September 5, 2019

**JOURNEY OF ONENESS UPDATE: New Membership**

**Institute New Membership Team develops plans for the future**

At its first official planning days in August, the Institute New Membership Team (INMT) worked on ways sisters and associates could collaborate as animators in vocation work.

Using feedback from last year’s meetings with sisters, vocation and incorporation ministers, and new members, the team identified a process to engage and invite sisters to participate and developed tools for those interested in this partnership.

The team also created a process for identifying life-giving communities to welcome new members. They shared the purpose and needs of these communities and discussed ways to invite sisters to consider joining one of these communities or offering their local community as one of these welcoming places.

As the team members explore their programs and processes, they will continue to meet regularly with new members in the spirit of learning from each other’s wisdom. They also plan to engage with associates, companions and partners in ministry, especially Mercy Volunteer Corps (MVC), Conference for Mercy Higher Education (CMHE) and Mercy Education System of the Americas (MESA).

Starting in October, the INMT will meet in different places across the Institute and offer opportunities for sisters and associates to hear about these plans, give feedback and offer their generous response to collaborate as animators and life-giving communities.

**Photo:** (From left) Sisters Michele Schroek, Theresa Saetta, Kathleen Sisson, Mary Kay Dobrovolny, Priscilla Moreno, Anne Kappler, Rose Weidenbenner, Ivette Diaz and Eileen Campbell—members of the Institute New Membership Team—discuss their plans for the future at a recent meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.