church governance might be a reflection of that. Moving forward having more women involved in governance might be a positive aspect of change.
- Honest and open conversations among members and co-workers and for leaders to act on things that are out of order. Being open to peer reviews.
- Meetings where people can share about their ministries and retirement. This might allow for creating a culture of trust, support, interest and solidarity.
- Cross-cultural ministry – it's important to know the culture well to integrate well into the local life.
- Defining roles and responsibilities – in the past we haven't had job descriptions for priests but having clarity about what someone is going to do is important. Co-workers sign contracts and are aware of their responsibilities.
- Regular reporting is important to keep people well informed. Financial reporting on funds received and spent. However, overreporting can be counterproductive.
- When moving from one RMU to another we need to share our knowledge, skills, information and learnings.

***What are the barriers to accountability we need to overcome?***

- Personal blind spots, sense of entitlement and doing our own thing, individualism, isolation, loneliness in ministry, pressures from cross-cultural living, fear of failure or criticism.
- Clericalism – not being responsible for our actions. Not just what we do but what we don't do.
- Often people don't read some policies because they are too long. Make them simpler for people to read and understand.
- At times there's a lack of sharing and accountability across ministries. There needs to be an accountability for sharing.
- Aging is another barrier – people are just tired, some are not interested, others are overwhelmed.

**Day Two (Afternoon Session)**

**IRMU Recommendations 4 & 5:**

4. To grow our partnerships with Columban Lay Missionaries (CLM) and co-workers as an integral part of the Columban mission and gospel witness to the universal church.

5. To create a culture of mentoring and support for leadership that is shared and sustainable and includes co-workers.

Kelvin Barrett introduced Recommendation 4 and Carlo Jung introduced Recommendation 5. Our small group focus questions were:

***How will we grow our partnerships with CLM and co-workers?***

- To work on the principles of partnership: collaboration, openness, and trust with the spirit of synodality.
- Working together, spending time together, getting to know each other, sharing ideas and skills, mutual respect, building trust, breaking down barriers of feeling isolated and not part of the team are all ways of growing partnership.
- Creating structures that enable us to be more open and allow for greater space where we can work together.
- We need an understanding of the work being done by co-workers and LMs.
- We need to engage co-workers where possible so they can experience Columban mission and grow in confidence and take ownership of the mission itself.
- Continue to include co-workers in our Regional Assemblies.
- Co-workers must be seen as partners in Columban mission. They are doing missionary work in a different way. This allows ordained members to carry out other ministries. It's all part of Columban mission.
- Lay people are the future of the Church, and they need encouragement and affirmation as well as support. In baptism we are called to mission. We need the complementarity of men and women, lay and ordained. We are one body with one mission.
- Clarification is needed about a person's particular ministry and how it fits in with the other ministries across the Region, and the relationship between retired members and people still in active ministry to remove any confusion. All our ministries are linked together.
- The CLM relationship within the Society has been an evolving one. It is still growing and needs nurturing which could include further formation and education for long-term LMs. Professional development needs to be done together.
- There must be an atmosphere of justice in the relationship between the Society, LMs and co-workers.
- Get away from clericalism. It is important to listen to LMs and co-workers and to learn and grow from their experiences and ideas.
- Emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of the Columban Companions in Mission in Fiji and to continue to provide ongoing training and formation for them.

***What are the impacts of failing to grow these partnerships? What is at stake?***

- Pausing CLM vocation promotion and not accepting new LMs for 5 years would be a great mistake. It will kill CLM.
- If we don't grow these partnerships and recognise each other's gifts and spirituality, missionary witness to the Good News will weaken and diminish, divisions will emerge, and that will speed the decline of the Society. We will gradually fragment and people will lose hope.
- If we don't engage LMs and co-workers in mission, we become indifferent and we burn ourselves out without their support. There will be a failure of decision making.

- We will lose the inclusiveness of women in the Society and the equality and balance in professionalism and ideas.
- For clerical members, sometimes we fail to let go of older hierarchical models and fail to listen.
- Failure at intercultural living, and to respect and appreciate the dynamics of intercultural living.

