

# THE REGIONAL CONVENTION

The Region of South America, Lima  
21-23 of November 2023

## Table of Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>1. ASSEMBLIES HELD PREVIOUSLY IN PERU AND IN CHILE .....</b>                               | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>2. PARTICIPANTS IN THE REGIONAL CONVENTION .....</b>                                       | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3. SPECIAL CONVENTION EMPHASIS .....</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>4. THE FINAL CONVENTION STATEMENTS AND PROPOSALS .....</b>                                 | <b>3</b>  |
| A. <i>NEW STRUCTURES.....</i>   | 3         |
| B. <i>VOCATION AND FORMATION PROGRAMME—Regional Level .....</i>                               | 3         |
| C. <i>COLUMBAN FORMATION PROGRAMME—Global Level.....</i>                                      | 6         |
| D. <i>CO-WORKERS, COLUMBAN LAY MISSIONARIES, SIM—CORESPONSIBILITY .....</i>                   | 7         |
| E. <i>DIOCESAN PRIEST ASSOCIATES .....</i>  | 7         |
| F. <i>JUSTICE, PEACE, AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION.....</i>                                  | 8         |
| G. <i>MISSION PROMOTION AND FUND RAISING .....</i>  | 9         |
| <b>5. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUCIONS AND DIRECTORY .....</b>                           | <b>10</b> |
| <b>6. THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE CONVENTION AS THEY UNFOLDED .....</b>                       | <b>12</b> |
| A. <i>Monday 21—Day One .....</i>   | 12        |
| B. <i>WEDNESDAY 22—Day two .....</i>  | 14        |
| C. <i>THURSDAY 23—THIRD DAY—Feast of St Columban .....</i>                                    | 16        |
| <b>7. APPENDICES .....</b>  | <b>17</b> |
| A. <i>APPENDIX NUMBER 1---Diagram of the structure.....</i>                                   | 17        |
| B. <i>APPENDIX NUMBER 2---Icebreaking Parody Video.....</i>                                   | 17        |
| C. <i>APPENDIX NUMBER 3---Demography Chile and Peru .....</i>                                 | 18        |
| D. <i>APPENDIX NUMBER 4---The voice of young Columbans .....</i>                              | 19        |
| E. <i>APPENDIX NUMBER 5---Summary of the Assemblies in Chile and in Peru .....</i>            | 23        |
| F. <i>APPENDIX NUMBER 6---New Structures and Vocations and Formation.....</i>                 | 28        |
| G. <i>APPENDIX NUMBER 7---Future Model for global Columban organization.....</i>              | 29        |
| H. <i>APPENDIX NUMBER 8---Presentation Organizational, Regional and Visionary Themes.....</i> | 31        |
| I. <i>APPENDIX NUMBER 9---Small group with participants.....</i>                              | 32        |
| J. <i>APPENDIX NUMBER 10---Co-Worker’s Videos.....</i>  | 32        |

## 1. ASSEMBLIES HELD PREVIOUSLY IN PERU AND IN CHILE

The Regional Convention took place after the Assemblies in Chile (23-24/10/23) and in Peru (26-27/10/23) had been held. The two Assemblies prepared the material related to Columban mission in the Region and globally, to be discerned in the Regional Convention along with the proposed changes to the Constitution and Directory.

## 2. PARTICIPANTS IN THE REGIONAL CONVENTION

- Tim Mulroy, the Columban Society Leader
- Chris Sáenz, the Leader of the United States Region as an official observer.
- Martin Koroiciri---Regional Delegate to the General Assembly
- Organizing Committee

**PERU**---Iowani Gukibau, Tavo Fetuúmoana Palenapa

**CHILE**--- Michael Howe, Dan Harding

- Dan Harding---Chairperson (elected at the beginning of the Convention)
- Michael Hoban---Secretary
- Participants---Columbans

**PERÚ**---Tony Coney, Iowani Gukibau, Gabriel Rojas, Tavo Fetuúmoana Palenapa, Peter Hughes, Noel Kerins, Darwin Bayaca, Cathal Gallagher, Bernard Lane, Aminiasi Ravuwai, Erl Dylan Tabaco.

**CHILE**---Michael Howe, Martin Koroiciri, Michael Hoban, Genovio Cho, Dan Harding,

- Participants----FMA students

**PERÚ**—Larry Duerme, Lee Jeongrak Verano, Tu Hkawng Mateo,

**CHILE**—Shim Hong-Seok Ambrosio---(Yosup Park Joseph José y Seong Yoseob Joseph Pepe were unable to participate due to another commitment)

### 3. SPECIAL CONVENTION EMPHASIS

Listening to the voices of young Columbans, our Diocesan Associate priests, our FMA students and our Co-Workers.

#### Preparation for the Convention.

Considering the report by Dr. Carolyn Evans and the Assemblies in Chile and Peru, each person from the above groups was asked to prepare a 1–2-minute video on what they believe are the burning issues for the Regional Convention and the General Assembly. They were asked to consider themes such as different structures, vocations, synodality, co-responsibility, formation, different roles and new openings.

All 6 FMA students prepared either a video or a presentation in person. Adriana and Bernardita prepared a video while Javier gave his presentation, all as Co-Workers. None of the Diocesan Associate priests prepared a video nor a presentation.

The videos were shown at the appropriate stage during the Convention.

---

### 4. THE FINAL CONVENTION STATEMENTS AND PROPOSALS

Our Missionary Vision into the future

#### A. NEW STRUCTURES

Chile and Peru continue as the Region of South America until 2027 when they form One Region of Americas with three districts (USA, Chile, Peru)

See [Appendix Number 1](#)

---

#### B. VOCATION AND FORMATION PROGRAMME—Regional Level

##### Vocations Proposals---The Vocations Promotions Teams

- Due to the fewer number of Columbans and Co-workers in the coming years, both Chile and Peru will form Vocational Promotion Ministry teams, headed by one Columban as overall Coordinator.
- The overall Coordinator in each country will convoke the team meetings, write reports, and keep minutes.
- All the vocational promotional ministry work will be teamwork, involving both Columbans, Co-Workers, and other professionals.

- The team will develop job descriptions for each member, goals to be implemented and a manner to evaluate the completion of the goals.
- Team job descriptions will include Internet Vocational Outreach; University Chaplaincy; Youth Work, replying to vocational inquiries, accompanying those discerning a vocation etc.
- The teams in each country will meet monthly and also will meet monthly in a zoom meeting with both the Peruvian and Chilean teams.
- All Columbans and Co-workers in the future year will have to be multi-tasked, participating in different ministry teams and their meetings.

