

Self-evaluation for local Councils

Original article *Becoming an Effective Council* by Dorothy Mansen, OCDS

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This is offered by way of advice and is not considered binding as policy.

Questions individual council members should ask themselves periodically.

- Have I respected and appreciated other members of the council?
- Am I doing my fair share of council and community work?
- Am I prompt and conscientious?
- Do I keep council business confidential?
- Am I committed to finding charitable and just solutions to matters before the council?
- Is the language I use supportive and encouraging?
- Am I careful not to play favorites?
- Do I become emotional or take disagreements personally?
- Do I shy away from saying “no” when discerning a candidate who is not a good fit for the community?

Questions the council as a whole might consider when evaluating themselves as a team.

- How are we fulfilling our primary responsibility, which is the formation and Christian and Carmelite maturing of the members of the community? (Constitutions 46)
- How are we developing leaders for the future?
- Do we consistently keep in mind that the council as a whole is the superior of the community and not just the president or the director of formation? (Constitutions 46)
- Have we been able to practice detachment and charity when matters arise and there is a difference of opinion among ourselves?
- Do we strive to create an atmosphere of cooperation?
- Have we established any guidelines that we as a council should follow?
- Do any need revising?
- Do we regularly review the OCDS legislations and the Ratio?
- How have we responded to guidance from the Province and the Order?
- Do our members feel they can approach us with their ideas and concerns?
- Where do we see our community in ten years?
- What are our current and long-term goals?
- What have we accomplished?