The Mission of Associate Life is to respond to a call to live the Dominican charism. Associate Life provides and fosters opportunities for women and men to share life in Mission with the Adrian Dominican Sisters and Associates within a relationship of mutual support for ministry, and to develop and strengthen their commitment to the mission of Jesus.

The purpose of a Sojourner Group is to embrace the four pillars of Dominican Life: prayer, study, ministry, and community.

Sojourner Groups agree to abide by policies and procedures found in the Adrian Dominican Associate Life Handbook of Policies and Procedures.

Sojourner Groups will submit proposals for any projects, fundraisers or events to the Director of Associate Life for approval by the Chapter Prioress and Director of Associate Life.

Meetings:
Each Sojourner in the group shares leadership for elements of the meeting, which include prayer, study, ministry, and community in addition to organizational activities.

Each meeting should be comprised of the following:

- **Prayer.** Group members take turns leading prayer. Watch for a prayer resources area, which will be posted on the Associates section of the member website.
  - Each person may choose to take a month to lead prayer. Our prayer often includes faith sharing, but it can include anything the prayer leader chooses.
  - Faith and life sharing is an important element of the Sojourner group. This sharing is crucial to time together and fosters growth as friends and Associates.

- **Study.** Some groups read a book and discuss a chapter each month. Some recommendations: *Praying With Dominic* by Michael Monshau, OP; *Praying with Catherine of Siena* by Patricia Mary Vinje; *Praying with Thomas Aquinas* by Mary Mercy Houle, Michael Monshau, OP, and Patrick F. Norris; *Dominican Spirituality* by Eric Borgman; *We Walk this Path Together* by Brian Pierce, OP; and *The New Wine of Dominican Spirituality* by Paul Murray, OP.
  - Other forms of study include reading an article from the formation materials or member website or viewing a presentation.

- **Ministry.** The Sojourner group commits to a project or activity related to the 2016 General Chapter Enactments and serves the local community. All fundraising projects need to be approved by the Chapter Prioress and the Director of Associate Life.

- **Community.** Sojourners stay connected with the larger Adrian Dominican Congregation and with other Associates. We encourage Sojourner Groups to connect with a Sister. We also encourage Associates to visit Adrian at least every couple years if possible, and attend Chapter Assemblies and/or Partners Gatherings. We connect through the Adrian Dominican member website, the
Communiqué, and the Associate Life newsletter. Our common tie is to the Mission of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, and it is our commitment to the Adrian Dominicans and to each other that keeps us together.

**Logistics:**

- **Numbers.** Eight to 12 members is an optimal number, and new or prospective Associates are often invited to attend meetings.

- **Format.** The group should meet regularly – for example, once every other month or every six weeks. Suggested formats: the second Monday of the month for a meal and meeting, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. or 9:00 p.m.; four weekends per year; etc. Responsibility for leadership, prayer, and meeting amenities should rotate among members.

- **Agenda.** The agenda, created ahead of time, should include topics, readings and discussion items. This is circulated to the group two weeks in advance, with a copy to the Director of Associate Life.

- **Minutes.** Groups should designate someone to take minutes, circulate them to the group for edits, and then send the final draft to the group and the Director of Associate Life within two weeks of the meeting.