### **Vocational Discernment Programme**

- The Vocations Promotions Ministry Team, in both Chile and Peru, will organize regular vocational discernment gathering, for those interested in discerning a possible Columban vocation.
- The team will also organize accompanying for those judged to be serious candidates for a Columban vocation.
- This could include the possibility of living for several months in a Columban parish or ministry, while continuing to work and/or study.

### **The Acceptance Board**

- The Vocations Promotion in both Chile and in Peru, will organize “the Acceptance Board” for receiving or rejecting possible candidates. This will involve psychological reports, Columban and parish recommendations, work experience, educational qualifications, pastoral experience etc.

---

### **Formations Proposals Chile / Peru**

#### **a) Overall description**

- Due to the fewer number of Columbans and Co-workers in the coming years, both Chile and Peru will form Columban Formation Ministry teams, headed by one Columban as overall Coordinator and responsible for Formation.

- The overall Coordinator in each country, will ensure that the programme follows the Columban Formation guidelines, will relate frequently with the Councillor on the General Council in charge of Formation, will convoke the team meetings, write reports, and keep minutes.
- The team will develop local Formation programmes for Peru and for Chile, involving the role of the Formation Ministry Team of Columbans and Co-Workers, studies in local seminaries and universities, the use of personnel from other missionary congregations, psychologists, spiritual directors etc.
- Each student will have a Spiritual Director and a Personal Supervisor.
- End of the year evaluations will be built into the programme.
- The team will develop job descriptions for each member, goals to be implemented and a manner to evaluate the completion of the goals.
- The teams in each country will meet monthly and also will meet monthly in a zoom meeting with both the Peruvian and Chilean teams.
- All Columbans and Co-workers in the future year will have to be multi-tasked, participating in different ministry teams and their meetings.

#### **b) Academic Studies**

- All studies for Columban Priestly Ministry will be undertaken in the country of origin of each candidate—in both Peru and in Chile in Spanish.
- Students will undertake academic degrees in Theology, beginning with a Bachelor of Theology or its equivalent. This degree would ensure a beginning component of Philosophy but soon move onto Theology. In other words, there would no longer be the separation of Philosophy followed by Theology, but all would be incorporated into the Theology Degree. Further studies will be available on an individual basis.
- An International Theologate in Manila is not suitable for South American students, with limited English.

#### **c) Living arrangements**

- Columban students will live in Columban parishes or Columban ministries during the period of academic studies. Apart from their studies, they will have limited pastoral responsibilities.

**d) English Studies while studying**

- During the period of academic studies, a limited number of English classes will be available, so that the student begins to grow in their ability to speak English.

**e) Intensive English studies before Spiritual Year**

- Chilean and Peruvian students will participate in a 3–4-month intensive English studies before beginning an international Spiritual Year programme in English. We recommend Melbourne or Omaha as locations for this intensive English Studies.

**f) Spiritual Year**

- We recommend Melbourne or Omaha as locations for Spiritual Year, as both places have Columban infrastructure available and a variety of pastoral options.

**g) First Mission Assignment**

- This will be undertaken in the country chosen by the General Council.
- Return to Peru or Chile--After the FMA experience, Columban students from both Chile and Peru will return to their respective countries to finish studies, to undertake a pastoral assignment and to prepare for diaconate ordination and priestly ordination.

---

**C. COLUMBAN FORMATION PROGRAMME—Global Level**

- We believe that the centralization of the Columban Formation Programme in programmes such as the Manila International Theologate, is not suitable for candidates from South America. Studying Theology in English for non-native speakers is unrealistic and unjust.
- We believe that the Columban Formation Programme has be decentralized---one for South America, one for Korea, one for the Philippines, one for the Pacific and one for Korea.
- Students from these decentralized programmes will meet during Spiritual Year and at other Columban gatherings for young Columbans.
- The centralized programme in Manila does not work for South America.

#### **D. CO-WORKERS, COLUMBAN LAY MISSIONARIES, SIM—CORESPONSIBILITY**

- We acknowledge that these programs encourage synodality and empower laity to participate and contribute to mission in various ways and diversity of gifts. It encourages co-responsibility in evangelization and human promotion. It promotes friendship and communion between Church communities.
- We recommend that the CLM program is re-opened in the South America region with a reduced period of 2 years and maximum of 4 years. They must go through 3 months of orientation or preparation in the Sending RMU and a period of Orientation in the Receiving RMU to help them integrate into Columban mission in the new country.
- We recommend strengthening our partnership with co-workers with respect to their distinctive identities and job descriptions. We should have a memorandum of understanding.
- We support the development of the SIM programme across RMUs as a positive contribution to Columban mission.

---

#### **E. DIOCESAN PRIEST ASSOCIATES**

- We acknowledge the valuable contributions of the priest associates in our mission work. It is also our contribution to make the local Church more missionary in facilitating overseas mission experience for diocesan priests.

##### **Recommendations**

- We recommend that RMUs continue to recruit and improve their recruitment strategies for the program.
- There should be a good screening board in RMUs who have priest associate program. This includes adequate background check and suitability for ministerial work.
- Review the guidelines and orientation program of the priest associates. This includes good and adequate orientation during their 9 months of preparation for overseas mission. This also includes familiarity of our “Policy and Guidelines of the MSSC on the Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults”.

- Offer good support system and good orientation phase for the newly assigned priest associates. This includes their integration into the life and work of the Columbans and their representation to the Regional Council.
- 2-3 months before the end of their contract, there should be a good evaluation of their experience in the Region. It includes areas that are helpful and not helpful for them, and recommendations for future priest associates.
- Clear guidelines and efforts for maintaining connection for the returned priest associates in their home countries.

---

## **F. JUSTICE, PEACE, AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION**

Pope Francis has repeatedly stated that the pastoral ministry of the church must be a pastoral missionary outreach to the peripheries. The peripheries are the places, physical and cultural spaces, of the most insignificant and also point to the spaces where political and economic decisions of the dominant culture do not allow for a dignified life for many people. The peripheries are where the life gift of God is scarce, as there is little access to it.

In the Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America and in the Synodal Path, the peripheries are places and topics such as women, young people, cultures, migrants, victims of abuse, mistreatment, and discrimination.

Pastoral Ministry starts from listening to the “cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” who together demand life (LS 139), it is integral ecology, care for the common home, the defence of human rights, democracy, and peace building.

The church is called to be a prophetic church, a defender of the poor (DA); a Samaritan church, a church with a culture of encounter. The Disciples of Jesus Christ are called to be witnesses of Jesus Christ putting into practice a spirituality embodied in history.

Pope Francis insists that the church needs a “new culture that must be decidedly of the laity,” rooted in the baptismal dignity that we all share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ, called all to ministerial co-responsibility. Social ministry must be integrated into the new paradigm with ordinary pastoral ministry in the parish.

