## Guiding Document for Common Study & Reflection on

# PARTNERSHIP

### LEARNING: ANCHORED IN OUR DOMINICAN HERITAGE...

- Saint Paul defined the nature of partnership: "We, though many are one body, individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them." (Romans 12: 4-6)
- Saint Dominic created a new structure for partnership: the Order of Preachers, which in partnership with the Church, strives to proclaim the light and hope of the Gospel to all.
- From its origin, the international Dominican Order has participated in the resources of universities: partnerships engaging liberal arts and professions in communal study and dialogue to pursue truth and promote justice.
- Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, founder of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, exemplified the promise of partnership: in pursuit of his mission, he developed vital partnerships across religious, economic, cultural and institutional boundaries.
- The Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa continue to expand the scope and impact of partnership: they commit themselves and their ministries to seeking and fostering right relationships within the human family and with Earth that sustains us.

### BELIEFS: WHAT DOES THIS REALLY MEAN TO US...

- Partnerships are honest, open, and respectful commitments to a shared purpose.
- They arise out of the deep human need for companionship and the capacity for cooperation and mutual support.
- Dynamic partnerships develop and evolve when participating members integrate the rich diversity of their gifts.
- The student-teacher partnership is at the center of our Mission as a learning community.

### ACTIONS: WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO DO...

- Promote partnerships as essential to our existence as a community and to realizing our Mission.
- Engage in study, contemplation and dialogue to discern how, where and with whom we will respond to the needs and opportunities of the world.
- Discern and develop our individual strengths and resources while welcoming and affirming the gifts and perspectives others contribute to our partnerships within and beyond this learning community.
- Provide leadership in forming, developing and celebrating partnerships across diverse landscapes of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, nationality.

