

CREATING OUR NEW CHARTER...



SECOND STAGE



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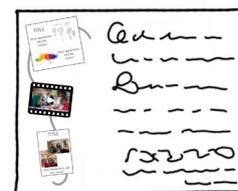
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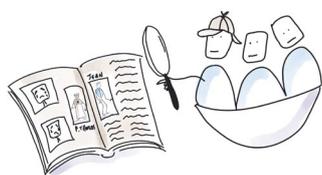
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INTRODUCTION

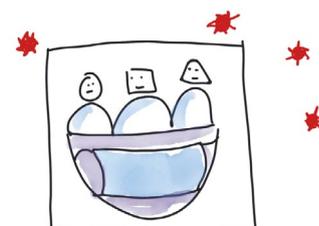
In the Charter Process we are re-reading and gathering our experiences throughout the Federation in order to listen to what inspires us at the heart of these experiences. We will create a Charter that expresses all that unites us.



As we said at the beginning of the process, our understanding of the essence of L'Arche develops over time. Our current Charter was written in 1993 and it expressed what we believed and knew then. Later, we developed our Identity and Mission statement in order to answer the questions "who are we?" and "what is our mission?" This brought new perspective and deeper understanding. From these discoveries, we can now create a new Charter that builds on our Identity and Mission statement, and expresses the spirit that unites us.



Throughout the whole Federation, in re-reading our experience, we have produced more than 1000 beads. But today, it's important to include also our experience of receiving the results of the inquiry concerning Jean Vanier, and also the experience of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Charter Process Team encourages everyone to use the Charter Process to integrate and reflect on these experiences. We must name and face our loss and our grief. We must re-read our experience with all its beauty and all its pain, with this "new reality", looking for "what really matters".



This is a spiritual process, a process of listening, conversations, prayer and contemplation that will enable us to be attentive to the mystery of our shared life. We desire to open ourselves to the spirit, to read, recognise and honour this mystery.

We want everyone who is engaged in L'Arche to participate and all voices to be heard.



SUMMARY

Stage 2 will be in 3 steps:

- Step 1 will be opening up to the bigger picture and preparing the ground. There is nothing to send in after step 1.
- In Step 2 you will choose and send in your 3 most precious beads from those produced by your own community/setting.
- In Step 3 you will choose and send in 3 words to express your experience of living the process.

TIMELINE

Stage 2 June 2020 – July 2021

- Step 1 June 2020 - December 2020
- Steps 2 & 3 January 2021 - July 2021



Stage 3 September 2021 – May 2022



...we do not know what the situation will be in the autumn regarding ongoing pandemic restrictions – we need to allow enough space in case some communities are still in restrictions into Sept/Oct. Also, some parts of the world go into “holiday mode” during July & August. We should not underestimate the time and space that is needed to really allow the Federation to integrate and grieve the inquiry findings and to process the learnings from the pandemic. Giving 6 months for step 1 also gives the time to allow those communities that have not completed Stage 1 to do so before they begin Stage 2.1



TO HELP YOU REFLECT TOGETHER

Here are additional guidelines, tools and techniques you could use in order to include everybody in the process. The proposals are to be adapted to your culture, and to the places where you are living the process. You may also use other techniques and tools that work better for you. See how to organize and use them in detail in the appendices at the end of the guide.



Make sure your beads will be understood

See appendix 06 at the end of this guide*

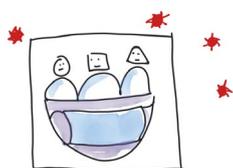
Now that you know how to post your beads, we give you a few tips to make sure your beads will be understood by the team. At this stage, it's not a question of quantity, but a question of clarity of your titles, visuals, words and comments.



Meet physically or virtually...

See appendix 13 for more explanation

The timing of stage 2 may continue to overlap with ongoing restrictions on gathering together physically due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We invite you to explore ways of continuing the reflection, conversation and discerning in the reality of your situation. For example, you could meet in the smaller groups where you live; or you could use technology if it is not possible to meet physically. We propose some ideas to help you to be creative.



Deepen interesting questions due to the pandemic constraints

See appendix 14 for more explanation

Our normal routines of life have been and maybe still are seriously disrupted by the confinement. Sometimes, these disruptive crises can reveal what is truly essential in our life. Let us ask ourselves good questions to share about what we learn from this situation and see if that can inspire our Charter.



