August 8, 2019

JOURNEY OF ONENESS UPDATE: Association

Mercy associate serves in two geographic areas
As of July 7, 2019, Tylia (Ty) Barnes began serving as director of Mercy Association for both South Central and West Midwest. Ty has served as South Central’s director of association since 2013. In addition to leading the implementation phase for association for the Journey of Oneness, she currently chairs the Mercy Association Leadership Council (MALC).

The leadership teams thoughtfully considered this combined position, which provides for one director across the large geographic expanse of West Midwest and South Central. This new arrangement will allow for learning the implications of a single person directing association across the Institute, as will occur in July 2020. A warm, gracious leader with a depth of understanding of Mercy, the Critical Concerns and association, Ty will be a great asset to both geographic areas during the Journey of Oneness.

Ty holds a bachelor’s degree in communication and serves on the coordinating committee for the Institute Anti-Racism Transformation Team. Seven years ago, Ty became an associate because she felt inspired and challenged to face with compassion the issues of overlooked populations.

“Because of my associate covenant and community, I feel accountable to live with devotion,” says Ty. “Association allows me to honor the traditions of my faith and culture while moving forward in Jesus Christ through service, prayer and community.” Her hopes for association are to breathe new life into the associate movement and have it become its own unique expression of mercy in our suffering world.

In her free time, Ty makes soy container candles in memory of her husband, Travis, who died two years ago. She also paints on canvas and finds great pleasure lying in her hammock with a good book.
**Photo:** Director of Mercy Association for South Central and West Midwest Tylia Barnes (center) takes a selfie with Sister Kelly Williams and pre-associate Francisco Gamboa Félix.