Translated into the practical life of our people in the service we provide as Columbans, it is expressed in the SCLN Action Network, the work with emigrants from the Santos Arcángelos parish headquarters and in the accompaniment of the most vulnerable furthest away from it. As well as in the different Columban projects of “Si Da Vida”, “Casa Santa Bernadita”, “Warmi Wasi”, “Colegio Manuel Duato” and “Casa Bobbio”. Working for the most vulnerable is worshipping God.



## **Recommendation**

We Columbans in Chile and Peru, faithful to our history, renew our missionary commitment to proclaim the Gospel from and with the marginalized in order to promote a poor church for the poor. (EG)

---

### **G. MISSION PROMOTION AND FUND RAISING**

Through Baptism, we are all sent to announce the Kingdom of God and the Salvation acquired by Jesus Christ. There are different ways to participate in the Mission of Christ and the Church. We gratefully acknowledge our benefactors who have supported us for more than 100 years.

Historically the Society of St. Columban has been supported by donations from the poor. What they donate to us, we receive as “good and faithful stewards” of goods that are not ours.

Pope Francis has called us to be “a poor Church for the poor.” That is why we must always review ourselves in the use of money and the administration of assets. Our lifestyle must be characterized by evangelical simplicity, transparency, and clear accounting.

All Regions and Missionary Units are called to promote and raise funds for the Columban Mission. What a Region or a Missionary Unit can contribute will vary depending on the economic reality of the country. But, the example of the poor widow recounted in the Gospel of Saint Luke chapter 21, verses 1 to 4 helps us to especially value the contributions of the poor.

We are called to facilitate the participation of our benefactors in many ways:

- Share the history of the Society and also our missionary experiences.
- Inform our parishioners and Co-workers about the reality of the countries and churches where we are missionizing and inviting them to contribute to particular projects outside their countries.
- Organize at least once a year a collection for the Missionary Society of Saint Columban.
- Form groups of Columban collaborators in each IRMU;
- Ensure that the feast of Saint Columban is publicly celebrated,
- Produce materials that educate about the universal mission of the Church.
- Invite our benefactors to pray for the beatification of our Columban martyrs.

## 5. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUCIONS AND DIRECTORY

- Present Member: Miguel Howe, Tony, Daniel, Martin, (Tim), Miguel Hoban, Iowane, Carlos, (Ambrosio)
- Chris Saenz---C.313.3=> 5 agree 2 disagree
- TMU
  - a. Advancement of partnership => 7 disagree
  - b. Removing restrictions of placed on the General Council---C.330 => 7 disagree
- General Council
  - a. Delete D.330 => 4 agree 3 disagree
  - b. Amend D.404.3 => 7 agree
- Eamon O'Brien---Replacement of C.101 => 7 disagree
- Noel O'Neill---Election of Society Leader---C.314.1 => 7 disagree
- Peter O'Neill
  - a. D.206.1 => 7 disagree
  - b. C.338 => 5 agree 2 abstention
  - c. D.405.1 => 6 disagree 1 abstention
  - d. D.405.3 => 6 disagree 1 abstention
  - e. C.410.3 => 6 agree 1 abstention
  - f. appendix 2.12 => 7 disagree
- Peter Woodruff---same with TMU => 7 disagree
- PMU
  - a. Using inclusive language => 6 disagree 1 abstention
  - b. Membership of the society => 7 disagree
  - c. Others => Constitutional Issue
- Joe Hargaden
  - a. ch2.section1 => 7 disagree
  - b. ch2.section2 => 7 disagree
  - c. ch3.section1 C.303 => 7 disagree

d. ch3.section2 C.308 => 7 disagree

e. ch3.section3 => 7 disagree

- Chris Baker---C.109 => 4 agree 3 abstention

## 6. THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE CONVENTION AS THEY UNFOLDED

### A. Monday 21—Day One

#### Opening Session

- The Convention began with a welcome by the Regional Leader, Tony Coney, to the Society Leader, Tim Mulroy and to Chris Saenz, the Regional Leader of the United States.
- This was followed by a Eucharist, celebrated by Tony Coney to open the Convention.
- Dan Harding was then elected Chairperson of the Convention.
- The President then presented the three stages of the Convention.
  - a. The Initial stage to discern the important issues.
  - b. The Intermediate stage to deepen the conversation around each issue.
  - c. The final stage to draft statements, receive amendments and make proposals for the General Assembly.
- Screening of special video “parody” prepared by FMA student Ambrosio Shim in preparation for the Convention and the General Assembly, looking at the Evans report and important issues.

*See [Appendix Number 2](#)*

#### THE INITIAL STAGE

- After each person gave a description of their missionary commitment, Michael Howe proposed that we make explicit the Spirit of the New Covenant in the Constitution, which is Chris Baker’s proposal. This was followed by small group sharing on our lives as ministers of the New Covenant.
- The presentation of the Regional Office of Communications by its Coordinator, Javier Núñez.
- Demography---Projected on the large screen the graft of the expected duration of each member of the region in ministry up until 2030—CHILE /PERU

*See [Appendix Number 3](#)*

- The voice of young Columbans—recently ordained or FMA students---regarding the future, structures, and vocations. Videos projected onto the large screen and personal presentations.

*See [Appendix Number 4](#)*

- Brief summaries of the two Assemblies—Chile and Peru.

*See [Appendix Number 5](#)*

## THE INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- A PowerPoint Presentation by the organizing committee of the 5 principle themes.

### Decisive themes

- a. New structures for the future
- b. Vocations and Formation

In terms of structures, possible new options were presented for the South American Region---the current model of one region, two missionary units - Peru and Chile separated but with interaction and cooperation with each other, and a model that involves El Paso/ Ciudad Juárez.

[\*See Appendix Number 6\*](#)

Shim Hong-Seok Ambrosio (FMA -Chile) gave a PowerPoint presentation on a future model for the global organization of the Columbans, divided into 4 geographical regions working in a coordinated manner together with a central administration.

[\*See Appendix Number 7\*](#)

### Organizational, Regional and Visionary Themes

- c. Co-Workers, Diocesan Associates, SIM—Sinodalidad
- d. New Openings
- e. JPIC

[\*See Appendix Number 8\*](#)

- SMALL GROUPS --Participants were divided into small groups

[\*See Appendix Number 9\*](#)

In the small groups, the 5 principle themes recently presented, were discussed, considering the voices of young Columbans and FMA students (videos) and the Carolyn Evans report.