Use your spiritual spaces for grieving

See appendix 15 for more explanation

Allowing the findings of the inquiry to be heard and feelings to be expressed will take time and will likely need to be repeated. We need safe spaces to express shock, anger, sadness, loss, breakage, grief – whatever our feelings are. We can adapt our spiritual spaces to integrate shock and loss in rituals, to help us to face the reality.



Deepen interesting questions due to the inquiry results

See appendix 16 for more explanation

The more we integrate the revelations about the story of L'Arche and Jean Vanier, the more we raise good questions, some of which touch on our essentials. They highlight elements that could inspire our Charter. We propose some questions to integrate this work into our Charter process.



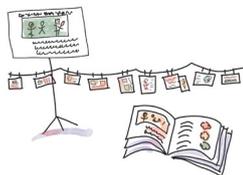
SECOND STAGE IN DETAIL 1/4

The second stage of the process will look back at all we lived and discovered in the first stage. Our conversations and our own community's/setting's beads of the first stage will become the raw material with which we will work in the second stage.

The second stage will be in three steps.



Step 1 - Time to reflect....



To begin this 2nd stage, we invite you to prepare for working on your own beads by taking the time to first immerse yourselves in the beads from across the global Federation. Be curious about the similarities and differences in experience around different communities in different cultural contexts.

Take time too to reflect on and explore all we have discovered these last 12 months. We need time to grieve.

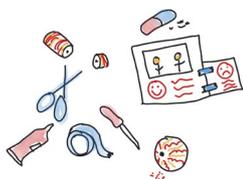
See Appendix 15 for more explanation

Opening up to the wider experience and the bigger picture of the global Federation; opening up to what we now know about Jean Vanier and the founding of L'Arche; being open to what we don't yet know; these are important ways of preparing for the detailed work on your own beads.



The whole Federation has produced 1500 beads. This Process of creating beads has been putting words and images on what we feel is important in our shared lives in L'Arche. There are 250 beads on the Inspiration Wall. We have created as well some smaller selections of the beads as tools which are downloadable. We invite you to first immerse yourselves in these beads. It is important to immerse yourself in them, to see their diversity, to perceive their richness, their wisdom...

Step 2 – Time to discern...



We invite you to create a gallery of your own community's or setting's beads. In this step we will discern, in the light of the inquiry results and of our recent experience of the pandemic, what are our most precious beads. We will work on our own beads, see what needs to be polished, what is fragile or not, how we can drill them without breaking them. We will ask if, in the light of the inquiry or covid19, any

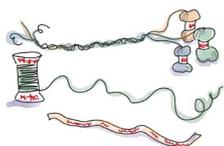
beads need to be let go of; or if there are beads missing. Out of these new and/or old beads we will choose our 3 most precious beads.

See appendix 16 for more explanation

To do this, we offer you ways to organize your gallery, and questions for your conversation... they lead to a work of discernment and choosing.

See appendix 18 for more explanation

Step 3 - Time to express...



During this Charter Process we have come together intentionally to reflect and share.

In this third step we invite you to name how we felt as we lived the process during stages 1 & 2. What has been the experience of the process? What happened among us in these conversations? What are we learning?

We will express our emotions, sensations, feelings, experiences... through a few words (3 maximum), or one short sentence. These words (or this short sentence), will be the thread that strings our beads together.

JUNE 2020 - JULY 2021

June
2020
-
December
2020

1ST STEP - LET'S REFLECT ON THE BIGGER PICTURE



WHEN & WHERE

Work in groups that fit the reality of your community or setting. If you are in confinement, you may wish to work in virtual groups or smaller groups or in “daily groups” like houses or workshops, those still meeting during the confinement. Try not to forget to create spiritual spaces for these groups.



THEME

Visit the Inspiration Wall or the smaller pdf selections of beads (or watch a beads presentation or read a beads book), immersing yourselves in it.

Open up to what we now know about Jean Vanier and the founding of L'Arche; and what we still don't know. Take the space and the time to stand back and reflect, to feel your emotions, to grieve.

There is nothing to send in to the Charter team after Step 1

TO HELP YOU REFLECT TOGETHER



Meet virtually

See appendix 13



Gallery

See appendix 18



Spiritual spaces

See appendix 15



Rituals

See appendix 19



Toolbox

See appendix 17



Comic strip photo

See appendix 8



Questions due to the inquiry results

See appendix 16



Questions from the experience of the pandemic

See appendix 14

JUNE 2020 - JULY 2021

January
2021
-
July
2021

2ND STEP - LET'S WORK ON OUR BEADS AND DISCERN



WHEN & WHERE

In the same groups as the first step, following the same meeting, or in a different place or time; in a virtual meeting or small daily-life group, in a spiritual space... depending on your context and any constraints due to the pandemic.

