

Rationale for: *Why would we propose a national Franciscan organization/conference?*

1. We live in an evolutionary world characterized by values such as:

- Collaboration, Relationality, Convergence, Interconnectedness, Diversity, Networking, etc.
- As one conference we can better exemplify these values.

2. Our Franciscan heritage impels us.

- As Franciscans we are rooted in a Trinitarian model of community and dynamic love.
- Francis' vision was inclusive, catholic yet broader than Catholic.
- As custodians of Francis' vision, it is our responsibility to promote the Franciscan charism in society today.
- As brothers and sisters our gifts complement each other.
- Uniting as one conference would reaffirm our oneness as a Franciscan family.
- Together the Franciscan family can model the richness of diversity wherein differences are not blurred, but enriched.
- As united Franciscans, we can speak with one voice to address contemporary needs with a stronger impact and in a systemic way.
- As Franciscans faithful to the Church, we can better promote the agenda of Pope Francis and work to meet the pastoral needs of the world.

3. Needs of our contemporary world:

- Care of creation, peacemaking, concern for the poor and marginalized
- Our culture is craving meaning, contemplation, and deeper spirituality.
- To break down barriers, e.g., of age, gender, ethnicity, racial, cultural, and model relationships of dignity and equality.
- To experience community rather than isolationism and individualism.

4. Practicalities of who we are:

- The entire Franciscan family has resources that can benefit each branch, e.g., charismatic leadership, scholarship, the arts, relationships, finances, ministries, etc.
- We are all facing diminishing numbers, resources, energies, and ministerial presence, so we need each other to continue to share the charism.
- Technological advances can bring us together in a dynamic way.

The proposing of the One Franciscan Family Organization continues to be worked on by the National Board of the Franciscan Federation.