JOURNEY OF ONENESS UPDATE: Association

Association advances on covenant, guidebook
For the first time in the history of the Institute, Mercy Association will have a common covenant!

An appointed committee with representation from all former communities worked for about eight months on the new covenant, which includes elements from past covenant formats across the Institute. The committee presented its work to the Mercy Association Leadership Council (MALC) Steering Committee and, with its approval, submitted the new covenant format to the Institute Leadership Team, which also affirmed the document.

In addition, at its recent annual conference, MALC worked on what will become the first common guidebook for association. Key elements include organizational structure, policy, procedure, archives, finance/mission advancement, communications and directory. By design, the guidebook will serve as an association resource for the entire Institute.

MALC also began to map a decentralized structure for association that will complement the centralized structure of three full-time staff, as developed by the Association Design/Development Teams. During planning, the council realized that some associates live in geographic areas that no longer have a sister presence. Originally, the MALC Steering Committee thought it necessary to wait and define geographic boundaries by mimicking the Sisters of Mercy definitions. However, they soon realized that association’s decentralized mapping structure is broader, requiring more consideration.

“It’s no small challenge but we are well on our way to becoming one,” says Ty Barnes, project coordinator for association implementation and the director of association for South Central and West Midwest. “Collaboration has been vital in moving this initiative forward. Key constituents, directors and regional association leaders have worked together to produce the covenant and the forthcoming guidebook. We are still on track for implementation by July 2020.”
Photo: Associate Kathryn Quick lights the candle during the opening prayer of the Mercy Association Leadership Council’s annual meeting.