**FACILITATING AT HOME AND CONSENSUS TABLES**

The Chapter 2021 theme, “Behold, I Am Doing Something New…Listen! is an appropriate focus for the communal discernment process that will be used throughout Chapter deliberations. This process calls us to engage one another in a contemplative manner. It may be well to review some guidelines regarding how we listen and share with one another in this way. As facilitators, it is your task to ensure, as much as you can, that the following principles and guidelines are observed during the breakout room conversations.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

* Remind all that the Communal Discernment process is the movement from “I” to “We” in the greater service of the whole.
* The focus is on deep sharing and deep listening to each person at the table.
* Entering the conversation with a “discerning heart” means that each person may have to let go of some of her own preferences in the process.
* All come to the table with “equal voice” so each voice should be heard.
* Emphasize the importance of non-judgmental listening.

**GUIDELINES FOR DIALOG**

* Remind group to speak one at a time
* Pause between – if someone does not, gently remind
* Make sure everyone has a chance
* If someone dominates, use “time” as a reason to give someone else a chance
* When everyone has spoken
* Invite questions
* Invite what was new
* What is evolving as common
* Ask group to help reach the consensus
* Ask if someone will volunteer to write