

## Spirituality of Being in Communion

“...the perception that we are separate from one another and the Divine is the root cause of all dysfunction... Somewhere along the line, we lost the thread of the true story

of union  
of wholeness  
of God-with-us and us-for-each other. ..

*... new stories need to be told about everything from ecology and faith to money and power, and they need to be told from many different perspectives...*”

- Richard Rohr



## Origins

### *Pregnant with New Life*

The origins of The Presentation way of life was born of this longing for wholeness and communion... *“of the courage to speak a different story... to sing a different song... to walk new paths and to go one pace beyond...”*

This seed of Life, this communion has been sprouting and growing and finding new expressions over a long period of time... within the Earth, within all peoples and within us Presentation peoples everywhere...

We sensed its presence  
Sometimes heard it's voice  
Gentle and subtle at first  
Then the voices become more audible as many of us speak it together...

The longing for this union as expressed in our Constitutions 1988:

*“... Rooted in the reality of our daily life, in the joys and sorrows of the people...in the beauty of creation ... we discover the mysterious presence of God”*

We spoke it into birth at the 1996 CG

*“...We feel it too, in the anguish and pain of broken relationships...  
In the intense longing for community...*

*Of earth and cosmos  
Of nations and peoples  
Of women and men  
Of poor and rich....”*

*Our Vision is wholeness of creation.*

We nurtured this seed ... we planted it... we saw it taking roots as we felt disturbed by brokenness, we pledged solidarity, we sought healing and reconciliation, We were passionate for justice... we committed to work for wholeness of creation... we ignited the flame within us as we spoke as one voice at our CG 2001

This is who we are becoming:



## *The birthing*

At our Congregational Gathering 2006 we experienced **a major shift in consciousness** – We were given wings as it were ... Life confronted us ... ‘we felt pressured from within to evolve’... to embrace an enlarged vision of who we are and who our God is! We were confronted with ‘*our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to future generations.*’ (CG 2001)

Awakening to the Mystery became a catch phrase ... we found ourselves at the threshold of a new birthing... we heard insistent invitations to us to move to new places where we have not travelled before... above all, it was an invitation to a new

way of relating and being human. We were ready and the Universe was ready to bring forth the new moment!

The spirit led us to new horizons... our tents widened, our hearts enlarged and our world is awaiting the new emergence... "We are the ones we are waiting for". And we made this ground breaking commitment to do our spiritual search in a more expansive and inclusive way. Here it is ... this is our way into the future... it is written large in our every document ever since that breakthrough moment!

*"We commit ourselves to a spirituality of being in communion that seeks God in the inter-connectedness of the whole of creation and empowers active love for self, others and all of nature". CG 2006*

*"Listen to...The cry of the earth...the cry of the Poor" Theme of IPA Assembly 2007*

*"Awakening to the Mystery of God, the Mystery of Life, Mystery of Oneness and the Mystery of Love" CG 2012*

*"Our mission is to speak and act in partnership with others for global justice from a contemplative stance in a spirit of oneness with the whole of creation" IPA Assembly 2017*

*"We are called to awaken to the Spirit of God present and active in all that exists, to a Spirituality of Being in Communion, and to participate in the universal mission Jesus Christ" CG 2018, C3*

*"Humanity is awakening to our inherent Oneness which addresses the illusion of separation" Brian McLaren*

*... to be continued*

*Brigit Mathew pbvm  
Africa Unit.*