

MERCY WELLSPRINGS NEWSLETTER



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LIVING THE VALUES OF MERCY WELLSPRINGS

Compassion – respect dignity of each person, extend tenderness and care to whole of creation

Respect – recognize each one uniquely made in God’s image, celebrate beauty & integrity of creation

Justice – uphold and support the rights of all persons and Earth

Collaboration - engage others as partners, welcome diversity and inclusion

Deep Listening - hear the voices of people, of Earth beings, and of Earth herself



Mercy Wellsprings Board of Directors

HAPPY ST PATRICK’S DAY!!

Goodbye to winter and hello to spring!!

We are a few months into 2025, and a lot is happening. Thank you to the Members and Board of Mercy Wellsprings as well as the Sisters of Mercy Leadership for collaborating to define a high level roadmap for Mercy Wellsprings as well as actions we want to take specifically in 2025.

We are on a journey that does not have a defined map but working together we will define the path forward to ensure Mercy Wellspring’s success.

With any large transformational change, it is important we take the necessary time and steps to ensure we are doing things thoughtfully and to ensure the Congregation understands and feels comfortable with what is happening.

“The adage – never to old to learn – is a great comfort to me.” Catherine McAuley

THE FEBRUARY STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

On February 5, 2025, Mercy Wellsprings held a strategic planning session with the Members and the Board members of Mercy Wellsprings along with the congregational leadership. Below are the highlights of that meeting:

Welcome, Gathering Prayer & Formation Moment

Group Discussion – The group had a thoughtful discussion regarding ‘What does Mercy Wellsprings mean to you’ and What do you want to take away from this session?.

Review of Mercy Wellsprings – Sister Elizabeth Davis presented a summary of the history of the Sisters of Mercy, the sponsored ministries, the rationale for development of Mercy Wellsprings and its components, the Mercy Wellsprings foundational statement and its guiding principles. It was an excellent review and a reminder of why we are gathering together for Mercy Wellsprings.

Review of 6 Stages of Implementation – Sister Elizabeth Davis outlined the stages of Mercy Wellsprings’ implementation which we believe will take the next few years to fully implement.



Formation Session March 2025

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THE MARCH FORMATION SESSION

On March 12, 2025, Mercy Wellsprings held a Formation session with the Members, Board, congregational leadership and leadership from the sponsored ministries. This was the first Formation session we held where Dr Anne Walsh (Formation Consultant with Mercy Wellsprings) presented Formation materials and facilitated a discussion. The plan is to do more of these sessions with the sponsored ministries in the coming months.

Feedback was positive and the group will now continue their formation journey through self learning and reflection with a plan to meet again later this year to continue with Formation discussions.

Stage 1: Establishment of Mercy Wellsprings: Mercy Wellsprings was incorporated in the Province of NL on August 10, 2023. Members, Board members, Executive Director and Formation Consultant are in place, Foundational statement, guiding principles and By-laws have been created, a newsletter is in place, and strategic plans are moving forward. Further work in the areas of governance, finances, and administrative work will continue this year.

Stage 2: Formation: Formation is alive and moving forward with the Members, Board and sponsored ministries. A Formation program has been developed by Sister Elizabeth Marrie, Sister Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Anne Walsh and Susan Elliott. Program implementation will occur this year.

Stage 3: Transfer of Property & Assets: The Congregation will transfer property and assets to Mercy Wellsprings after consideration of the implications from the perspective of DICLSAL, from the perspective of the individual ministries and from the perspective of good governance. More sessions are to occur to further understand these perspectives and to develop a plan forward.

Stage 4: Transfer of Oversight of the Ministries: After an appropriate time of Formation, the Congregation will transfer the sponsored ministries to Mercy Wellsprings. A decision will need to be made about the order and timing of transfers.

Stage 5: Connections Globally: Establish formal links with Mercy International Association (MIA) ([Mercy World - Leaders of Worldwide Mercy Congregations, Institutes and Federations](#)) and other like-minded entities in the Mercy World (e.g. Australia, New Zealand).

Stage 6: Realignment of Existing Ministries and Addition of new Ministries: Once Mercy Wellsprings is fully functioning, it will be able to amend, end, create or fund new Mercy ministries as needed.

2025 Focus Areas – While we are progressing through the implementation stages outlined above, key areas of focus for 2025 include:

- Formation Program development and implementation for Mercy Wellsprings as well as for the sponsored ministries
- Governance & policy development & implementation
- Logo & website development & implementation
- Further administrative setup
- Understanding of property and assets and working with the Congregation to determine the best path forward for transferring these to Mercy Wellsprings