

MERCY WELLSPRINGS NEWSLETTER



Vol 2, Issue 4 - December 2025

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



Brent Meade, Jim Meaney, Ann Manning (back row)
Sr Elizabeth Davis, Sr Diane Smyth, George Furey (Chair), Meghan Gardner

Mercy Wellsprings Board of Directors

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST FOR 2026 FROM MERCY WELLSPRINGS!!

As we come to the close of the year, the Board and Executive Director of **Mercy Wellsprings** extend heartfelt wishes for a **Merry Christmas** and abundant blessings in **2026**.

Reflecting on 2025, Mercy Wellsprings made meaningful progress in establishing itself as a charitable entity committed to carrying forward the enduring work of the Sisters of Mercy. We offer our sincere gratitude to all Boards and staff across our sponsored ministries for their dedication, leadership, and tireless efforts to keep Mercy values and culture vibrant in every aspect of their service.

As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with hope and anticipation. We remain committed to our transition journey and to strengthening the legacy of the **Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland** — a legacy that continues to inspire and guide us.

“The simplest and most practical lesson I know... is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow. Let us take one day only in hand, at a time, merely making a resolve for tomorrow. Thus we may hope to get on, taking short, careful steps, not great strides.” Catherine McAuley

FALL UPDATE

Over the past few months, we have continued to advance the work related to Formation, logo development with m5, transition planning, and governance and policy development. Although steady progress is being made, a substantial amount of work is still required before Mercy Wellsprings is fully established as a separate charitable entity. We anticipate significant movement on this planning and implementation in 2026 and look forward to sharing more details in future newsletters.

Formation

Everyone is encouraged to engage in self-study and personal reflection as you continue to review the Formation materials which can be found [here](#) on the Sisters of Mercy – Mercy Wellsprings webpage. There will be more information as it relates to the Formation program in 2026 so stay tuned.



Mercy Wellsprings Logo

We have continued to work closely with m5 Marketing Communications to develop a logo that captures the identity and spirit of Mercy Wellsprings. We are excited to share that the design process is complete, and we hope to unveil the logo that will represent Mercy Wellsprings into the future early in 2026.

Strategy - Transition Planning

On October 3, the Board met to review and outline the proposed transition plan. Sister Elizabeth Davis provided two documents to guide the discussion: **(1) Links Between the Congregational Leadership Team and Seven Sponsored Ministries – Draft One** and **(2) Mercy Wellsprings – Stages of Implementation**. These materials will continue to inform our planning work.

The updated **Stages of Implementation** are intended to be iterative rather than strictly sequential. They include:

- **Stage One:** Establishment of Mercy Wellsprings
- **Stage Two:** Formation
- **Stage Three:** Preparation for Transfer of Oversight, Property, and Assets
- **Stage Four:** Transfer of Oversight of Sponsored Ministries
- **Stage Five:** Connections Nationally and Globally
- **Stage Six:** Realignment of Existing Ministries and Addition of New Ministries

We agreed that this information should be shared with the Congregational Leadership, Mercy Wellsprings Members, and Boards of the sponsored ministries, both to communicate our approach and to gather feedback. A few sessions were held in November with the Congregational Leadership, Mercy Wellsprings Members, Misericordia Mission Fund, and the Mercy Centre for Ecology & Justice. These conversations were well received and generated thoughtful dialogue. The rest of the meetings with Sponsored Ministries will take place in January and February 2026.

Another follow-up action from the October 3 meeting was consultation with the Congregational Canon Lawyer. On November 21, the Board met with Sister Bonnie MacLellan for an initial discussion on potential canonical requirements as we continue planning the transition of sponsored ministries to Mercy Wellsprings.

Christmas at Sisters of Mercy Generalate

Contact Us

Mercy Wellsprings Inc

2nd Floor
230 Waterford Bridge Road
St. John's, NL
A1E 1E2

Phone: 709-793-3715

susan.elliott@mercywellsprings.com

Web Page (SOM website):

[Mercy Wellsprings page](#)

MERCY WELLSPRINGS BOARD UPDATE

On December 4, the Mercy Wellsprings Board held its final meeting for 2025. During this meeting many topics were discussed including Formation, the Logo, where we are with transition planning as well as governance and policy development. It was agreed we will continue on the path that was set for transition planning. We also agreed that the Committee Chairs and Executive Director will meet in the January to do a deeper review of governance and policy development so that when we are ready to transition, the governance structure will be firmly in place. We continue to work toward the ultimate goal of sustainability aligned with [Mercy Wellsprings' Foundational Statement and Guiding Principles](#).