***What supports should we put in place for our emerging leaders?***

- Leadership in the Society should be guided by synodality, by listening and discernment, with compulsory leadership training in these areas. Follow up training is very important, especially when leadership changes.
- Acknowledgement of the realities of leadership on the part of members, lay missionaries and co-workers. We need to work together as leaders in partnership with one another.
- Accompanying those in leadership is important. Leaders need a certain amount of supervision – pastoral or professional. Leaders need to be willing to seek advice.
- Too many tasks in administration and in pastoral work can take priority over one’s spiritual life. This can be seen as disastrous causing frustration and maybe a lack of interest in one’s leadership responsibilities. There is the challenge of having a better balance of life and work as a leader.
- Leadership is very task orientated, and leaders seem to be carrying a lot of work and burdens. How can we lighten the burden?
- Make sure people have experience in mixed teams, whether in parishes or ministry, to learn the skills and benefits of partnership. Appreciating the dynamics of intercultural living is important.
- There needs to be support in living in a changed world – particularly in a world that’s becoming increasingly digital. Zoom is allowing us to connect more with people across other countries.
- Giving the opportunities for younger Columbans and co-workers in leadership areas. Co-workers need to be included some way in the process of determining the future of the Society
- Young members need to be encouraged to take on leadership roles and to embrace a synodal model of leadership. This will help the older members to trust the younger members, and for the younger members to be seen as an important part of the Society. We might have to give up a ministry that we prefer to be doing for the good of the whole Society and to be ready to take on leadership roles.
- Older Columbans with great experience in mission should always be there and ready to guide and support new leaders.
- There should be a willingness on behalf of members generally to be conscious of the tasks and burdens that leadership are carrying and perhaps volunteer to take on some of those things that can be delegated.
- There needs to be an adherence to time limits in terms of appointments so that people are not left too long in a particular role or position.
- Co-workers found it very helpful when the Regional Director met with them individually during his annual visitation. This helps to build up trust, support and a sense of belonging.
- IRD and JPIC are very demanding ministries. Other members of the group need to be encouraged to take part in these ministries to the best of their abilities. It should be a group effort and not just the preserve of the leaders.
- Creation of a “Junior Columbans” in the Region using the St Vincent de Paul Society’s model of “Young Vinnies”.

**IRMU Recommendation 6:** To explore and define a new expression of Columban missionaries; identity, language, image, etc.

The Region of Oceania Pre-GA Assembly/Convention Preparatory Committee decided that since we explored and defined a new expression of Columban missionaries during our Columban Synod for Oceania Sept 2022 – March 2023 there was no need to have further discussion on IRMU Recommendation 6 at our Pre-GA Assembly. All Columban priests, students, lay missionary, co-workers and three representatives from the Columban Companions in Mission (CCIM - Fiji) were invited to participate in the Synod as well as Pacifican Columbans (priests and LMs) working overseas.

The following five emerging directions were all affirmed through spiritual conversations and at our two online Synod gatherings.

- Our Columban identity: We understand Columban identity as inclusive – we are all Columbans, and we are one Region.
- Synodality: We are becoming a synodal Region practicing prayerful, synodal processes which bring us together and foster transformation.
- Mission and ministry: We need to move to models which express our one Columban identity, synodality and new models of church.
- Ageing and retirement: We wish to explore our rich experience, the deepening of our spirituality and how this might be shared.
- Younger Pacifican Priests and Lay Missionaries: We invite and welcome any younger Pacificans who wish to exercise ministry within the Region of Oceania.

At the conclusion of our Columban Synod for Oceania, we all affirmed that the five emerging directions have “put the Region of Oceania on the right pathway, taking the Region in a positive new direction to somewhere new.” Participants affirmed “that the emerging directions and the inclusive and prayerful synodal process are taking the group to a transformative place of letting go to let come.” “The gift of our Columban identity is inclusiveness encompassing different roles e.g. ordained, co-workers, lay missionaries, as well as diversity in age, gender and culture. Columban identity is inclusive of people who are not Catholic and from different faith traditions and we celebrate and affirm the richness of the faith traditions and cultures within our Columban identity.” (Final Report)

### **Day Three (Morning Session)**

#### **Agenda setting for the Region and for GA 2024**

Our small group focus questions were:

***What issues, important for the Region, do you believe we need to name and address in the next 12 months?***

- We are becoming a synodal Region. Synodality is not something theoretical but practical. We need to keep our eyes on the fact that we are one Region and that there is a benefit of three countries learning from each other and working together. Is a smaller unit more attractive to younger members and co-workers?



