**Strategic Plan (2017-2020)**

**Mission of the Religious Formation Conference**

The Religious Formation Conference educates and strengthens formators in their ministry of formation. The RFC engages religious communities with timely resources, services, and experiences that support initial and ongoing formation, that are responsive to an emerging future, in prophetic witness to Gospel values through personal and communal transformation.

**Vision for the Future of the Religious Formation Conference**

The Religious Formation Conference will engage women and men religious in a variety of vibrant resources, services, and experiences that bring our rich religious heritage into interaction with the contemporary and cultural realities of our world by:

* Promoting open, contemplative and collaborative dialogue;
* Modeling and encouraging inclusivity and respect for diversity;
* Welcoming inter-generational and inter-cultural viewpoints; and
* Responding to God’s ongoing invitation to the “new” of religious life.

**2017 – 2020 Goals**

**AREA:** **Initial and Ongoing Formation Programs & Services**

**GOAL 1:** Foster and enhance the understanding and living of the evolving theology and charism of religious life.

Objective 1.1 Address the needs of newer religious by promoting the formation of peer cohorts with an emphasis on establishing a strong theological foundation that will inform their life and mission.

Objective 1.2 Develop and implement relevant and reflective resources, services, and experiences for the ongoing formation of men or women religious, for both men and women religious, and for congregations.

Objective 1.3 Support the ministry of formators as they relate with a more ethnically, culturally, and age diverse population of women and men religious.

**AREA: Vitality and Sustainability**

**GOAL 2:** Collaborate with other organizations serving religious life in order to effect greater efficiency and synergy in services and experiences for religious congregations and at the same time expand new categories of RFC membership.

Objective 2.1 Explore the viability and identify the opportunities for collaboration between and among national groups that serve religious life.

Objective 2.2. Redesign the RFC structure including Regions in order to strengthen delivery of resources, services, and experiences, amplify communication and facilitate the engagement of congregations both national and international.

**AREA: Communication**

**GOAL 3:** Design and implement a robust communications plan that integrates print and digital communications into a unified voice for the RFC.

Objective 3.1 Develop a communication plan based on the observations and recommendations of the recent communications audit (February 2017).

Objective 3.2 Strengthen the use of social media and digital communications.

Objective 3.3 Develop a plan to utilize interactive technologies such as videoconferencing in order to expand the audience of RFC programs, particularly Regional workshops.

Objective 3.4 Investigate the possibility of incorporating online learning in current/future RFC programs.