

## **SVDP CONFERENCE FAMILY**

### **Guiding Principles Merger**

Forming a “harmonizing committee” will assist conferences in setting up and following the principles developed by the committee to assess and critique proposed combined conference guidelines. This will be a “living document,” and will be updated as needed as we progress through the conference merger process.

#### **NEIGHBORS:**

1. We must keep service to our neighbors as our top priority. Any changes must be perceived as net neutral or an improvement by our neighbors.
2. We want to serve our neighbors in a consistent manner – meaning that one group of neighbors should not somehow be given “better” service than other groups.
3. We want to retain the ability for Vincentians to “connect” and develop relationships with neighbors they serve.

#### **SPIRITUALITY & FRIENDSHIP:**

4. We must maintain the Spirituality of our ministry – and encourage all members to be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
5. We want to encourage Vincentian friendships to flourish, both within and among the legacy conferences.

#### **FINANCES:**

6. We must be good stewards of the funds provided to us by our donors.

#### **SERVICE:**

7. We must allow all Vincentians to have a voice in the processes and policies that are established for the combined conference.
8. We want to become more efficient in serving our neighbors – in that overhead and “non-value added” time for our Vincentians is reduced.
9. We want the flexibility in our processes to enable Vincentians to choose their home visit partners, the time frames, and the regions that they serve.
10. We want to respect the personal lives of Vincentians and avoid “burnout” or undue stress in our work of service.

#### **LASTLY:**

We encourage all Vincentians to help adopt best practices in our Ministry and to keep an open mind regarding the final structure of our combined SVdP Conference.