- Focus of the ordained in the Region is mostly going to be in Fiji. The young active ordained priests are there so we need to encourage and support them. A suggestion was made that perhaps some of the younger members in Fiji could come to Australia periodically to help with the promotion of the Far East and vocations.
- We need to recognise more our Columban Companions in Mission in Fiji.
- The need for ongoing formation, particularly in areas of leadership, upskilling young priests, co-workers and lay missionaries for leadership roles. Administration staff at the Columban Mission Centre in Essendon are being upskilled to do multiple tasks.
- Properties are being reviewed on an ongoing basis and is a priority.
- There needs to be some succession planning for vocation ministry. It's being raised with a sense of urgency now. An idea might be to evaluate our vocations ministry across the Region and decide on a way forward.
- There needs to be a discernment about the commitment to JPIC in the Region. It's a priority issue for the Society yet it's barely been mentioned in the Assembly and it's unclear as to how many people actually do identify with JPIC in the Region, and to what extent and for what.
- Mission promotion in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand in the present model is not sustainable. Perhaps more work could be done in mission promotion.
- Members wellbeing and burnout is an issue.

***Are there any additional issues or ideas you would like discussed at GA 2024?***

- Reconfiguration/amalgamation of RMUs to minimise expenses, including by reducing offices. We might need to see a reshaping of the models. Minimise the requirements but simplify the models. Trimming and pruning of Regions might be needed, but we need to keep our focus and do it in a way where we don't lose our identity out there.
- To address the Interim Report seriously and bring up discussions that may be raised at the GA 2036. Is that too late? Decisions probably need to be made now while we are strong.
- Support the Interim Report, where women must be involved in decision making and assume roles and responsibilities in leadership, pastoral care and other ministries. This is urgent.
- To clarify what we are doing as Columbans. Serving the mission of the Church in the pews is a big thing.
- We need to have very clear, strong reasons for why we make changes, especially closures. We need to have plans in place and perhaps a broader membership model.
- Give younger members a bit more of the responsibilities.
- We hope that the General Assembly will see all the people in the Columbans, including our very many benefactors, some of whom have been with us for over 40 years, who really believe in Columbans and see themselves as a part of the Columban story.
- Should we continue looking for vocations. Very much yes, that we should continue vocation ministry across the Society.
- The feasibility of the General Council remaining in HK.

## Region of Oceania Convention

15 November 2023 (Afternoon Session – 90 minutes)

Twenty-four permanent members and two temporary members joined the online Convention. We began by formally approving the Region of Oceania election procedure of delegates to the General Assembly.

### **Proposed amendments to Constitutions and Directory for GA 2024**

Preamble: The Region of Oceania Pre-GA Assembly/Convention Preparatory Committee reviewed the 53 proposed amendments to the Constitutions and Directory GA 2024 and divided them into Major Proposed Amendments (18) and Minor Proposed Amendments (35). Two fillable documents – Major and Minor Proposed Amendments – were sent to all permanent and temporary members in the Region inviting them to give feedback to the proposed amendments. They were invited to indicate their support for each proposed amendment on a scale of 1 to 5 – 1 indicating “I do not support this change” and 5 indicating “I fully support this change” and to offer written feedback to each proposed amendment.

8 members gave feedback to the major proposed amendments and 9 members gave feedback to the minor proposed amendments. The Preparatory Committee tabulated the feedback. The tabulated feedback for the major proposed amendments shows there is overwhelming support for the proposed amendments to D.330. The tabulated feedback for the minor proposed amendments shows there is support for twenty of the proposed amendments (See Appendix A, page 12). All the feedback has been sent to the GAPC.

### Online Convention:

We divided into 6 small groups to review and discuss the 6 major proposed amendments that had varying support – C.330, D.341.3, D.342.3, C.338, C.310 and D.310.1. After listening to the feedback from the 6 small groups, the members were invited to fill in the online document to indicate their support for each proposed amend on a scale of 1 to 5 - 1 indicating “I do not support this change” and 5 indicating “I fully support this change”. None of the 6 proposed amendments attained 50% support.

The feedback from the small group discussions is as follows:

C.330. 91% do not support the proposed amendment and 9% support the amendment. Our leadership teams are quite cross-cultural, and it would be easier communicating if they are face to face rather than being in different countries. It helps to foster community spirit. A lot of decisions are made and come of information situations that you get from being together. It’s also about day-to-day interactions. It’s the dining/coffee table conversations that are also important.

D.341.3. 71% do not support the proposed amendment and 29% support the amendment. There was some confusion about this proposed amendment because members didn’t know what it was all about. The proposed changed doesn’t really seem to help anyone. On the other hand, the House Superior needs freedom to organise the house and he can work out his own job description. There was a sense of freedom for the community to decide things themselves.

