



# WISDOM CONNECTIONS: *Timeless Tradition ↔ Technological Times*

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## ***Wisdom Connections Timeless Traditions ↔ Technological Times***

### **INFORMATION**

*Updated 09/20/2023*

Wisdom Connections was established November 30, 2014, for women's Benedictine communities with women in initial formation. It was conceived, organized, and implemented by a group of volunteer Benedictine sisters. Starting December 2017, Wisdom Connections moved under the North American Benedictine Vocation Formation Conference (NABVFC) and is administered by that Core Team. Sister Michelle, the reports to the NABVFC Core Team.

At its inception, the mission of Wisdom Connections was to create a program of formation and education for newer members and to develop an ongoing method of communication using technology. A generous grant from the GHR Foundation funded the 1<sup>st</sup> three years of the program but it is now supported by membership fees. The scope of the program has now moved to include all Benedictine communities and allows for use in ongoing formation as well as initial formation for community members. As of November of 2018, several presenters have allowed for Oblate participation in viewing videos (please carefully read the *Wisdom Connections Rules & Regulations*).

We respect and appreciate the women and men religious who have presented for Wisdom Connections as well as the contributions they have made to make it successful. Many of the presenters are still in active ministry and continue to present to groups and religious communities in person for pay. Likewise, some have contributed presentations they still actively sell to religious and lay people. For these reasons, we do not want to compromise the previously signed contract agreements between the presenters and Wisdom Connections which aim to protect them and their intellectual property as well as any invitations for future speaking engagements nor the selling of their work.

These *Rules & Regulations* are issued to provide members with information about appropriate use of Wisdom Connections regarding the digital information provided. This membership agreement between Wisdom Connections T4 and the members also specifies that Wisdom Connections retains ownership of all data and that the members agree to observe the *Wisdom Connections Rules & Regulations* in its use. Members are also required to implement these Rules & Regulations within their organization regarding use, collection, retention, and distribution of all Wisdom Connections data.

Membership in *Wisdom Connections Timeless Traditions ↔ Technological Times* depends on member organizations obliging by these *Rules & Regulations*.

Any questions for clarification or concerns can be sent to Sister Michelle Sinkhorn, Wisdom Connections Program Director & Technology Administrator, by emailing her at [wisdomconnectionst4@gmail.com](mailto:wisdomconnectionst4@gmail.com).

Return this membership form and payment to:

**Wisdom Connections  
Sister Michelle Sinkhorn, OSB  
802 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ferdinand, IN 47532 USA**

***Make checks payable to: Sisters of St. Benedict***



# WISDOM CONNECTIONS:

*Timeless Tradition ↔ Technological Times*



Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

WC Main Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country

WC Contact Person's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Office #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization's Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Superior's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please register us for:**

1 YEAR      2 YEARS  
 3 YEARS

*Fee = number of years times the annual membership fee of \$500.*

NOTE: To maintain membership, organizations must abide by the WC Rules & Regulations\* and respect and enforce these rules with all community members in member organization. There are no refunds nor prorated allowances.

**Are you able to contribute to the WC Scholarship Fund to help others?**

Yes                  No

If Yes, how much can you contribute: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!**

## OTHER MEMBERSHIP INFO NEEDED

Number of members in your community: \_\_\_\_\_ Age range: \_\_\_\_\_

Technology:    Wi-Fi                  YES      NO                  Average Bandwidth \_\_\_\_\_ Mbps  
                          Network                  YES      NO                  Average Connection Speed \_\_\_\_\_ Mbps

Is your community interested in a T4 orientation & training session?    YES      NO      MAYBE  
(see Rules & Regulations for more details)

Do you have members in Initial Formation?    YES      NO      If YES, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered YES, do you desire to have them participate in video calls with members in Initial Formation from other communities? \*    YES      NO

**If YES, please complete the additional application for Relationship Groups.**

**\*Membership Form must be received no later than December 10<sup>th</sup> to be assigned to a group.**

Name of primary Formation Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

**For T4 Office use only**

Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Yrs \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Our organization, if accepted, hereby agrees to abide by the Rules & Regulations\* of Wisdom Connections and to respect and adhere to them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Organization's Superior*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Wisdom Connections Contact Person*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Make checks payable to: **Sisters of St. Benedict**

# Application for Wisdom Connections Relationship Groups

*To be completed by the primary formation director of the community*

Monastery Name \_\_\_\_\_

Monastery Address \_\_\_\_\_

Time Zone \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Formation Director \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of community member in initial formation AND Month & Year of Birth	Status Postulant, Novice, or 1st Professed	Date this status was gained	Email Address	Formation Director's Name	Formation Director's Email

*Please indicate if co-ed groups are okay for your members or if you prefer women or men only:* \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage one or more formators to participate in a formators-only group. Formation personnel have found these meetings especially helpful. For formation directors we need similar information as above and, additionally, whether you would be willing at some point to be a facilitator for a group of members in initial formation.

