



# The National Association of Vocation & Formation Directors NAVFD

## Why

NAVFD grew out of a desire for those members charged with vocation or formation ministry in their congregations to have a place to meet and engage in discussion. Initially, gatherings took place under the auspices of the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC). The vocation mandate was largely lost with the restructuring of CRC. Those who had engaged in the CRC sponsored events continued to communicate resulting in a national Conference held in Halifax in 2008. At that meeting NAVFD was formed and received Letters Patent in 2009 to officially establish the organization with legal status. NAVFD was granted registered charity status in 2013.

## Who

Membership includes Vocation and Formation Directors across Canada as well as congregational leadership people and others dedicated to fostering a spirit of vocation culture across Canada. There is a Board of Directors drawn from across Canada as well as a part time paid Executive Director: Sr Nancy Sullivan, CSJ. The current President of the Board of NAVFD is Sr Mary Rowell, CSJ.

## Contact Information

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## How

When NAVFD was starting out, congregations were approached to make a donation for the start up of the organization. Congregations were very generous. Since then, members pay an annual membership fee which in recent years has been \$210. Donors are approached for sponsorship for the conference and participants also pay a conference fee. The Diocese of Hamilton provided a contribution for the 2016 conference in Winnipeg for which NAVFD is grateful. Due to the generosity of donors, NAVFD offered free membership for 2017.

## What

1. Hosts the popular website [vocations.ca](http://vocations.ca) where searchers come to look for information about discernment and congregations and dioceses.
2. Produces a simple monthly newsletter with information relevant to members.
3. Provides other opportunities for input and discussion for example, teleconference calls.
4. Provides materials e.g. discernment cards created and produced in 2016.
5. Provides support for members whose ministry is sometimes isolating in their congregation.
6. Offers a conference every two years with keynote speakers and workshops designed to enhance the ministry of the members.

## Future Hopes

NAVFD wants to further embrace its role as a truly national organization including more of a presence in Quebec. A grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was applied for and received which will allow a nation-wide survey to be carried out to help congregations in their work of vocation animation. A strategic plan will also be developed to carry the organization into the future, serving its members more widely, through fostering a culture of vocation across Canada