- PLENARY SESSION ----Many points of reflection arose to take into account before making proposals:
  - a. As a cross-sectional background, we keep in mind the Structural Reform proposed by Pope Francis. Without ceasing to recognize authority, shared leadership is exercised through the process of Listening, Discerning and Acting. It involves broad consultation inside and outside the Church.
  - b. When proposing structural changes, we must be faithful to the Columban charism of always living in close proximity to the people, especially the poorest.
  - c. We seek to find a simpler structure, as the missionary units propose to be.
  - d. A new structure should allow the participation of co-workers and partners.

e. The establishment of the Region of the Americas (Peru, Chile and the USA) is proposed. The Region of the USA has developed Hispanic pastoral: parishes, immigrants, fundraising and communications (Columbana magazine in Spanish) .

f. Formation should be renewed: Common training in Manila, requirements to enter the training program, decentralize formation.

g. SSC must continue to search for vocations, aware of the psychological and cultural changes of young people today.

h. New technologies must be used to promote vocations.

- AFTERNOON PRAYER

---

## **B. WEDNESDAY 22—Day two**

### **THE FINAL STAGE---Preparing statements and proposals.**

- MORNING PRAYER
- THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE OF STRUCTURES --- The Convention Chairperson, Daniel Harding, reminded us of the importance of the need to propose new structures. The secretaries of the small groups were asked to present the summary of their reflections.
- PROPOSAL FOR A COLUMBAN ASSOCIATION OF THE FAITHFUL ---Miguel Hoban explained his proposal to form a Columban Association of Faithful that would integrate Columban co-workers, lay missionaries, benefactors, and missionary priests within a structure in which all members have the same participation and where the Leadership could be exercised by both consecrated people and lay people. This Association of Faithful could participate in a Missionary Federation composed of the SSC, the Columban Sisters and the Columban Association of the Faithful.
- VIDEO OF THE CO-WORKERS --- A video was presented in which Adriana Curaqueo and Bernardita Donoso shared their ideas for the greater inclusion of co-workers in the Columbana Mission.  
[See Appendix Number 10](#)
- SMALL GROUPS--- We worked again in small groups to deepen what we had heard the previous day.
- COLUMBANS UNDER FIFTY IN 2036 --- Dylan shared his survey which reveals that the maximum number of Columbans under 50 in 2036 will be between 31 and 46.

- PLENARY SESSION--- We were able to share in the plenary session a series of opinions and reflections about the main themes:
  - a. JPIC--- The paradigm of Justice and Peace has changed through a new paradigm, that of Integral Human Development. Pope Francis proposes the integration between Ordinary Pastoral Care and Social Pastoral Care through Fraternal Pastoral Care.
  - b. It is necessary to distinguish between Co-workers and employees. Being Co-workers means sharing a vocation.
  - c. The valuable contribution of the Priest Associates is recognized, but a new situation is evident in which there are fewer and more coming to work with Fidei Donum.
  - d. Vocational Ministry must concentrate on the countries where the new Columban priests have come: Fiji, the Philippines, Myanmar, and South Korea.
  - e. Some hope that it will be possible to welcome vocations from Chile and Peru in an exceptional manner.
  - f. The formation program must allow Columban seminarians to do their Philosophy in their countries of origin.
  - g. Is it necessary to close “Common Theologate”?
  - h. Some want to form two missionary units and others support the idea of the Region of the Americas.
  - i. Some voices remind us of the need to be more realistic in our proposals.
  - j. There are two ways of looking at realism from an administrative position or from a position from below because of what people experience. It would be necessary to facilitate the vocations that arise among us in our missionary work with people.
  - k. We have to put the closure of some IRMUs on the table.
  - l. Wondering if we can carry out CLM and SIM?
  - m. We must decide if we want to have two missionary units or the Region of the Americas.
  - n. The Regional Director of the USA presented the opportunities for Hispanic ministry in the USA.
  - o. We must remember that we depend on fundraising from the US, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand.
  - p. Fundraising must be promoted in all IRMUs.
- WORKING WITH LARGE SHEETS OF PAPER--- Several sheets of paper were placed with the main topics, and we were invited to freely write our opinions on them.

- WORK IN GROUPS--- Each person could freely choose which group they wanted to work in to write a recommendation/draft that develops the ideas of the sheet of paper. This is the beginning of our work to go to the General Assembly in 2024.
- PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST DRAFT ---Each group presented their draft and was invited to share reactions. Each group was responsible for taking notes to present the most complete draft tomorrow.
- Celebration of Mass to close to the day.

---

### **C. THURSDAY 23—THIRD DAY—Feast of St Columban**

- Morning Prayer
  - SMALL GROUP WORK TO FINALIZE THE STATEMENTS AND PROPOSALS ON EACH OF THE FIVE THEMES.
  - PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL DRAFTS ---Each group presented projected their final draft onto the large screen. A discussion followed with various changes made.
- [See section 4](#)*
- CHRIS SÁENZ---Observations from the Regional Leader of the United States.
  - TIM MULROY- Observations from the Society Leader.
  - EUCHARIST TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST COLUMBAN----Tim Mulroy, Society Leader.
  - MEETING TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND DIRECTORY.

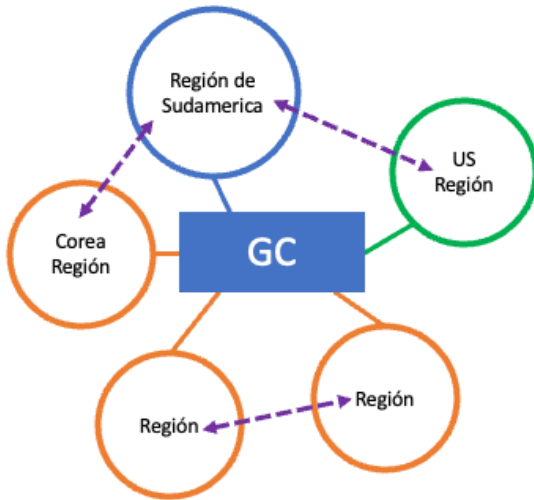
*[See section 5](#)*



7. APPENDICES

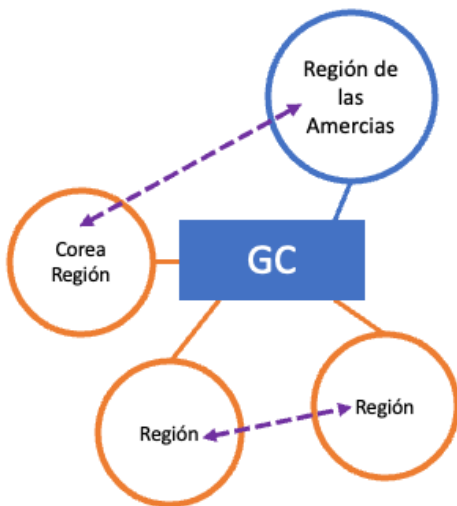
A. APPENDIX NUMBER 1---Diagram of the structure

