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From: "Mr. John Keenan, OP" <john@keenan.org>

To:

Subject: Re: No. 3. P.D. Feedback. -- Fwd: Revised Particular Directory - Draft

HTML | Plain text

Georgia 12pt

Greetings ... I can't join your conversation tonight regarding the Particular Directory revision. I am hopeful you can forword this email, and attachments, to the entire LPC and Chapter priors/prioresses.

I am forwarding comments on the proposed Draft Particular Directory (Revision).
The spreadsheet identifies each chapter in its own "tab" or "sheet." It is hoped this makes it easier to navigate between the comments and the draft document.

My key suggestions are to reduce the expanding role/authorities of the LPC Executive Committee: return to usual terminology such as "Lay Provincial Council" not "Lay Provincial Chapter"; delete the sections providing for the creation of standing/ongoing committees; and eliminate "legalese" language as described in the detailed comments in the spreadsheet. The latter points are particularly important because, in my view, the creation and structure of standing committees as proposed changes the role and relationship of the LPC to the individual Fraternities and there is sense of "creeping bureauacracization" in the revised Particular Directory language.

The following is a summary/complement to the detailed review comments found in spreadsheet *Draft Directory Comments 2024.numbers (or xlsx, i.e., Apple Numbers or MS Windows Excel Spreadsheets).* Each tab in the spreadsheet is a separate Chapter (or Section). Each sheet, then, identifies the subsection/line of the text being discussed and the editorial/content comment). The following are summary comments of significant issues. Please review the detailed editorial, and other, comments in the respective spreadsheets.

A few general comments:

- Throughout the review document (spreadsheet) are references to the format of the document/section. The original draft PDF document posted contained numerous formatting errors that needed to be addressed. Apparently, a number of those issues have been addressed with a revised "draft" PDF document posted. It is unclear what other changes have been made.

Chapter/Tab

Table of Contents

- The promulgation date is not the date of the draft. It is the date of the final approval by the LPC after a successful vote of the Provincial Chapters. The date identified in this draft is, in fact, the date of LPC approval of the *Draft* that will be reviewed and commented on by those Chapters.

Preface

- Delete the entire last paragraph. As stated in the spreadsheet: *Consider deleting entire paragraph. The corporation documents can reference the Particular Directory as one of applicable statutes (although its relationship is unclear). That said, reference here to the corporation is a distraction in as much as requirements for the corporation do not apply to life of Lay Dominicans or their fraternities/chapters.*

I. Names and Definitions.

- Throughout the document the term "meeting" is changed to "Chapter." Further "Chapter" is changed to "Fraternity" (with inconsistent capitalization). While the second change (i.e., "Chapter" to "Fraternity") may be understandable changing "meeting" to "Chapter" is not. For reasons explained in the review comments all such references must not changed back to original usages. This is particularly true when changing references to the Lay Provincial Council as "Lay Provincial Chapter," and changing Fraternity meetings to "Chapters." This is not a small/insignificant matter given the usual understanding of "Chapter" such as "Provincial Chapter" or "General Chapter." That is, a "Chapter" as used by the friars has a governance implication that does not exist in the new usages as presented in the draft PD.
- The definition of "General Declarations" should include the clarification that the current General Declarations were promulgated on 9 March 2019 by Fr. Bruno Cadoré, OP, Master, which "... re-order the material of those made by our predecessors ... and ... those former Declarations are ... abrogated...." This point should be included in the definition so the reader is aware that all former versions of General Declarations are abrogated.
- In the definition of "the Statutes" (and throughout the document) the reference to the draft Particular

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