

Key questions for MPJP Canonical Stewards

The questions are offered as a helpful resource to your MPJP. This may be either in the discernment process with people who are potential new canonical stewards or as a reflection with your existing team to build understanding and consensus around key issues of focus, role and means as you pursue your Mission.

Focus

1. Mission drives ministry

- i. What are my responsibilities as a Canonical Steward?
- ii. What is the connection between mission and governance?
- iii. How do I and my fellow MPJPs Canonical Steward ensure that we are preserving the mission?
- iv. What is the governance structure of this MPJP?
- v. How Catholic do I have to be?
- vi. Do I know how to facilitate culture and set the tone?

2. Clarity as Canonical Stewards

- i. Is there a clear Vision, Values, and Mission Statement?
- ii. Am I comfortable with the ministry's values?
- iii. What are my responsibilities? How do I know if I'm fulfilling them?
- iv. How do we, as a Council of MPJP Canonical Stewards, know if we doing a good job? What does success look like?
- v. Am I prepared to leave the 'dials' alone and restrict myself to a position of influence?

3. Clarity with the Board

- i. Is there clarity of boundaries between MPJP Canonical Stewards and Directors of incorporated companies (where these exist)?
- ii. What is the difference between a Board Director and MPJP Canonical Steward?
- iii. Have I considered if there is a danger of being a Shadow Director?
- iv. How is the MPJP and its Ministries financed?
- v. Does this MPJP provide appropriate liability protection to its MPJP Canonical Stewards?
- vi. Will I end up going to jail if the organisation goes 'belly up'?

Role

1. Partnership

- i. What does this MPJP mean by formation, stewardship and mission?
- ii. What are the dynamics of the current group and relationships?

2. Humility ("humus")

- i. How does the Council of MPJP Canonical Stewards live the mission?
- ii. What value can I bring to a group of Canonical Stewards? What skills do I need?
- iii. Why me? What does the MPJP see that I have to offer?
- iv. What will my induction process look like?
- v. Do I need to know canon law or theology or church structure or governance training?
- vi. What's my appetite for an aspirational journey?
- vii. Do the current MPJP Canonical Stewards have a big dream for this ministry provision?

Means

1. Authoritative 'Frame' – Scripture; interpretative authority

- i. How are this MPJP's Canonical Stewards leaders of the Church? and in what sense?
- ii. What is the role of charism in a MPJP?
- iii. Can this MPJP's Canonical Stewards develop a charism of their own?
- iv. Is this appointment a lifelong commitment or is it for an agreed period?
- v. How is this role perceived in the organisation?

2. Discernment – Demeanour, Time, Skill

- i. What is the decision-making scope and process of the Canonical Stewards in this MPJP? How do we know if we are doing it right?
- ii. What is this MPJP's selection process for new Canonical Stewards?
- iii. How can I exit if I feel that I don't fit into this role?
- iv. Is the role remunerated or are there other honorarium's?
- v. What is the time commitment for the role of a Canonical Steward? Do I have the time needed?