Estructura



"Chile y Perú siguen como Región de Sudamerica hasta 2027 hasta formar una sola Región de Las Americas con tres distritos(EEUU, Chile, Perú)"

Estructura



"Chile y Perú siguen como Región de Sudamerica hasta 2027 hasta formar una sola Región de Las Americas con tres distritos(EEUU, Chile, Perú)"

B. APPENDIX NUMBER 2---Icebreaking Parody Video

[Google Drive link](#)

C. APPENDIX NUMBER 3---Demography Chile and Peru

Chile

|                        | 2023 | 2024 | 2025                           | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|------------------------|------|------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>DANIEL</b>          |      |      |                                |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>GENOVIO</b>         |      |      |                                |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>MARTIN</b>          |      |      |                                |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>MIGUEL<br/>HOWE</b> |      |      |                                |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>DOMINGO</b>         |      |      |                                |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>PASCUAL</b>         |      |      |                                |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>TOMÁS</b>           |      |      |                                |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>PATRICIO</b>        |      |      |                                |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>MARCO</b>           |      |      |                                |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>AMBROSIO</b>        |      |      | JULIO<br>(regresar<br>a Chile) |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>JOSÉ</b>            |      |      | JULIO<br>(regresar<br>a Chile) |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>PEPE</b>            |      |      | JULIO<br>(regresar<br>a Chile) |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>DARWIN</b>          |      |      |                                |      |      |      |      |      |

Peru

|                   | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Amini             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Cathal            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Tony Coney        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Dylan             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Iowane<br>Gukibau |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Fetuumoana        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Bernie            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Gerard<br>Desmond |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |

|                    |    |    |    |      |   |      |   |   |
|--------------------|----|----|----|------|---|------|---|---|
| Michael<br>McKinon |    |    |    |      |   |      |   |   |
| Gabriel            |    |    |    |      |   |      |   |   |
| Noel               |    |    |    |      |   | 2028 |   |   |
| Peter              |    |    |    |      |   |      |   |   |
| Darwin             |    |    |    |      |   |      |   |   |
| Mateo              |    |    |    | ?    |   |      |   |   |
| Larry              |    |    |    | ?    |   |      |   |   |
| Verano             |    |    |    | ?    |   |      |   |   |
| Rafael             |    |    |    |      |   |      |   |   |
| Paco               |    |    |    | 2026 |   |      |   |   |
| Joseph Ruys        |    |    |    |      |   |      |   |   |
| Francisco<br>Yang  |    |    |    |      |   |      |   |   |
| Pablo              |    |    |    |      |   |      |   |   |
| SUM                | 21 | 20 | 13 | 12   | 9 | 8    | 5 | 5 |

**D. APPENDIX NUMBER 4---The voice of young Columbans**

- a. José's Video--[Click](#)
- b. Pepe's Video--[Click](#)
- c. Mateo's Video--[Click](#)
- d. Amini's Presentation

A) What do you think are the hot topics for our Regional Convention and General Assembly?

1. Vocation Promotion for priesthood
2. Structural changes [for Chile and Peru] from Region to Mission Units

B) Vocations: Should we continue to look for Columban vocations, both here in South America and in the other Columban programs?

YES, with a period of 3 years to rethink, reconfigure [structure] and relocate personnel to Formation programme.

C) If so, in what way could Peru and Chile cooperate and develop a program of both vocations and ministerial training?

- Instead of having a common theologate in Manila, candidates could remain in their home countries and attend local seminaries.
- Candidates to have the opportunity to live in parishes [preferably Columban] where they could do pastoral work over the weekends.

D) Is the Manila Formation House necessary for Spanish-speaking Chileans and Peruvians or could we develop our own program here in South America?

A programme could be developed for South America and headed by a local as Formator. One that would be suitable for local young men, without having to deal with the pressure of adopting to a totally new environment like Manila Formation. As for learning English and integrating into a multi-cultural missionary society like ours, it will eventually come through extra language courses and exposure over the years.

The move to Manila is regrettably a failure. Using the example of fellow Fijian/ Pacifican young men who moved to Manila, since 2016 a total of twelve were set for Manila. Out of the twelve, only 1 made it [Iwane who is now a Deacon]. Now, the issues range from immigration, documentations, student's inability to cope with studies/ programme, language barrier etc. Whatever the issue may be, it is clear that 1 out of 12 is not a good stat.

AND) With a decreasing number of vocations, the aging of the members of the Columban Society, our increasing dependence on the work of Co-Workers in Columban ministries, how do you think the Columban Mission should be structured in South America and throughout Society in general?

A Mission Unit structure would work for each country [Peru and Chile]. The context/ experience on the ground is different so it would be appropriate for each country to function as a mission unit.

- They each get the involvement of their laity [as long as they have the Columban charism at heart]
- Decision making is shared
- Possible to have a lay as coordinator which allows time and effort for priests to do ministerial works.

---

#### **e. Verano's Presentation**

A) What do you think are the hot topics for our Regional Convention and General Assembly?

I think it is important to talk about the future of the Columbans, especially given that membership is dwindling. In other words, we need to talk about where and how we will do mission work in the future.

B) Vocation: Should we continue looking for Columban vocations, both here in South America and in the other Columban programs?

I think many people find their calling not through the Vocations Program, but through other programs, and I think we have to find our calling in other places, not just in South America.

C) If yes, in what way could Peru and Chile cooperate and develop a program of both vocations and ministerial training?

I think it's good that people who have been here for a long time and younger people work together. People who have been working here for a long time know the places well and have more information.

They could first visit the areas where Columban worked in the past to promote the vocation.

Secondly, at the parish level, we can promote vocations among children who have participated in programs such as PCA, Confirmation, Catechumenate, etc., and we can create groups of acolytes so that they become naturally interested in vocations. However, I can't talk about Chile because I don't know much about the activities that take place there.

Thirdly, it would be good to create and distribute promotional material in South America.

I think it would be great if we could create promotional material about the mission or experiences of those who became priests in South America.

D) Is the Manila Formation House necessary for Spanish-speaking Chileans and Peruvians or could we develop our own program here in South America?

I think the answer to this question depends on whether you want to form people in South America to work in South America, or if you want to train people in South America and send them on missions.

But generally, the answer is that you could study philosophy in South Korea or Fiji and then go to Manila, or you could train in Peru or Chile.

E) With a decreasing number of vocations, the aging of the members of the Columban Society, our increasing dependence on the work of Co-Workers in Columban ministries, how do you think the Columban Mission in South America should be structured and throughout Society in general?

