



Missionary Discernment Worksheet

Office of Justice and Peace (JPIC)

Facilitator: Justice and Peace Animator of the Conference and his counterparts in each of the Entities (Provinces/Custodies).

This worksheet is offered as a working tool to facilitate a process of listening aimed at fostering missionary discernment, which will help to enrich the preparatory journey towards the General Chapter of 2027. The worksheet proposes holding one or more working sessions involving the Office of Justice and Peace (JPIC) of the individual Entities and their collaborators.

Those involved in the work should receive the worksheet prior to the meeting, together with the Letter of Introduction to the process, so that they may prepare personally through reflection and personal discernment. The facilitator should establish the timetable before the group gathers to engage in communal discernment.

The worksheet proposes three phases of work, in accordance with the stages of discernment. The first phase involves sharing an interpretation of the signs of the times and places, *recognising* in them the initial elements useful for discernment. The second phase involves *interpreting* what emerges in the light of the charism, developing criteria for discernment. The third phase calls for an *operational synthesis* of what has been shared in the first two phases, highlighting the issues to be addressed and the guidelines to be proposed to the General Chapter.

Each phase proposes a number of questions to stimulate personal reflection and to identify the elements perceived as important to bring to the discernment process. It then suggests engaging in a dialogue leading to a synthesis; it is recommended that this synthesis be arrived at by taking into account what recurs with the greatest frequency and convergence, whilst also considering those prophetic intuitions recognised as valid and bearing evangelical and charismatic potential.

HOW SHALL WE PROCEED?

1. The summary of the work carried out in each Entity (Province or Custody) should be prepared in writing and sent to the facilitator of the Conference by 10 October 2026.
2. The facilitator of the Conference will organise a meeting with his counterparts to discuss the experience of the work carried out in each Entity. As a result of this meeting, which may take place either in person or online, a process of gathering information and preparing a synthesis will be undertaken according to the indications provided by those responsible for the methodology. The deadline for these meetings is 1 November 2026.
3. The facilitator of the Conference will transmit the results of this worksheet to the President and Secretary of the Conference, providing a unified style and preparing a synthesis according to the outline established by the methodological team. This synthesis will be sent to the Preparatory Commission of the Instrumentum Laboris by 29 November 2026.

OPENING PHASE – RECOGNISING



In the light of the signs of the times and places

- ▶ To what extent is the commitment to justice, peace and the integrity of creation (JPIC) practised in your Province? How well is it known?
- ▶ To what extent is the commitment to JPIC present in initial and ongoing formation programmes?
- ▶ JPIC, in fact, represents a prophetic way of expressing the authentic core of our charism. (*Chapter of the Mats*, 29). What challenges or cries regarding the issues of justice, peace and integrity of creation reach us today and call on us to act prophetically?

In light of these questions, engage in a discussion and list up to 5 key considerations. What you feel is most important, necessary, useful, and profound.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

EXPLORATION PHASE – INTERPRETING



In light of the charism:

Taking into account what emerged during the Recognising phase, try to answer the following questions:

- ▶ What elements might constitute a universal *minimum* for JPIC?
- ▶ How should JPIC Secretariats be structured in terms of life, mission and finance?
- ▶ JPIC is not an optional addition, but a central element of the Franciscan vocation that involves every person and touches on human dignity. The initial and ongoing formation of all Franciscans, wherever possible, should explore the issues and methodologies of JPIC (*Chapter of the Mats*, 28). How can we integrate formation processes to incorporate JPIC into Franciscan life and practice?

In light of these questions, initiate a discussion and report back with a maximum of 5 key considerations. What you feel is most important, necessary, useful, and profound.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

SYNTHESIS PHASE – CHOOSING



Towards God's future:

We are now called upon to draw up guidelines for the future, having the courage to inspire decisions and raise questions so that the capitulars are in a position to engage in a more in-depth discussion.

► **Open questions:**

What topics do you think should be discussed at the chapter? How would you formulate useful questions for the capitulars?

.....

.....

► **Guidelines for the Order:**

What suggestions would you bring to the attention of the General Chapter regarding 'following Christ and proclaiming the Gospel today towards God's future' in relation to JPIC as friars on mission?

.....

.....