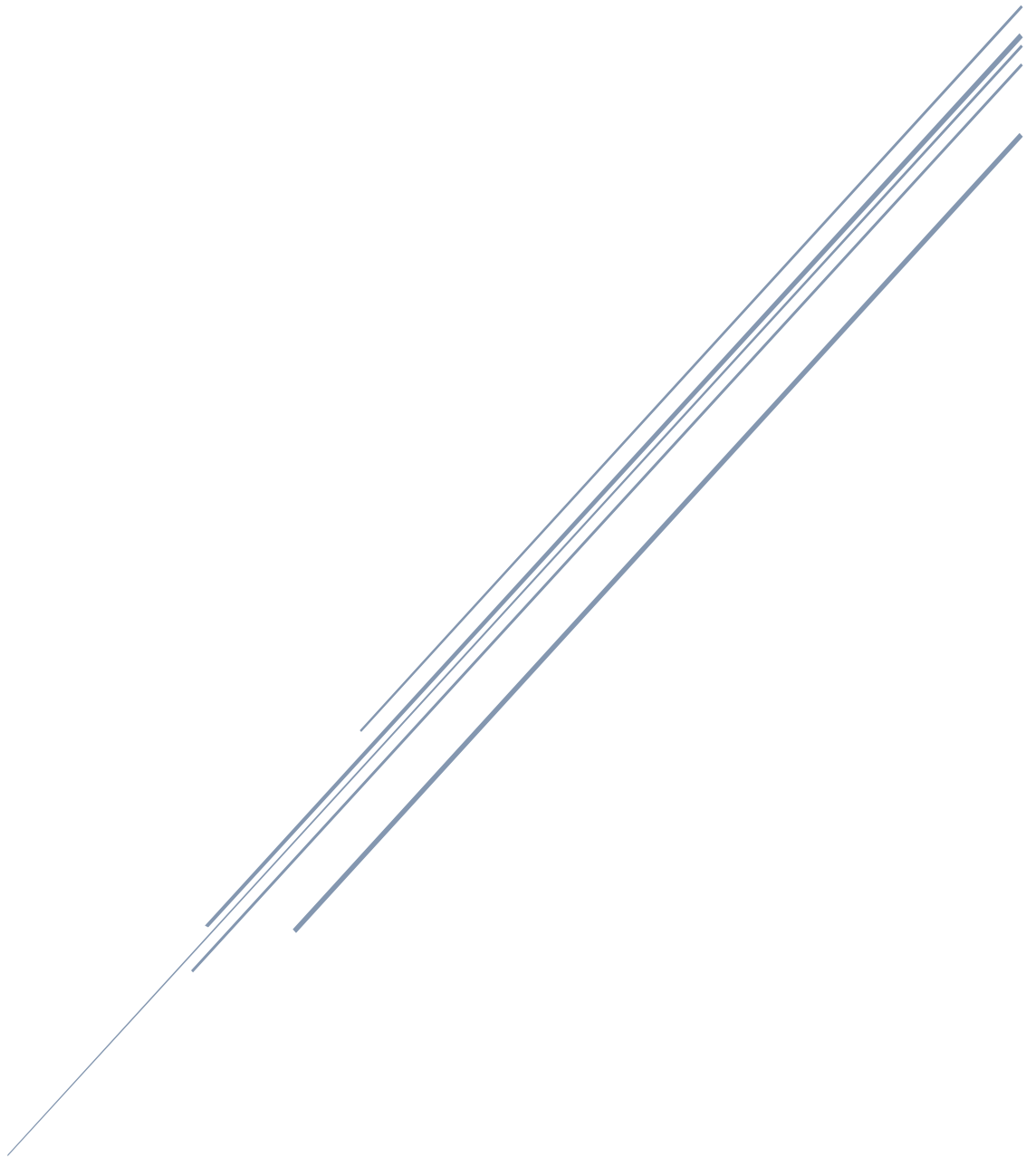


CONGREGATIONAL STATUTES

Draft 4.2a



Sent in Mercy (Chapter 2)

32. *After at least fifteen years in perpetual profession, a sister may renounce patrimony and/or her right to acquire property. The renunciation is formally made in a document valid in civil law.*

Formed in Mercy (Chapter 3)

56. *The Congregational Leader following consultation with the Branch Leader appoints the formation personnel and approves the formative programme with the consent of the Team.*
58. *The Congregational Leader may delegate to the Branch Leader the authority to admit a candidate to the novitiate where appropriate.*
66. *Temporary Profession may be made for periods of one or more years within the total of three to six years.*