The Columban current activities focus on parish ministry. And it seems that special ministries start after four or ten years, because it takes a long time to get used to the Peruvian culture, the language, etc.

But when I look at the activities of the laity in some of the other communities, they do not focus on parish ministry, but on special pastoral care. From there, the missionary activity begins.

In view of this, if someone is more interested in other special ministries than parish ministries, it would be good to focus on special ministries from the beginning.

And at a time when Columban membership is declining, Associate participation is increasing. But in order to work with them, it is better that we have to be able to offer them a range of options.

To do this, it would be good to have a team that can provide information on health, education, social welfare, etc. and put them in touch with activities. It would be good to collaborate with other organizations.

Just as the Peruvian dioceses have the support of 'Fidei Donum' to promote the program, it seems possible that Columban will receive the support of the dioceses to promote the program with partners.

---

#### **f. Larry's Presentation**

##### A.) What do you think are the burning issues for our Regional Convention and General Assembly?

- Looking towards the future of the Society. In line with the result of the survey and with the aging numbers of the members and a decrease in vocations coming into the program. Restructuring the mission here in South America. And accepting new vocations.

##### B.) Vocations: should we continue to look for Columban vocations, both here in South America and in the other Columban programs?

- Since I arrived in the region of South America, I haven't encountered someone who expressed his desire to join the Society. This gives me a sense that there's a lesser number of vocations for the Columbans, but if there are young people who show interest in joining, it might be good to give them a chance.

##### C.) If so, in what ways could Peru and Chile cooperate and develop a program for both vocations and ministerial formation?

- Joining the formation, I believed that having a good grasp and knowledge of mission work in their country of origin is a helpful tool, in discernment. And so, having first-hand experience or exposure in the different areas of mission work in both countries in this region is necessary.

##### D.) Is the Manila Formation House necessary for Spanish-speaking Chileans and Peruvians or could we develop our program here in South America?

- If there's anyone who would be admitted to the program and if there's a lesser number of personnel in this region, sending them to Manila Formation house is a better option. And it's a better way to mingle, learn, and grow with the rest of the students. In the formation house, we use English, and all of us students don't speak English as our first language so I think a student/ or students coming from a Spanish-speaking country will thrive.

E.) With a decreasing number of vocations, the aging membership of the Columban Society, and our increasing dependence on the work of Co-Workers in Columban ministries, how do you think the Columban Mission in South America and the Society at large should be structured?

- With a decreasing number of vocations, the aging membership of the Columban Society, and our increasing dependence on Co-Workers in Columban ministries, while listening to the sharing and from previous meetings, I think the Columban Mission in South America be structured into a mission unit.

---

**E. APPENDIX NUMBER 5---Summary of the Assemblies in Chile and in Peru**

**SUMMARY OF THE ASSEMBLY IN CHILE**

PARTICIPANTS IN THE ASSEMBLY

Visitor from the General Council: José Kang

Organizing Committee: Miguel Howe y Daniel Harding

Secretary: Adriana Curaqueo

List of Participants: 17 personas

- Columbans: Miguel Howe, Martin Koroiciri, Genovio Cho, Domingo Kim, Daniel Harding, Marco Henriquez, Tom Hanley, Pat Dore, Michael Hoban.
- FMA(First Mission Assignment): Ambrosio Shim, Pepe Seong, José Park
- Diocesan Priest Associate: Dongmin Pascal Choi
- Co-Workers: Javier Núñez, Adriana Curaqueo, Bernardita Donoso
- SIM Volunteer: Danny Sweeney

After welcoming José Kang from the General Council, the organizing committee presented the meeting framework, motivating us to be attentive to the Holy Spirit and give space for everyone to participate. The importance of the Regional Convention for the future of the MSSC is recognized.

Previous work of five small groups: Co-workers, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady of the Rosary, San Matías and San Columbano.

- a). The Assembly began with a reflective prayer prepared by the FMA students.
- b.) The norms—the framework for the meeting—were then presented.

c.) Section A.) --- Each of the 5 small groups presented their written report on: The Columban Charisma and personal vocation and commitment.

d.) A 2023-2030 projection graph of each Columban, Associate and FMA was prepared, recognizing that it is only a projection, that is, if other factors do not interfere.

e.) The 5 small groups meet to reflect on the work of the other 4 groups on Section A.) The Columban Charisma and personal vocation.

## **PART A**

### **CHARISMA**

- We cross borders of language and culture to find Jesus in the geographical and existential peripheries.
- Living the Columban charism has led us to live among people on the margins of society.
- Fidelity to our charism asks us to be attentive to the signs of the times.
- Between us, we want to live interculturality assuming the necessary tasks.

-THE FUTURE Group members shared their willingness to continue missioning for the next three to six years. A graph was made with the projections of the members present in Chile.

## **PART B**

Which structure is best for our mission: the RMU model; Central House model; Central House model?

- - **Co-workers** --The current structure with a Director and a leader in each country helps with more general communication. For it to continue, common priorities need to be agreed upon.
- - **Sacred Heart of Jesus**-- A Central House is needed
- - **N. S. del Rosario**-- Does not support the Missionary Unity model. Any structure has to consider different personalities.

- **Saint Columban** --We distinguish three levels: maintenance of Columban activities (parishes and ministries); staff; the qualities necessary for leadership. They discussed the constitutional requirements that require the Leader and his advisors to live together. You need to change your place of residence. A different canonical structure is required to include lay collaborators.

### **COLUMBAN MISSIONARY VISION IN CHILE towards 2030**

There is a recognized tension between parishes and Columban ministries (communications, JPIC, Migrants, Young Columbans, Vocations and Protection Protocols). With clear protocols it is possible to reduce this tension.



## **VOCATIONS**

Do we want Vocations? (Priests, Associates, FMA, CLM, SIM)

- Vocations to consecrated life and the priesthood have decreased in Chile.
- Carolyn Evans' Summary reminded us that long-term commitments are rare.
- In the SSC there is the possibility of vocations from Fiji, Myanmar, Korea and the Philippines.
- "Transitioning for Columban Mission" recognized the importance of vocational discernment in SIM.
- To have vocations, we need to strengthen Youth Ministry. Will it be possible to have a paid person in charge of youth ministry in our parishes?
- There is a consensus to continue inviting.
- Future seminarians could live in a Columban parish.

## **PARISHES AND MISSIONARY COMMITMENTS**

Regarding our resources for 2024-2030: should we hand over to the diocese or continue our parish commitments indefinitely?

- To what extent are these parishes meeting Columban and diocesan priorities?
- Several possibilities arose to hand over some parishes in the future and examine the possibility of taking on new ones.
- We must make the effort to include Columban priorities in our parishes.

