



JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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MISSION GATHERINGS

“TO LIVE JUSTLY, TO LOVE TENDERLY AND TO WALK
HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.” MICAH 6:8



Sister Linda Ferrington.

The Interim Leadership Development Team (ILDТ) was formed in April 2009 to explore and develop formation processes for the Trustees, Board Members and Executive Teams of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (MAM).

During the last week of October the ILDT gathered Board Members, CEO's, Principals and Leadership personnel of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, with the Congregational Leader and Council of the Sisters of Charity and the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries to explore the foundational documents contained in the Petition to establish MAM.

Each day began with Sister Leone Wittmack rsc providing the origin and context of the Theological Statement within a prayerful and reflective framework. For a number of participants it was their first opportunity to view the DVD of Mary Aikenhead Ministries which gave an overview of the development of Mary Aikenhead Ministries and introduced the Trustees as Lay Ecclesial Leaders of this new entity.

Mrs Margaret McKenna and Sister Linda Ferrington rsc broke open the Theological Statement and highlighted the enduring qualities and flexibilities inherent in the richness of the Scriptures. The Theological statement,

dynamic and organic in nature, evoked an invitation for the participants to reflect, share and find their own place in this statement.

The Chairman of the Trustees, Mr Richard Harpham, participated in a conversational interview with Sister Leone. Richard reflected on his own engagement with the Theological Statement. Richard also spoke of the way in which the Trustees have spent many months, with the guidance of the Trustees' Spiritual Companion, praying with, reflecting upon the Statement and engaging in dialogue.

[The Leadership Framework](#)

The interrelationship between the Theological Statement and the Leadership Framework was clearly drawn out by Sister Laureen Dixon rsc. Sister Laureen drew the parallel between the concepts embedded in the Statement and their practical application in the Leadership Framework. Individual reflection and group interaction enabled participants to make connections with their experience.

[A Position of Strength](#)

In concluding the day I emphasised that these days reflected the vision and energy that has been a significant part of the discernment by the Sisters of Charity in establishing Mary Aikenhead Ministries. The position of strength of this new entity is grounded and brought to life because of the dedicated and committed women and men within our facilities.

The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries are committed to continuing the journey of Formation. This will be further developed in seminal conversations in 2010 regarding how all within our facilities exercise leadership within the Church through our service of the poor and marginalised.

[Sister Linda Ferrington](#)
[Trustee Mary Aikenhead Ministries](#)

MISSION GATHERING MELBOURNE

CONVENED BY THE INTERIM LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Photography: Mike Griffin



Sister Annette Cunliffe, Phil Spry-Bailey and John Slattery.



Participants choose a statement.



Sister Lauren Dixon.



Margaret McKenna, Chair of the ILDT, with Sisters of Charity.



Sister Patricia Nunan, Mary Farah and Julia Chamberlin.



April Honeyman, Principal St Columba's College with Sister Linda Ferrington.

RE-ENGAGING WITH OUR MISSION

SYDNEY MISSION GATHERING OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES

Photography: Will Cheung



Sister Leone Wittmack.

The first Sydney mission gathering since the establishment of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (MAM) was held in late October on the St Vincent's Campus. Representatives of health, welfare and education facilities were represented from St Vincent's College through to the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

The three-hour gathering was specifically structured to imbue attendees with a clear and practical outline of the foundational documents of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. Throughout the morning, the focus was on interaction and feedback from attendees – a key emphasis being the tangible impact the Ministries' Theological Statement has on the endeavours of each facility.

Sister Leone Wittmack, National Director of Mission, provided specific background about the mission gathering and its key objectives.



Rick Ashton, Chair of St Vincent's College with the Principal, Fay Gurr.

In her outline of the Theological Statement for Mary Aikenhead Ministries, Trustee Sister Linda Ferrington spoke of MAM's establishment as providing an "opportunity to engage with the men and women who work within the Ministries." Sister Linda explained that mission is embedded in the gift of the Scriptures.

One of the most insightful components of the gathering was the interview of the Chairman of Trustees, Richard Harpham by Sister Leone about how the Theological Statement speaks to him. He spoke about the importance of going back to the Scriptures, to the "ground rules".

During the morning, attendees broke out into groups to discuss aspects of the Theological Statement. During one session, attendees were asked to discuss which statements they felt they could specifically relate to in their own endeavours. One attendee, Professor Don Chisholm, SV&MHS Director, pointed out the importance of these statements providing a connection for all staff, regardless of their background.



Richard Harpham and Sister Leone Wittmack.

Sister Lauren Dixon, Congregational Councillor, gave an overview of the Leadership Framework of Mary Aikenhead Ministries and how this framework applies to the endeavours of each facility. "Everyone" stated Sister Lauren "has a role to play to ensure that there is a real sense of engagement," She outlined the significance of values based leadership and what this means to each person.

Sister Linda explained that documents like the Scriptures are only valuable if we bring them to life. "God is present because of our love, what engages us is how we embrace these relationships, how we give hope" ... The journey continues.

David Faktor
Manager Public Affairs and Communications
St Vincent's and Mater Health Sydney

HISTORIC OCCASION BRINGS BRISBANE AND TOOWOOMBA MINISTRIES TOGETHER

Photography: Fleur Kelly



"At first, the Theological Statement didn't mean that much to me."

Richard Harpham

"Micah said it all!" is how one participant captured the essence of authentic leadership at the Mary Aikenhead Ministries and Sisters of Charity mission gathering in Melbourne on 26 October.

Micah 6:8 is one of the Biblical passages that makes up the Theological Statement within the Petition sent to Rome for the establishment of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

Representatives from the education, community care, medical research and healthcare ministries in Victoria came together at St Vincent's in Fitzroy for a morning rich in reflection and discussion about the theological underpinnings and leadership framework of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

The gathering was an opportunity for the leaders of the institutional ministries to step away from their day-to-day work and focus on the essence of why 'we', as ministries of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity Community Care Board, do what we do. Of equal importance was the chance to meet, talk and share stories. It was an opportunity valued by all the participants. One participant stated: "It's so easy to become focused solely on your area but it will be so important to keep the ministries connected as we continue to evolve".

At various times during the morning the participants broke into small groups of two or three to discuss how the Theological Statement and the Leadership Framework resonated for them and could be applied in their professional lives.

It was emphasised that, in keeping with Mary Aikenhead Ministries' commitment to responding to the signs of the times, the theological statement is a living document; it can serve as a compass to guide the ministries and a touchstone to return to when facing challenging moments and difficult choices.

The scripture passages discussed throughout the sessions certainly conveyed the unity and collegiate nature of the participants and the positive experience and mood of the gathering.

Kylie Preece
St Vincent's Health, Melbourne

**Conference for all executives
of each facility and all
directors of Boards**

The Interim Leadership
Development Team invites you
to this significant meeting.

July 22 and July 23, 2010

Novotel Hotel
Brighton-le-Sands
Sydney



Executives in dialogue with Trustees.



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