THEME



Visit a gallery of your own community's or setting's beads (or watch your beads presentation or read your beads book), immersing yourselves in it. Then take space and time to stand back. Then meet again to share about your most precious beads, drill them, polish them, improve them: write or erase something, change the picture, add a complement to balance your idea...

TO BE SENT



In each group, discern what is important to say, and choose 3 beads that say it the best. To have those 3 most precious beads, you might have to improve beads that already exist or create new ones. The resource person will collect all those precious beads made by all their groups and discern (maybe with the help of a small group) the 3 beads that they will send for their setting to the Charter Process Team.

*We ask ourselves:
Which beads speak best about
what is important in our lives
together?
Since the inquiry and Covid19,
what else would I like to say?*



*See appendixes 04, 06 & 06+
for more explanation.*



TO HELP YOU REFLECT TOGETHER



Meet virtually

See appendix 13



Gallery

See appendix 18



Spiritual spaces

See appendix 15



Deciding

See appendix 12



Toolbox

See appendix 17



Comic strip photo

See appendix 8



Questions due to the inquiry results

See appendix 16



Questions from the experience of the pandemic

See appendix 14



SECOND STAGE IN DETAIL 4/4

JUNE 2020 - JULY 2021

January 2021
-
July 2021

3RD STEP - WE NAME THE EXPERIENCE OF LIVING THE CHARTER PROCESS



WHEN & WHERE

In the same groups as the first step, following the same meeting, or in a different place or time; in a virtual meeting or small daily-life group, in a spiritual space... depending on your context and any constraints due to the pandemic.

THEME



In this third step we invite you to name how you felt as you lived the process in both stages 1 & 2.

TO BE SENT



Each community or setting chooses maximum 3 words, each with an image, (or one short sentence with an image), that describe their experience of the process.

Use your own language but ensure you send a translation into En, Fr or Es so the team can understand.

We ask ourselves:
What has been the experience of the process?
What happened among us in these conversations?
What are we learning?
We will express our emotions, sensations, feelings, experiences.



These words (or this short sentence), will be the thread that strings our beads together.

See appendixes 04, 06 & 06+ for more explanation.



TO HELP YOU REFLECT TOGETHER



Meet virtually

See appendix 13



Toolbox

See appendix 17



Spiritual spaces

See appendix 15



Deciding

See appendix 12



Comic strip photo

See appendix 8

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Between stages 2 & 3, the Charter Process Team will discern from what you sent (all the beads collected in stage 1, your choice of your most precious beads, and the words you sent in stage 2), how to create a draft Charter for consultation. That draft will then be translated so the Federation can work on it.



THIRD STAGE: SEPTEMBER 2021 - APRIL 2022

September
2021
-
April
2022

WE WILL TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON THE DRAFT CHARTER

THEME



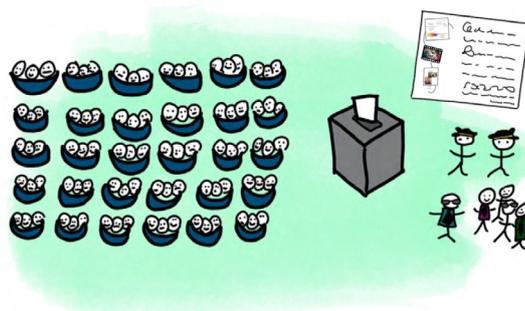
All the settings will look at the draft Charter, to offer their feedback.

TO BE SENT



The Charter Process Team will give you more instructions later about the tools to be used and what should be sent.

After stage 3, The Charter Process Team will consider all the feedback and develop a new Charter to propose to the Federation Assembly.



APPENDICES

Here are guidelines, tools and techniques you could use in order to live this stage and include everybody in the process. They are proposals to adapt to your culture, constraints and realities. You may also use other techniques and tools that work well for you.

Appendices 1–12 are in the [Stage 1 Guide](#) available on the [Charter website](#)

APPENDIX 06+ (Additional to appendix 6)



Make sure the beads will be understood

Now you know how to post your beads, here are a few tips to consider: Make sure your beads will be understood by the team. At this stage, it's not a question of quantity, but a question of clarity.