D.342.3. 65% do not support the proposed amendment; 15% support the amendment; and 20% are undecided. There was divided opinion on this proposed amendment. Some members think the current

Constitution of 3 years seems adequate. Some think 5 to 6 years is sufficient rather than 10 years. Part of the reason is that we don't have a great number of people who can do this kind of work. Others think that the same person could handle both external and internal issues and they could do both roles.

C.338. 48% support the proposed amendment; 48% do not support the amendment; and 4% are undecided. Just as we need four people on the General Council, you need the same number of people in leadership in some Regions. We are undergoing a massive change in the Society, so we need a good think tank on our Regional Councils. It's also a way of mentoring younger members into leadership roles. Some members think it is not necessary to have the same structure across all Regions. If you have a small number of members in a Region, you need fewer people on the Regional Council. Why not associate with another Region and become a new Region or become a Mission Unit? Should some Regions move from a Regional model to a Mission Unit model which would better facilitate a synodal approach to decision making?

C.310 55% do not support the proposed amendment; 40% support the amendment; and 5% are undecided. There were mixed views on this proposed amendment. Associate priests should also be included in this proposal. The change is cosmetic rather than substantial. The intention is to give more of a voice to Columban lay missionaries, but it doesn't go anywhere near the sort of changes that we have been talking about over the last two years. Some members think it would be good if we could include the number of LMs in each RMU. In reality we want to be synodal, but some things might hinder that. Canon law doesn't allow for any lay people to have a determinative role/impact on priests. How can we best move forward with these changes within the Canon law framework? Are our Constitutions fit for purpose in terms of the direction that we are hoping to go. Will the Constitutions allow for these changes to take real effect?

D.310.1. 57% do not support the proposed amendment; 24% support the proposed amendment; and 19% are undecided. The practical observation was made that our numbers are so small it is unlikely that Regions will get near 40 members anyway.

Members were invited to make a further written comment on any of the proposals above. Comments from individual members were:

1. I do not support change to separating the Superior General's Council. I believe the House Superior should have more freedom as regards organizing Columban Houses. Spiritual directors could be used again after shorter periods of time. Mixed feelings on the last two proposed amendments.
2. I think our Constitutions are not fit for purpose, for the sort of Synodal Society we are imagining. However, I don't think now is the time to be re-writing Constitutions. We are missionaries. Let us live the different sort of Society we want to be, and when that has evolved and become clearer, then is the time to legislate it. It needs to be based on reality, not on inspiration.
3. We need to look at Canon law. Does it allow such changes?
4. D.341.3 and the suggested change is very ambiguous and vague.
5. C.310 and D.310.1 would be relevant to a wider discussion on membership.
6. It is important that Associate Priests also have a voice.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Region of Oceania Feedback on Proposed Amendments to the Constitutions and Directory**

The following proposed amendments to the Constitutions and Directory received more than 50% support from the members who gave written feedback to the proposed amendments. The percentage of support is indicated in brackets. The other proposed amendments received less than 50% support.

**D. Submitted by Joe Hargaden (Ireland)**

- C.315 (67%) (feedback from 9 members)
- D.321.3 (56%) (feedback from 9 members)
- D.330 (63%) (feedback from 8 members)
- D.405.1 (56%) (feedback from 9 members)
- D.405.7(56%) (feedback from 9 members)
- D.406 (56%) (feedback from 9 members)
- C.407.1 (56%) (feedback from 9 members)
- C.407.2 (56%) (feedback from 9 members)

**F. Submitted by Peter O'Neill (Oceania)**

- D.206.1 (78%) (feedback from 9 members)
- D.330 (88%) (feedback from 8 members)
- D.405.1 (67%) (feedback from 9 members)
- D.405.3 (89%) (feedback from 9 members)
- C.410.3 (89%) (feedback from 9 members)
- Appendix 2, Articles of Procedure #1 (100%) (feedback from 9 members)
- Appendix 2, Articles of Procedure #12 (67%) (feedback from 9 members)
- Appendix 3 (78%) (feedback from 9 members)

**G. Submitted by Taiwan Mission Unit**

- D.311.3 (67%) (feedback from 9 members)

**H. Submitted by Pakistan Mission Unit**

- Page 1 (67%) (feedback from 9 members)
- C.111.2 (89%) (feedback from 9 members)
- C.204.2 (67%) (feedback from 9 members)
- D.233.1 & D.233.2 (100%) (feedback from 9 members)
- D.330 (88%) (feedback from 8 members)

C.407.2 (89%) (feedback from 9 members)

**J. Submitted by General Council**

D.330 (75%) (feedback from 8 members)