



The JP Contact Network – Web of Growing Strength

Background:

Since the 25th General Chapter of 1985 declared that “justice is an integral part of our mission of reconciliation,” the GS Congregation has called its members to express justice in all areas of life. Likewise the congregation has adopted structures to support this commitment, notably the NGO work and our affiliation with the UN, since 1996. Also in late 1990s a broad justice network began with Unit JP Contact Persons or teams. Now expansion is continuing with NGO representation in Geneva and Vienna and to UN regional offices. As the congregation commitments grow, the role of local JP Contact person is more vital than ever.

This revised role description is done to support ever more effective use of the JP contact network in the fulfillment of GS mission today. It is sent to every JP Contact and every Unit leader upon the designation or change of each Unit Contact Person/Team.

Any questions can be sent to Yolanda Sanchez _yolasanco@gmail.com

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“Our commitment to reconciliation demands that we promote justice and peace...”



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Role Description for Unit JP Contact Person/Team

Unit JP Contact Vision:

Good Shepherd will express prophetic and radical responses to the needs of our times by living out of justice at the grassroots level with effective local and regional structures.

(Taken from 2009 Chapter statement and CLT Weaving Chapter threads)

Unit JP Contact Goals:

- To maintain effective links that serve and support Unit goals regarding integration of Justice Peace in all aspects of life and mission;
- To maintain supportive and effective links between the Unit, the Regional NGO Designate, and the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace structures of the congregation.

Role of JP Contacts: *(in brief)*

- To be responsible for local coordination, animation and distribution of JP issues a material consistent with the Congregation Chapter Directions, as appropriate to local goals and ministerial works of the Unit.
- To participate in local JP structures that will keep Good Shepherd voice in the broader Justice community - church structures, inter-congregational groups, local JP commissions, and local/national networks related to ministry and systemic change particularly aware of the issues of trafficking, migration, economic justice, ecology and women and girls to these bodies.
- To participate with other GS Units on regional issues of common concern.
- To keep the GSIJPO and the regional NGO designate informed of unit goals, activities and apostolic works related to the integration of justice, especially those related to structural and systemic change.
- To support and coordinate contributions and participation between the Unit, the regional NGO designate, and the GSIJPO.

Responsibilities include:

1. Meet annually with the Unit Leader to discuss status and update Unit goals.
2. Maintain regular communications links between Units, Leadership Teams, Formation Teams, and Justice Peace Teams, the regional NGO designate, the GSIJP Communication Coordinator.

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3. Disseminate and update information concerning Justice Peace activities of the Congregation using existing processes and structures: Justice Peace contact network, Congregational Communication Office, Web Site, Publications, Mission Development Office and the GSIJPO.
4. Update and disseminate information to the Unit about any local church or social justice activities with which Good Shepherd participates, according to Unit goals.
5. Coordinate with other JP Contacts and regional NGO designate in the regions or across regions to support and participate in regional projects.
6. Amplify GS voice locally by contributions to media concerning Good Shepherd Justice Peace activities around the world.
7. Bring Good Shepherd presence and representation to all Justice Peace structures: Support appropriate advocacy campaigns or letter “sign-on” consistent with Good Shepherd mission; urge regional participation and contribution at local, regional and international organizations/conferences that are relevant to Good Shepherd mission.
8. Communicate and facilitate links between Good Shepherd networks and other Social Justice networks.
9. Respond, or seek appropriate Unit response to requests from the regional NGO representatives and Communication Coordinator.
10. Submit an annual report to the Unit Leader and to the GSIJPO, with a copy to the regional NGO designate, each November that includes Unit status and activities on JP integration.

Accountability:

- The JP contact Person/Team is appointed by the Unit Leader and first serves the goals of the Unit; their first responsibility is to the local unit through the Unit Leader
- Additionally the JP Contact Persons/Team serves the JP goals of the congregation and is responsible to submit an annual report to the GSIJPO and to engage in any discussion of the report that may be requested.

A PowerPoint accompanies this job description.

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