The title:

- Has to be direct & clear. The team will not be able to guess what you meant. Telling them directly what you want is more effective than an allusive poetry at this stage or local humor.

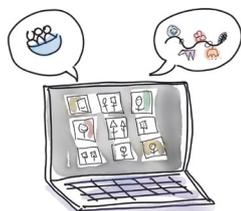
The visual:

- Is never enough. It always needs a brief explanation, either in the picture itself or in the title or in the comment box on the site.

In the comment box:

- Give the name of your setting, the brief explanation the team will need to be sure of what you intend. Use your own language but include a translation in French, Spanish or English.

APPENDIX 13



Meet physically or virtually...

The timing of stage 2 may continue to overlap with the time of severe restrictions on gathering together physically due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We would invite you to explore ways of continuing the reflection, conversation and discerning in the reality of your situation.

Be pragmatic:

- It might be more convenient to work in the smaller groups of your homes, workshops or teams;

Try technology to meet:

- In confinement, many communities are meeting for times of sharing and prayer using virtual meetings over the internet. Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp among others... can be easier than you fear.

Most of these enable you to:

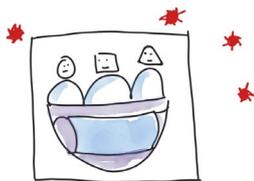
- Meet together through phones or computers.
- open or mute the mic
- ask people to choose an object in their home to express themselves
- show a presentation, sharing your screen
- draw on a board or a paper and show the drawing to the webcam
- make screen captures
- create small break-out groups to discuss
- play music and sing
- Alternate times together, moments of silence, and times for sharing...

We encourage you to be creative in the reality of your current situation.

The most important thing is that you work in groups that fit the reality of your community or setting.



APPENDIX 14



Deepen interesting questions due to the pandemic constraints

Our normal routines of life are seriously disrupted. It might be very interesting to share around the questions

- What is difficult about this?
- Are there any opportunities that arise because of the restrictions?
- What gives life? What does not give life?

Sometimes these disruptive crises can reveal what is truly essential in our life. Propose to your groups to reflect on what you have learnt from this situation. You might see findings that could be relevant to our Charter.

APPENDIX 15



Use your spiritual spaces for grieving

Allowing the findings of the inquiry to be heard and feelings to be expressed will take time and will likely need to be repeated. We will need time and places to safely express shock, anger, sadness, loss, breakage, grief – whatever our feelings are.

In your spiritual spaces propose to express in ritual the loss and shock people experience. That could help people to accept the reality. For example:

Use the ritual of lament developed by Pádraig O'Tuama attached as Appendix 19; or use a simplified version as follows:



- Install in the middle of the space, branches, wood sticks, pieces of wax or paper, anything that could be broken or torn. Open the spiritual time by ringing a bell.
(If you meet virtually, ask people to prepare old newspapers, or papers or sticks in front of them)
- Say some words about the difficulties the group is living because of the results of the inquiry, finishing with, “Things that are precious have been broken or torn.”

- Propose to people to come to the center, to choose a stick, a piece of wax (or a page of the newspaper at home) ... and to break it or tear it up. Invite them to be all attentive to the noises and the physical impact of those actions. When it's done, ring the bell.
- Say a few words about all the questions that we have to carry, now. Particularly the question: “Can we trust again?”. Ask people to say words, or make gestures, expressing what they trust if they can.
- End with, “May our heart be open to trust again!” or something else you think would be more appropriate. Ring the bell.

APPENDIX 16



Deepen interesting questions due to the inquiry results

Take time to allow the findings of the inquiry to be heard and for feelings to be expressed. Allow time for shock, anger, sadness, loss, breakage, grief... especially, in the safe place that could be the spiritual spaces.

But in your groups of discussion, you can introduce questions provoked by the inquiry results:

- Would you want to make any changes to your beads? Are there any beads missing?
- What do we need to let go of? What must we hold onto?
- What does not give life and why? What saps our energy and why?
- What gives life and why? What gives us energy and why?





Addition to the toolbox

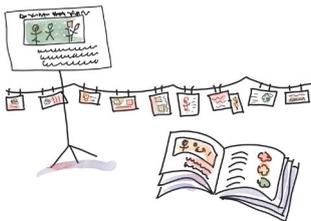
Be curious about other people's experience – explore the beads from other communities and countries on the inspiration wall or in one or more of the pdf collections.

3 pdf collections containing a small selection of beads from different countries - these can be found [here](#) - for download and presentation gallery or printed gallery.

