



Lay Dominicans of Aotearoa New Zealand –
Mai i Te Hiku-o-te-Ika ki Te Wai Pounamu,
Charter



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“The Dominican Family should be an open home, which welcomes the friends of our friends, which welcomes new groups whose Dominican identity is not, perhaps, clear, but who want to be part of the Family. The friendship that Jesus offers is wide and open. He welcomes in everyone. He gets impatient when the disciples try to stop someone preaching because they do not belong to the group of the disciples. He does not shut doors, but bursts through them. Let us embody that big-hearted friendship, Dominic’s magnanimity. Let us be a sign of that welcome, so that we may all be at ease in Dominic’s Family. May Dominic liberate us from the fear that locks the doors.”

Timothy Radcliffe OP, in “I Call You Friends” . Continuum, P.158f

a) Introduction and Vision

1. The Dominican Family of Aotearoa New Zealand includes Lay Dominicans of Aotearoa New Zealand, Sisters (Dominican Sisters of Aotearoa New Zealand) and Friars (Province of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) and belongs to the international Order of Preachers.
2. Our full name, Lay Dominicans of Aotearoa New Zealand – Mai I Te Hiku-o-te-Ika ki Te Waipounamu, refers to the fact that our lay family has members from the Far North to the furthest reaches of the South island.
3. Inspired by the example of St Dominic and St Catherine the Lay Dominicans of Aotearoa-New Zealand seek to live and preach the Word of God and uphold the Dominican motto of Truth.
4. The overarching vision of the Lay Dominicans of Aotearoa -New Zealand is:
 - to support each other to seek, speak and live the Truth
 - to share in and contribute to the ongoing life and preaching mission of the Dominican Family in Aotearoa–New Zealand
 - to uphold the Treaty of Waitangi as a covenant calling us to true and peaceful relationships in our country
 - to find and/or create opportunities where we can respond, and support others to respond, to the signs of the times in the church and in society
 - to live and promote the four pillars of Dominican life: prayer, study, community and preaching
 - to promote a theology based on finding God in the world around us (an incarnational theology)
 - to foster in ourselves and others a spirit of personal prayer and contemplation
 - to recognise and promote the sense of belonging to the Dominican family
 - to recognise and encourage the gifts of others
 - to discern, affirm and support prophetic voices and action
 - to critique and respond to need, injustice and misuse of power.

a) Membership

1. Membership of the Lay Dominicans of Aotearoa –New Zealand is open to those who
 - Commit to Lay Dominican life and mission, according to the stated vision
 - Participate in the life of the Dominican Family of Aotearoa New Zealand through their involvement in prayer, community, study and mission
 - Take opportunities for ongoing formation, education and learning.

b) Ongoing Formation

Formation is integral to Dominican spirituality, life and mission.

1. All members are encouraged to develop a basic knowledge of Dominican spirituality, the Dominican saints, the history of the Order and recent developments in Dominican life.

For those new to the Dominican Family there will be the opportunity to meet and talk with an experienced Lay Dominican and/or a Sister or a Friar.

2. This would be lived out through
 - following God's call in an authentic Dominican way
 - Regular formation and/or suggested reading around the Four Pillars: Prayer, Study, Mission and Community.
 - Active and regular participation in Dominican Family groups. Meetings will typically include elements of prayer, study, mission and a shared meal.

Connection and dialogue from a Dominican perspective that enables us to live as community and engage as Dominicans in the world around us.

