

Characteristics of “Co-existence”:

- members of group share some common history, mission or membership.
- individual or groups exist separately or independently of each other
- the relationship between them has no mutual expectations or accountability; the only point of connection is membership in the same group

4 LEVELS OF

COMMUNION

Characteristics of “Communication”:

- intentional decision to have mutual interaction and dialogue
- members of group have mutual access to each other
- more interaction among the members and sharing of information, eg. calendars, activities
- attendance at joint meetings or combined workshops leads to discussing matters of common and mutual interest
- initial sharing of information leads to deeper sharing of ideals and values and a growing awareness of bond of a shared mission.

Characteristics of “Co-operation”:

- growing awareness that individuals and programs do not exist in isolation but have an impact on each other, either positively or negatively
- movement towards inter-dependence. Eg. a parish ministry describes their initiative in light of the mission of the diocese; other ministries decide how they can support this effort.

Characteristics of “Collaboration”:

- acknowledges, articulates and experiences a sense of ownership of a common mission
- achieves a sense of unity accompanied by a desire to work together for a common goal
- “Turf” issues and competition are replaced by a spirit of mutuality and partnership
- intentional decision to identify, value and unite the exercise of different gifts.
- collaboration occurs when all the different gifts/charisms are freely joined together for the common purpose of furthering the mission of Jesus Christ.

Adapted from “Collaboration:Uniting Our Gifts in Ministry by Loughlan Sofield, ST and Carroll Juliano, SHCJ