## **CASA BOBBIO**

How do I see the different Columban ministries operating from Bobbio House - Mission Center - in the next three years and until the next general assembly in 2030?

How do these ministries relate to our Columban charism and our priorities?

- The efforts of the Communications Office, the presence of the Migrant House, the availability of Adriana and the Columban presence with the Episcopal Conference and with several NGOs stand out.
- The need to restart JUCOMI or JUCOL arose.
- "Protocols or directives" must be developed for the interaction between the Columban Ministries in Bobbio and the two parishes.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT DELIVERED BY Dr. Carolyn Evans**

- Daniel Harding presented a ppt. of Dr Evans' report which demonstrated the fragile sustainability of the SSC.

## **SECOND DAY**

**WORK IN GROUPS** ABOUT LISTENING AND LEARNING IN PART A and B.

## **PRESENTATION OF THREE PROPOSALS**

- The creation of a Columban Association of the Faithful and the presentation of three new recognized canonical structures that integrate laity and clergy in shared leadership.

- The appointment of two people from each parish with the advice of a Columban priest for JPIC work. Adriana would be in charge of their training.
- The Reconfiguration of the SSC.

### **WORK IN GROUPS**

We were invited to share: how do we feel? What do we want from Bobbio and the Missionary Centre? The exchange of lay missionaries between Chile and Peru and vice versa; Vocations and JPIC.

### **GROUP COMMENTS**

There was free sharing on the different topics discussed.

### **TOPICS PRESENTED**

- Prevention of abuse (protocol in Spanish)
- Retirement Policy

PRESENTATIONS BY JOSÉ KANG AND MARTIN KOROICIRI

---

## **SUMMARY OF THE ASSEMBLY IN PERU**

The Peruvian Columban Assembly began by making references to the ecclesial reform of Pope Francis and the Synod in Rome with three central questions: to be an instrument of union with God and the unity of all humanity; share the gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospels and the processes, structures, and institutions of a missionary synodal church. The Assembly also recognized that it had to consider the recommendations of the IRMU and the Caroline Evans report. Pedro Hughes presented the method of the synodal process: “Listening to each other, we hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.

### **TEAMWORK**

The three groups met to reflect and share about three questions:

- “Guided by the Holy Spirit, please name the greatest challenge for you in carrying out your mission (vocation or role) as a missionary disciple in the church of Peru?”
- What are the resonances of the Holy Spirit that are present in our sharing?
- How do we feel the call of the Holy Spirit to discover the path, the will of the Lord today?

### **LISTENING TO THE SHARING OF THE GROUPS**

- **First question--** A series of personal and institutional challenges were named: language, personal conversion, the demands of religious life, a new generation of conservative priests, resistance to change, attachment to the work done for years.

Se reunieron en tres grupos para reflexionar y compartir acerca de tres preguntas:

- **Second question** --The groups identified a series of resonances of the Holy Spirit: missionary good will, the putting of talents and gifts at the service of the mission, ecological missionary conversion, the creation of a Church where all are welcome, the acceptance of personal limits and the cultivation of hope.

- **Third question** --A series of calls from the Holy Spirit were identified; to be a church going out, to be instruments of Christ, to promote community life, encounter, accompaniment and dialogue. We are called to follow the model of Pope Francis.

### **THE SIX PROPOSALS OF THE IRMU**

-Martin Koroiciri presented the six purposes of the IRMU result.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT DELIVERED BY Dr. Carolyn Evans**

- Daniel Harding presented a ppt. of Dr Evans' report which demonstrated the fragile sustainability of the SSC.

### **SMALL GROUPS**

- Small group sharing on reactions to the six proposals and the Evans Report. Opinions written down.

- The need to face an uncertain future that implies the simplification of structures, and the restructuring of training is recognized.

- We must strengthen the relationship with co-workers.

- We must ask for the grace to face the future with hope.

- It is important to listen to the voice of young people before making a decision.

### **SECOND DAY**

Small group sharing to work on three questions.

1. *Guided by the Spirit, how do we see we should proceed with the issue of Columban vocations (priests, LMs, associates and SIM)? In what areas do we think we could better use the services of co-workers?*

- A series of opinions emerged about priestly and lay formation, vocations, co-workers, and the need for new structures.

- Training and vocations programs must be reconfigured.

- We have to recognize that co-workers share with us a missionary vocation.

- We must invest in the training of young people.

- Is it possible to achieve a joint structure of ordained priests together with lay people?

2. *After having lived the experience of South America and considering the results of the survey, what is the preferred option for the future of Peru: continue as we are in the region, be two missionary units or another configuration?*

- In light of what has been experienced so far in trying to form a homogeneous region, it would be better to be a missionary unit. This allows us to be more flexible and live Synodality better.

3. *Considering our priority for JPIC, what are the new openings in the mission to which we feel and believe that God calls us?* A series of responses emerged in different areas of JPIC, Social Pastoral, Andean Pastoral, the documents of Pope Francis, Care of the Common Home, CCEM/Bobbio, and Family Pastoral.

- It is important to integrate JPIC into personal life and Columban work in a transversal way.
- Human promotion, women's promotion and cultural promotion belong to JPIC.
- The documents of Pope Francis must guide us in our missionary activities.
- Living closely with our agent, we want to accompany families so that they live with respect, acceptance, and love.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

### PLENARY

The same themes discussed in the small groups were repeated with some new ones: the supremacy of the Christian vocation, the importance of testimony for vocations, projects in common with organized civil society and the importance of fraternity lived among us and outside.

