**There is Room at the Table for Everyone**

**Gathering in Circle** [There is Room at the Table for Everyone](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92OM5bdQ4N4) by Carrie Newcomer

Let our hearts not be hardened to those living on the marginThere is room at the table for everyone
This is where it all begins, this is how we gather in
There is room at the table for everyone

Too long we have wandered, burdened and undone
But there is room at the table for everyone
Let us sing the new world in, this is how it all begins
There is room at the table for everyone

Refrain:

There is room for us all
And no gift is too small
There is room at the table for everyone
There's enough if we share
Come on pull up a chair
There room at the table for everyone

No matter who you are, no matter where you're from
There is room at the table for everyone
Here and now we can be, the beloved community
There is room at the table for everyone

Refrain

**Kitchen Spirituality:**

Kitchens are sacred spaces, right? Think of everything that happens in your own kitchen, and around your own kitchen table.

* The place where you prepare and eat the food that nourishes you
* Where you see your family in all their vulnerability: barely awake in the morning, upset over a hurt, thrilled about a new boyfriend)
* The place where you share your plans with one another
* Where you gather to celebrate joys and grieve losses

This kitchen in LePuy served much the same way for our first 6 sisters in France. This is the place where they shared their hopes and dreams, and the needs of their dear neighbors around the city they loved. This is where they “divided the city” and planned with whom they could partner and how they could make an impact on the poverty, illness and hurts they were in touch with.

We’re gathering in a replica of that same kitchen to begin this Convocation. The neighborhood is larger…but YOU are the members of the Family of Joseph who have identified needs…and partners…and are making an impact on poverty, illnesses and hurts in your own neighborhoods. YOU are Mission Bearers, and it is YOUR hopes and dreams that are making a difference in the these turbulent times.

**Closing:** *Judith*

So…we invite you to use this meeting time to:

* Listen for what nourishes and renews you
* Connect with all who are present
* Share your hopes and dreams and plans with one another
* Celebrate your joys with us, and grieve any losses.

Let’s pray our closing prayer together:

**God of Oneness,**

We commit to you the sacred work of this Meeting.
Thank you for everyone present and for the mission and charism we seek to advance.

As our time together begins,

May we listen deeply,

Share openly,

Speak clearly,

Act with integrity,

Eat often

And laugh abundantly,

Seeking always to grow as a community of learners and leaders.

Amen!