



Date: September 19, 2005  
To: Provincial Chapter  
From: Provincial Council  
**Re: Future Structure of the Provincial Council**

As members of the Chapter are aware, this Provincial Council completes its term of service in June 2007. We will need to discern new leadership in the Province during the coming year. At the time of the General Council visitation to the Province, the Provincial Council discussed this issue with the General Council. The present Provincial Council thinks that we need to appoint the new Provincial a year before he would take office. This would give him time to make a transition from his present ministry and also an opportunity to work with the present Provincial to understand the scope and the responsibilities in this Province.

The General Council felt that the new Provincial should be appointed by the new General Council that will be elected in July 2006. At the time of their visitation, it was their thought that a consultation would be done in the spring of 2006 and that the consultations would be organized and summarized by the present General Council. This material would then be handed to the new General Council to make the appointment.

The appointment of the Provincial is just the beginning of the process of choosing leadership. After appointing the Provincial, the General Council will need to do a consultation concerning the appointment of an Assistant Provincial. Once the Assistant Provincial is appointed, the Provincial needs to consult the Province concerning the other members of the Council and make those appointments. Following that process is the election of the Provincial Chapter members, both the core Chapter delegates and the other delegates. All this will take time and energy in the Province.

When the Province was formed in July 2002, the choosing of new leadership was not completed until shortly before the opening Province Assembly at which a meeting of the Provincial Chapter was to take place. If you remember that proposed extended meeting was shortened to one day because there was not time enough to prepare the meeting. The first extended session did not happen until the fall. The Provincial Council does not want to repeat that “tight” election scenario.

In the mind of the Provincial Council, this process for choosing leadership would be well facilitated by deciding on a structure for the new Provincial Council by March 2006. Obviously this leads to an important question: Are all the structures that were agreed upon for the original Provincial Council of the Province of the United States still needed? We believe that questions on structure should be a discussion of the Provincial Chapter, Province communities, and the Corporate Reflection groups. The Provincial Council plans to do a consultation on this issue and to present a formal proposal to the March 2006 Chapter concerning the future structure of the Provincial Council.

Some of the questions that need to be addressed in order to prepare legislation for the March 2006 Chapter session are the following:

1. Do we desire to continue the requirement of having a member of each of the former Provinces on the Provincial Council?
2. Do we desire to continue to have an Assistant Provincial who does also serve in one of the three traditional offices (Education, Religious Life and Temporalities)?
3. Do we desire to continue the position of Assistant for Developing Regions?
4. Do we desire to have at-large Council members beyond the Office assistants—e.g. members at large?

There has already been a committee appointed to study the future structure of the Province. The Provincial Council presumes that this committee dealing will also have a report for the March 2006 Chapter session. Given these two reports, the Provincial Chapter can finalize these leadership structures before entering into the important leadership consultations that need to take place.

The Provincial Council is looking for any reflections that you might have at the September Chapter meeting or anytime after that meeting.