---

## F. APPENDIX NUMBER 6---New Structures and Vocations and Formation.

### 1. Estructuras



**Otra Posibilidad**  
Con la misión Col. El Paso / Ciudad Juárez  
Comentario breve de Chris Sáenz

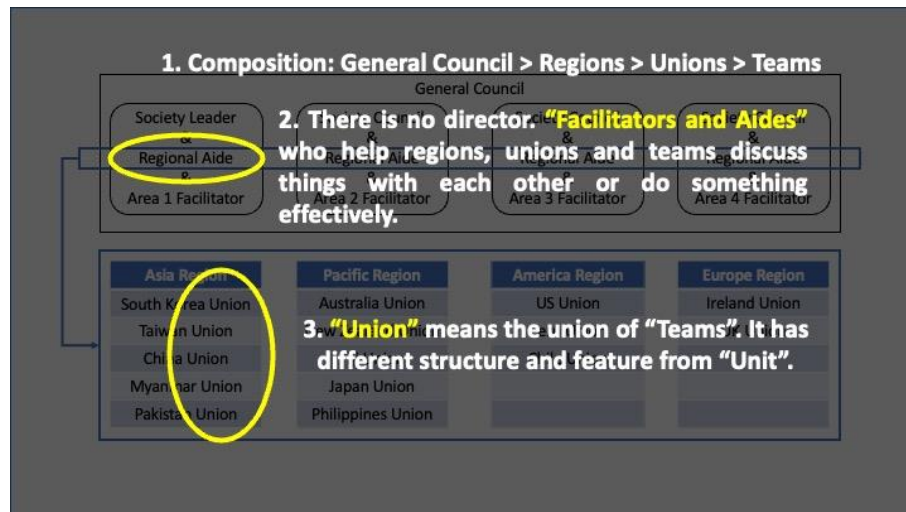
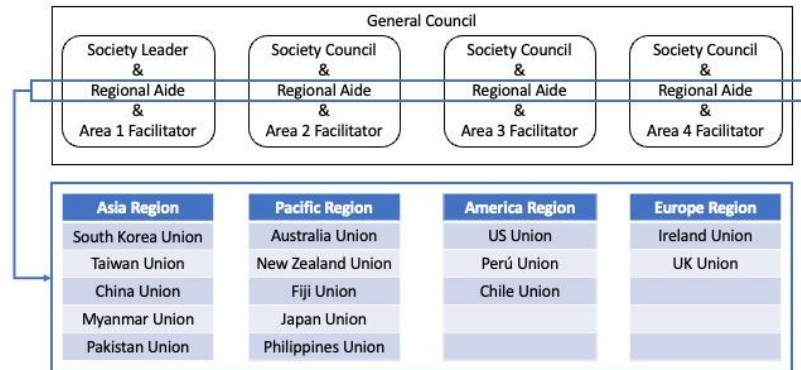
Si seguimos este tercer modelo que implica tanto la separación como la cooperación mutua, ¿serían éstas y tal vez otras áreas de separación?

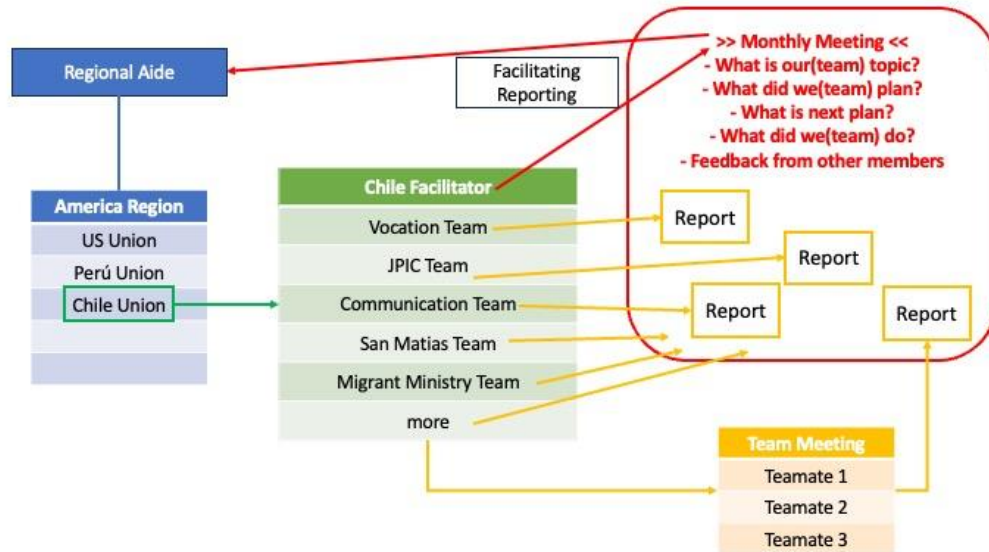
¿Liderazgo? ¿Administración? ¿Presupuestos? ¿Otras áreas?

G. APPENDIX NUMBER 7---Future Model for global Columban organization

## Synodality Model

### -Listen, Discern, Act-





**3. In **monthly meeting(=synod)**, members of union accomplish synodality in the level of union. The facilitator helps this process and sends a **union report** to the Regional Aide.**

**1. The union consists of **"teams"**. The number of teams and a theme of a team are flexible.**

**2. Members of a team listen to each other, discern together, decide together, take responsibility together, work together, write **team report**. A Facilitator can help this synodal process.**

The diagram in this block is a smaller version of the one in the first image, overlaid with the text from the numbered list. The chart shows the flow from **Regional Aide** to **America Region** (US Union, Perú Union, Chile Union) to **Chile Facilitator** (Vocation Team, JPIC Team, Communication Team, San Matias Team, Migrant Ministry Team, more) to a **Monthly Meeting** (with agenda: topic, plan, do, feedback) and **Team Meeting** (Teamate 1, 2, 3). Arrows indicate the flow of information and reporting between these levels.

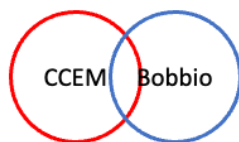
| US Union | Chile Union   | Perú Union |
|----------|---------------|------------|
| ...      | Vocation      | Team       |
| ...      | JPIC          | Team       |
| ...      | Communication | Team       |
| ...      | ...           | ...        |
| Migrant  | Ministry      | Team       |
| more     | more          | more       |

**We can form inter-union teams like vocation, JPIC, communication, migrant ministry.**

| US Union | Chile Union   | Perú Union |
|----------|---------------|------------|
| ...      | Vocation      | Team       |
| ...      | JPIC          | Team       |
| ...      | Communication | Team       |
| ...      | ...           | ...        |
| Migrant  | Ministry      | Team       |
| more     | more          | more       |

**H. APPENDIX NUMBER 8---Presentation Organizational, Regional and Visionary Themes**

**5. JPIC – Posibles áreas de coordinacion y cooperación**



**Centro Misionero Bobbio y CCEM**



**Bobbio, CCEM y otras áreas incluyendo Juárez/El Paso**

**I. APPENDIX NUMBER 9---Small group with participants.**

| Group 1        | Group 2       |
|----------------|---------------|
| IOWANE         | PEDRO         |
| MATEO          | NAPA          |
| DANIEL HARDING | VERANO        |
| GERARD         | DYLAN         |
| CHRIS SAENZ    | MICHAEL HOBAN |
| GENOVIO        |               |
| Group3         | Group4        |
| TONY           | CATHAL        |
| MARTIN         | AMBROSIO      |
| GABRIEL        | DARWIN        |
| BERNIE         | AMINI         |
| LARRY          | TIM MULROY    |
| MICHAEL HOWE   |               |

**J. APPENDIX NUMBER 10---Co-Worker's Videos**

Adriana's Video---[Click](#)

Bernardita's Video---[Click](#)