Full Name of initial formation director	Email Address	Phone # (best number to be reached)	Please indicate which of the following you would like to and / or are willing to participate in or apply to you: Formator Group, Facilitate a group, Currently in a group

# Wisdom Connections Rules & Regulations

Updated 09/20/2023

1. The Wisdom Connections webpage is protected with a username and password. This username and password are not to be given out to anyone except for the use of initial and ongoing formation by members of the organization. It is never, for any reason, to be given to anyone outside of the member organization.
2. The *Wisdom Connections Digital Library* is password protected. This password is not to be given out to anyone except for the use of initial and ongoing formation by members of the organization. It is never, for any reason, to be given to anyone outside of the member organization.
3. Some presenters have allowed for Oblate participation in viewing videos. This is to be done with and operated by the Wisdom Connections member community members. A special *Wisdom Connections Oblate Digital Library* has been established for this purpose, and the videos in that library are the only ones to be used with Oblates. No usernames or passwords are to be given out to Oblate members. If the member community has a lay Oblate Director, this person only will be given the credentials. S/he is not to give it out to any other oblates.
4. The secure portion of the Wisdom Connections webpage provides members with Dropbox links to biographies, PowerPoints, photos, and other documents. These documents may be downloaded to a personal device or saved to personal Dropbox accounts by members within the organization. With the exception of printed handouts (for Oblates), said documents are never, for any reason, to be given electronically to anyone outside of the member organization.
5. For the purposes of Wisdom Connection, organization members include pre-postulants (living in community), postulants, novices, temporary professed, and perpetually professed. For the purposes of Wisdom Connection, Oblates, lay associates, live-in volunteers, etc. are NOT considered members of the organization; therefore, the Wisdom Connections webpage, digital library, and Dropbox links and documents are not to be used with or shared with them, except for viewing with Oblates (see #3 above).
6. Purchase and upkeep of devices for use in accessing Wisdom Connections information is the responsibility of the member organization. Likewise, the ability to access Wisdom Connections information via network, modem, or Wi-Fi connections is the responsibility of the member organization.
7. Member organizations will have access to instructional videos and a *Wisdom Connections Technology Handbook*. It is the responsibility of the organization to have someone on hand to interpret and implement these instructions for access and use of Wisdom Connections. Minimal technological assistance may be provided by the Wisdom Connections staff to the member Wisdom Connections contact person.
8. There is an option to have Wisdom Connections staff travel to a member monastery in order to provide a 1-2 day Wisdom Connections overview and technological training (for Wisdom Connections). If this option is chosen, the member organization will be responsible for travel expenses of Wisdom Connections staff and a stipend of \$1,000.
9. A community's participation in Initial Formation Relationship groups is **HIGHLY** recommended. Wisdom Connections volunteers will create groups for members in initial formation and formation directors for communities in the United States (members in countries outside the U.S. will be considered on a case-by-case basis). Any other group created, such as, superiors, treasurers, vocation directors, etc. or in other countries will be the responsibility of members of organizations to create, implement and maintain.
10. Members of the organization who participate in the Wisdom Connections Relationship groups agree to hold any and all information confidential – this includes but is not limited to: other member's contact information, documents shared within the group, and all conversation held while meeting with the group.
11. Purchase and upkeep of devices for use in Wisdom Connections Relationship video calls is the responsibility of the member organization. Likewise, the ability to access the Wisdom Connections video calling program and participate in calls via network, modem, or Wi-Fi connections is the responsibility of the member organization. (See #6 and #7 above)
12. Wisdom Connections retains ownership of all data contained in the T4 webpage, the T4 digital library, and the T4 Oblate digital library, including but not limited to all Dropbox files, videos, and webpage design and images.
13. Members are required to share and implement these *Wisdom Connections Rules & Regulations* within their organization and lay Oblate directors. Failure to abide by these *Wisdom Connections Rules & Regulations* may result in termination of Wisdom Connections membership of your organization without refund of any portion of the registration fee.

***These Rules & Regulations are subject to change. Any changes will be communicated to Wisdom Connections contact person in a timely manner and after communication is made, members will be asked to oblige by the new regulations.***