United for Mercy (Chapter 4)

79. *The specifics and limits of delegated authority are given in writing.*

Local Community

81. *Each member familiarises herself with the various approved policies of the Congregation.
She observes the safeguarding directions of the Congregation.
Sisters in temporary vows do not have voting rights in Chapter.*

Intermediate Governance

83. *A Branch is a union of local communities.
A Branch Leader is not a major leader.*

*Consultation processes with membership
(and out-going Provincial teams)
to consider and propose various options
regarding the number, shape and nature of Branches,
shall precede the final decision for their establishment
by the Congregational Leader and Team.*

*Having regard to practical considerations,
and following due consultation,
the Congregational Leader and Team determines
the **limits of delegated authority**
for each Branch leader regarding ministry,
formation, finance, property
and other relevant matters, appropriate
to the particular configuration of the Branch.*

Limits

*The Congregational Leadership
and Congregational Treasurer determine
the time-scale for reporting and accountability.
Following consultation with members,*

Branch

*the branch leader provides
for the proper internal functioning of the branch
for the oversight of local communities,
and for the drawing up of Branch Statutes.*

Statutes

*Leaders of branches support and facilitate
the implementation of congregational chapter
decisions.*

Congregational Governance

84. *The Congregational Leader formally convokes
the Congregational Chapter
at least one year before the opening date.
She announces the date and place,
the number of delegates and denotes
the particular reports to be furnished to the chapter.*

Chapter

*The number of delegates to be elected
is decided by the Congregational Leader and Team,
and shall be representative of the whole Congregation.*

Delegates

*The election of delegates shall be completed
and published at least six months
before the opening of Chapter.
The Congregational Leader and Team may co-opt
not more than five additional delegates
to correct any representative imbalance,
according to criteria of mission, equity,
and proportionality.*

*Delegates are elected from an open panel
in at least two phases, facilitated by a committee.*

Other persons may be invited to participate

in Chapter without voting rights, as determined by the Congregational Leader and Team.

The Chapter preparatory committee is appointed by the Congregational Leader and Team to co-ordinate the work of preparation for the Chapter including the election of delegates. In consultation with the Congregational Leader and Team they prepare the agenda, methods of participation and timetable for the Chapter sessions to be presented to the Chapter for approval.

**Preparatory
Committee**

Draft documents for the Chapter are made available to sisters who may submit their signed suggestions to the committee.

In advance of the Chapter, the preparatory committee sets up processes of discernment within the Congregation for securing a list of nominations for the offices of Congregational Leader and Team. The list is made available to all members.

The Congregational Leader presides at the formal opening. The relevant norms are read and the roll called. At least two-thirds of the capitulants must be present. Scrutineers are elected; facilitators and secretaries appointed. The rules of procedure are presented and voted on.

Opening

The Congregational Leader presents a Report on the life, mission and concerns of the Congregation. Reports on financial affairs and formation are also presented.

86. *The Congregational Chapter determines the number*

Team

of members on the Congregational Team.

*The manner of selection of the assistant leader-
by election or appointment –
is determined by recommendation
of the new Congregational Leader.*

*The Congregational Leader, with the consent
of the Team, may co-opt a further person(s)
for a specific purpose for not more than a two-year
period, renewable for a further period.
Team members observe confidentiality
regarding matters pertaining to their role.*

87. *The Congregational Leader and Team,
in discernment with the members
finalise the configuration of Branches
across the whole Congregation.*

*After due consultation with members
the Congregational Leader and Team have authority
to arrange for the appropriate manner and timing
of the dissolution of Provinces.*

*The Congregational Leader or her delegate
makes a formal visitation of each Branch
at least once during her term of office.*

88. *The Congregational Leader, with the advice*

of the Team, approves the limits of internal expenditure in each Branch following consultation with its leader and team.

The Congregational Secretary shall have responsibility for preserving all documents, records and archives, relating to the administration and history of the Congregation. She may be a member of the Leadership Team.

Secretary

The Congregational Treasurer is appointed for a set term, renewable. She shall have oversight of, and responsibility for, all finance and property matters. She ensures the appropriate protection of assets and the preservation of deeds, titles and trustee lists in accordance with universal, and proper law.

Treasurer

She shall present a regular report on financial affairs to the Congregational Leader and Team as required by canonical and civil obligations. She may be a member of the Leadership Team.