Preparatory Guide for
WUCWO Conversations in the Spirit
May 6, 2025

To prepare to be part of the WUCWO global Conversation in the Spirit event, please take some time to reflect on the final Synod document and prayerfully reflect on the questions below. During the Conversation small groups, you will be invited to share the fruit of your reflection on these questions. The full text of the Final Synod Document can be found HERE.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE SYNOD'S FINAL DOCUMENT

The synod's final document, endorsed by Pope Francis as part of the Magisterium of the Church, defines synodality as walking together with Christ and towards God's Kingdom, in union with all humanity. It indicates the specific way of living and acting of the Church, the People of God, which manifests and concretely realises its being communion in walking together, in gathering in assembly and in the active participation of all its members in its evangelising mission. It includes prayer, mutual listening, dialogue, and community discernment to reach consensus-based decisions illuminated by the Holy Spirit.

The document highlights the importance of the **conversion of relationships**, renewing relationships with God, between men and women, in the family, the local community, and between different religious groups; the **conversion of processes** for ecclesial discernment, responsible decision-making, and accountability, with transparency and evaluation; the **conversion of bonds**, highlighting the need to cultivate new forms of sharing gifts and networks of bonds that unite the Church and the **formation for missionary discipleship**, stressing the importance of integral and shared formation, involving men and women, laity, consecrated persons, and ordained ministers, so that everyone can bear witness to the Gospel.

"Charisms, vocation and ministries for mission" are at the heart of the Synod's final document. It highlights the need for greater participation of women and lay people in ministries.

This document already contains very concrete indications that are a guide for the mission of the Churches on the various continents and in the different contexts. The path and the ground rules have already been set. Now it is up to all of us: bishops, priests, religious, consecrated and lay people, united in diversity, to work to transform our church into a synodal Church with its three vital pillars: Communion, Participation and Mission.

QUESTIONS

1.Taking into account your own and other women's experience of participation in roles, ministries and decision-making in the Church, prayerfully consider the following questions:

- **In what ways is the synodal process enhancing your gifts and charisms as a woman (or man)?**
- **Are the members and/or structures of your local Church actively embracing Pope Francis' call to be a synodal Church in mission? How? (give some examples)**

2. While efforts are made to give more roles and participation in decision making to women within the Church, take some more time in silence and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you now to discern:

What specific actions or changes would you propose to:

- **foster communication, collaboration and co-responsibility among all the baptized in your church community**
- **promote greater participation of women in the governance, liturgical roles and missionary activities of your local Church?**

How could you personally contribute to this process?