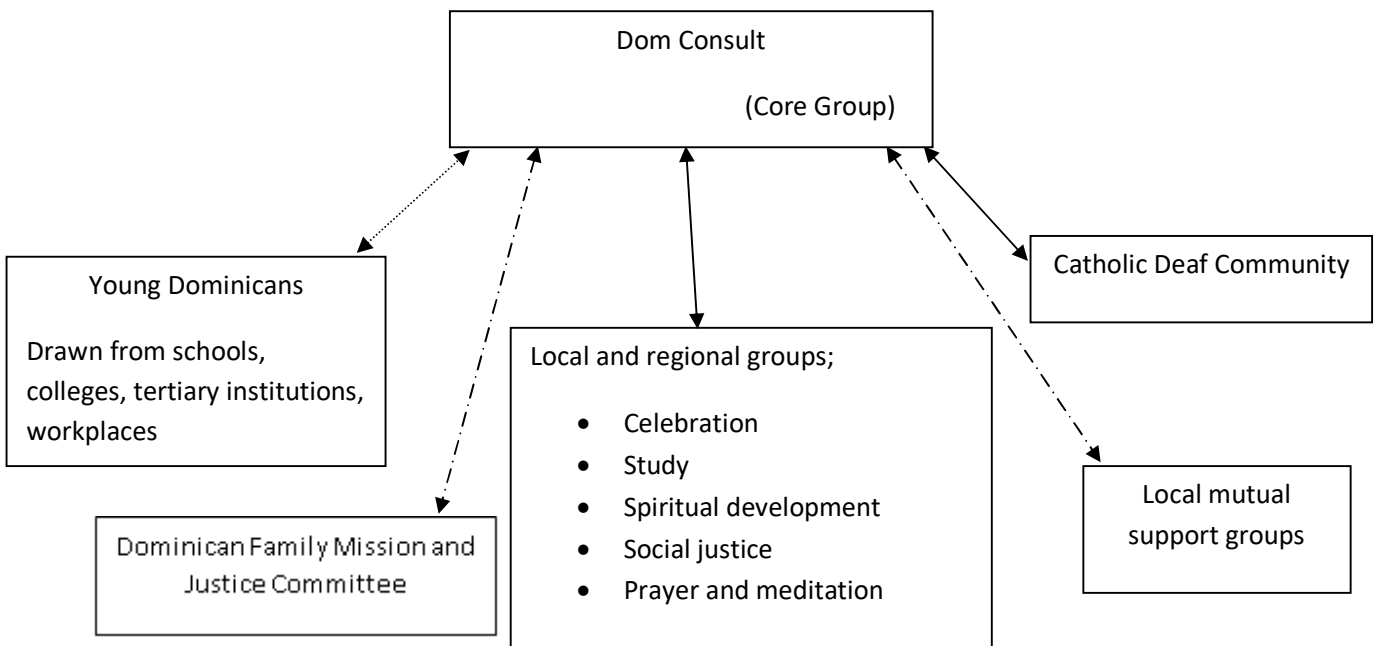
c) Formal Commitment

1. Following a period of discernment members of the Lay Dominicans of Aotearoa – New Zealand may choose to make a statement of commitment to living the mission and charism of the Dominican Family. This commitment could be made in the presence of a local group or gathering of the Dominican Family. If this is not possible a member can send a digital or written statement to Dom Consult.
2. A register will be held of those who have made this commitment.

d) Lay Dominicans of Aotearoa New Zealand –

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Organisational Structure



Comments:

1. This organisational chart is organic and flexible, open to new initiatives and groups, and should be up-dated regularly.
2. Anyone who identifies as Lay Dominican and is isolated, for what-ever reason, from these groups, is still part of the network.
3. Existing history of the network ([https://www.dominicans.org.nz/dominican-family-projects/laity/how-the-aotearoa-new-zealand-laity-group-started/.](https://www.dominicans.org.nz/dominican-family-projects/laity/how-the-aotearoa-new-zealand-laity-group-started/)) should be included as an appendix to this document.

Definitions

1. Dom Consult is the leadership group for Lay Dominicans of Aotearoa–New Zealand in their commitment to the Dominican life and mission.

It promotes initiatives that contribute to the life and mission of the Dominican Family, facilitates communication and oversees administrative matters. There are representatives from across the country.

Where practical, membership of Dom Consult will be on a three-year rotational basis (with an option to renew for a further three-year period).

There is a strong two-way communication with grassroots groups and decisions are reached through a consensus process.

1:1 Core Group

Within Dom Consult there will be a small core group, three to four members, chosen by Dom Consult.

The core group will see that the following are in place:

- Respectful communication within the network
- Management of finances
- Organisation of national gatherings
- Sourcing and developing of formation and spiritual development material
- Maintenance of accessible archives
- Ensuring that there is a named person as point of contact between Dom Consult and Sisters, Friars and other/international bodies
- Holding and maintaining a membership register

2. Dominican Family Mission and Justice Committee of Aotearoa New Zealand

The vision of the Dominican Family Mission and Justice Committee seek to live is the following: to nourish and nurture the preaching mission of the Dominican Family within Aotearoa New Zealand.

This group is drawn from all three branches of the Dominican Family. Each branch appoints its own representatives.