February 22, 2019

JOURNEY OF ONEINESS UPDATE: Stewardship

Institute moves to new budget forms
As people all across the United States enter the annual season of income tax filing, Sisters of Mercy across the Institute have begun the annual process of personal and house budgeting. This year, that process marks a new moment in our Journey of Oneness.

To enable the Institute to create an overall budget with assurance that the data for sisters’ expenses are consistent across our U.S.-based Communities, all sisters and house groups are using the same budget forms. This means that the types of expenses that sisters or local Communities assign to each budget category will generally be the same across the Institute.

This new moment of Institute-wide personal/house budget forms follows a recommendation of the Stewardship Development Team. The forms were created in collaboration with Community Finance Officers and leadership teams and the Institute Leadership Conference’s (ILC) Leadership Finance Committee, composed of one Community Leadership Team (CLT) member from each Community.

While the forms are new, most of the budgeting process follows familiar practices in each Community. Thus, earlier this month, it was the Communities that introduced the new forms to their members. This arrangement allowed each Community to address specific aspects of the new forms that differed from previous budget materials. Also, as in the past, sisters or house groups will return their budgets to their Community office, and sisters needing assistance will find it at the Community level.