

## The Companions of Dorothy the Worker

### The Disciplines

The Disciplines of the order guide us in our conduct as Companions both individually and communally.

As Companions, what follows is what we agree to do together:

All of our conduct as Companions shall be based on our Charism Statement and the Principles.

As Companions to each other, we shall pray for each other daily. Companions are encouraged to use the Companions Compline Office, but may make their prayers at an office that is more convenient.

Companions shall meditate on one of the Principles daily. This may be accomplished during the reading of the Office.

Companions shall include study during their weekly schedule. This includes study of scripture, assigned formation materials, inspirational spiritual reading and readings concerning the Companions of Dorothy the Worker patrons.

Companions shall maintain a stable relationship with their Church communities and attend regular worship.

As we take no vows, after the fashion of our beguine foremothers, any vows that a Companion has made, religious, ordination or marriage vows for example, take priority in the lives of a Companion.

Companions shall make every effort to stay connected with other Companions on a regular basis. A weekly conversation with a fellow Companion is a minimum expectation. Companions who are blessed to live near each other shall meet regularly, once per month for fellowship being an expectation.

Companions shall to spend time in an annual retreat. Dispersed members will be provided with a retreat guide from the Companion Formator. Companions that are able to do so shall join together for their annual retreat. Worship during this time shall not include the Eucharist so as not compromise those members whose denominations do not allow open communion.

Companions shall report to the Magistra at the Embertides (four times a year) with a letter updating their ministry, life concerns, spiritual and vocational progress and any pastoral concerns. The reflection on the Magistra's assigned reading is due no later than May 22nd. Oblate Companions will include a reporting letter with their reflection annually due by May 22nd.

Companions shall have an experienced spiritual companion. If the Companion is an ordained or professed religious this person should be a professional spiritual director outside the community. If you are a lay Companion, you may request a spiritual mentor within the community. The Vocation Companion will provide names of experienced members who are available to mentor you.

Companions shall consider their secular work as an opportunity to model the love of God for all people and our commitment to living our Charism and Principles in all areas of our lives.

Companions shall be actively involved in ministry with the Queer community on a regular basis. This ministry will be a ministry of presence. For the Companion, this shall be integrated with the other areas of our lives and hold equal importance.

Companions shall treat one another with the respect, kindness and charity, always seeing Christ in one another. Companions shall refrain from gossip about fellow Companions and those we serve in the community. Companions shall at all times treasure the spirits of all those in their care, both fellow Companions and those we are called to love and serve.

Companions shall abide by the Charism, Principles and Disciplines of the order. This includes decisions made by the Chapter, which includes the Magistra, and the members of the Executive Council.

We acknowledge that in the course of the spiritual life, a life lived in community may no longer be what God is calling us to. If a Companion feels that they wish to continue their ministry outside the Companions, they may seek counsel and a period of leave for discernment. If the Companion determines that they wish to separate from the community, a letter may be submitted to the Chapter and a Rite of Leave Taking will be offered.

If it is believed that a Companion has compromised the integrity of the order by violating the Charism, Principles or Disciplines of the order, the Companion will be counseled by members of the Executive Council and if it is determined that there has been a violation, the Companion will receive a Letter of Holy Admonition from the Magistra. If, with the advice of the Protector and the Executive Council, the Magistra determines that the safety of those we serve, and/or the integrity of order necessitates separating the Companion from the order, the Magistra will deliver a Letter of Separation to the Companion and end the relationship.

Companions shall remember that in all this, the Charism Statement, the Principles and the Disciplines, as well as the entire community are founded with the purpose of serving the spiritual needs of the Queer community. It is our responsibility to be a healthy, safe organization, with integrity, that forms healthy servants of Christ who can inspire trust. As humans, we are all flawed, but together as a community, we can keep working toward a perfection as modeled by Christ Jesus.