... access to Inspiration Wall for everyone:

<https://www.larche.org/web/charter-process/inspiration-wall>

APPENDIX 18



Create a gallery

1. Prepare a “gallery” of your beads, with printed beads on a wall, or in a booklet, or in a PDF or PowerPoint presentation.
2. Invite your groups to visit the gallery or explore the booklet, to immerse themselves « in the beads ».
3. Invite them to stand back and take some time and space, to just let it go. If possible, they might like to go for a walk outside; do something different; make a drink.
4. Everyone, then, comes back to the group and shares:
 - Which beads speak best about what is important to us in our shared lives?
 - Since the inquiry and confinement, what else would I like to say?
5. Then make the new beads you need to create. Improve the beads that already exist but need to be completed.

This is a work of discernment and choosing. Feel free to adapt to what works best for your community.



A liturgy of lamentation



Created by Padraig O'Tuama using the words of the Book of Lamentations from the Hebrew Testament of the Bible



Bell is rung.

All: *How lonely sits the person whose story has been disbelieved.*

Bell is rung.

Reader 1: Justice has opened up the doors of this story among us. We who thought we were a place of rest have been found out that there are stories of humiliation and hiding among us. For some, they have had to flee us to find God. God waited for them outside the gates of our places, God waited for them at the gates, seeking to protect them. From us. The places we looked to for inspiration are now changed — the prophets we turned to are now silent and silenced. Those who are most vulnerable go hungry because of what the powerful have chosen to do. What can we say, what words do we have, to describe how the home of hope we have created has become, for some, a home of harm?

All: *How lonely sits the person whose story has been disbelieved.*

And now there is isolation **where there once was company;** stories of of manipulation **instead of kind memories.**

We feel exposed.
We have been entrusted to be trustable with things that are precious.

They have been broken.

Bell is rung.

Reader 2: People worth their weight in gold were dropped and broken like they were made from cheap clay. Even villains treat their loved ones better than this. Those who were hungry are offered ash for eating. This is worse than illness, because this was avoidable, but it was not avoided. There is much we cannot prevent; we could have prevented this. In the place of refuge, people's safety were taken from them. What should not have been broken was broken.

We take time to break things, or tell stories of broken things.



Bell is rung.

Our story of lament sits heavily upon us

If there is poison in the water **is the well now poisoned?**
The things that are best about us?
We wonder where they can find a home now.
We wonder where we will get nurture.
We wonder how we can love our story again.

All: *How lonely sits the person whose story has not been heard.*

Bell is rung.

Someone looked for shelter in an Ark of Safety:

And instead, walked into a place where wolves dress up as priests and bears dress up as healers.

We look around us and see **that the wrong things lead.**
To whom can we turn **for a story of trust and truth?**

We tell stories of restored trust.

Bell is rung.

Reader 3: And those who lead among us, those we trust, and those who trust us? How will we have trust in trust again? While tomorrow might bring news of change and hope, today we are heavy with this story of woe. And those who lead among us, those we trust, and those who trust us? How will we have trust in trust again?

We know that we can trust in trust
We know that we can trust in love
We know that we can trust in accountability.
We know that we can trust enquiry.
We know that we can trust containmentment.
We know that we can trust improvement.
We know that we can trust honesty
We know that we can trust truth.
We know that we can trust what is trustable.

Reader 4: This pain is deep, but is not what is deepest in us. Can we complain about this? No. What is true is true. Truth has wrapped itself in strength and spoken out, and has been speaking out, and it took us too long to learn how to listen. Oh how this makes us re-evaluate what is valuable. We say it again: truth is gold, community is gold, an open heart, and an open door is gold. What is secret rots the heart. Oh may our hearts be pure.

We will wear the story of lament
for as long as we need to lament.
We will find truth in this story,
**knowing that it is one story to tell about us,
not the final story.**
We will take burdens upon us to keep us working hard.
Restore us to ourselves —
we know that the self we wished to be is a self of the heart.
Restore us to our deepest selves.

Bell is rung.

All: *How lonely sits the person whose story has been disbelieved.*

Bell is rung.

All: *How truthful sits the story in the person who must be heard.*

Bell is rung.



For any questions or more information about the Charter Process, contact:
charter.process@larche.org



مسيرة صياغة الميثاق

Proceso de la Carta

Proces Aktualizacji Karty

चार्टर प्रक्रिया

Processus de la charte



憲章作り

Процес оновлення Хартії

Charter Process

Charta-Prozess