



TENDING THE VINEYARD

Stewardship of Religious Property

Educational Sessions for Strategic Property Planning

SESSION 2

Sample Statement of Explanation Concerning the Need for Strategic Property Planning

This is a transformative time for religious institutes in the United States. Just like many other communities of religious, significant challenges and great opportunities lie ahead of us. This moment in our history calls us to examine with gratitude the stories of who we have been and are so that we can proactively shape who we will become.

Sustaining our mission will be at the core of our strategic property planning. Our planning will seek ways to free our members more fully for mission while also recognizing the reality that we will not be able to be present to others in the future in the same ways we have in the past. Because of trends regarding the size, age and care needs of our members, assuring we provide fully for member care needs into and through retirement will also be a primary goal of planning.

Our strategic property planning will call us to ask and answer new stewardship questions—especially questions about the buildings and properties we own—and to make choices. As we answer these questions and make the choices that come to us through planning, we must remember always that future ownership of our buildings and properties is interwoven with decisions about the sustainability of our mission into the future. The material assets we dedicate to operating and maintaining buildings built for the needs of another era are unavailable to be dedicated in some other way to continuing our mission. A fundamental choice for us will be how material assets we use to maintain and operate buildings will be balanced by the strength of our desire to dedicate these same assets to mission sustainability.

We approach this planning process with optimism and great hope for the future, certain that through it we will discern what God is calling us to now.

