

Chapter Proposal Regarding “Partners”

1 WHEREAS, there are legitimate concerns and attitudes among our friars and lay
2 employees/volunteers about how our “partners” view their status within our ministries;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, friars and our lay partners have participated in a number of discussion over
5 the past several years regarding the term “partners,” and have not been able to agree
6 on a definition of this term; and

7 WHEREAS, it seems unlikely that an agreed upon definition of “partners” (employees,
8 volunteers, etc.) can be reached through these discussions; and

9 WHEREAS, it would seem important for the province to adopt a definition for our lay
10 partners so that there can be mutual understanding among both friars and our
11 employees, volunteers regarding this term; and

12 WHEREAS, developing such a definition is an issue of justice for both friars and our lay
13 employees/volunteers;

14 BE IT RESOLVED, that the newly-elected provincial administration for the next
15 triennium make this a priority early in its administration; and

16 BE IT RESOLVED, that this newly-elected provincial administration create a “task-
17 force” made up of friars and our lay employees/volunteers for the purpose of submitting
18 a proposed definition of the term “partners”, which would include expectations on the
19 part of both friars and partners regarding the role of partners within our provincial
20 ministries; and

21 BE IT RESOLVED, that after careful consideration, the provincial administration will
22 determine how our partners will be understood in regard to decision-making vis-a-vis
23 our provincial ministries.

24 ACTION REQUESTED: Following the provincial chapter of 2011, the newly-elected
25 provincial administration will create a “task-force” made up of friars and lay
26 employees/volunteers with the task of submitting a proposal defining the term “partners”
27 as it applies to their role in our provincial ministries, as well as articulating our partners’
28 rights and privileges as part of our provincial “family”. The administration will create a
29 definition of the term “partners” that will be applied to all provincial ministries in order to
30 have a general understanding of the role of friars and partners.

Respectfully submitted: House of Peace Community, Milwaukee