



## Canonical and Civil Governance

### **Understand the canonical character of MP as a PJP and the place of the ministries within the PJP.**

Ministries derive their link to the Church and their Catholic status through the PJP.

### **Understand responsibilities of Catholic boards for maintaining the Catholicity of the ministry.**

The ministry operates within the teaching, law and mission of the Catholic Church.

### **Familiarity with PJPs as a canonical entity**

The difference between the two kinds of law: canon law and civil law and when each takes precedence.

### **Understanding of sponsorship, partnership and stewardship**

- Property of the ministry managed in accordance with the canon law governing ecclesial property.
- Resource management and decision making incorporates long term environmental sustainability.

### **Understand the importance of formation for directors of Catholic organisations**

- Appropriate processes are in place for identifying formation needs.
- Emerging issues with Catholic governance are recognised and responded to through formation.
- Attention is paid to succession planning and recruitment of new directors.



Please refer to the Mercy Partners publication,  
*Partners in Mission: A Handbook for Leaders of Mercy Partners Ministries*  
as an additional reference.

*This responsibility document is presented as an overview.  
There is no suggestion that every Board Director must meet every responsibility.  
Ideally, a whole Board might cover the expertise suggested in each of the responsibility areas.  
This reflection tool is offered as a guide to personal and Board level formation needs.*



## Supporting the Catholic Religion

### **Understand the theological foundations of ministry**

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The life and works of Jesus are the foundation of mission within ministries.

### **Develop an understanding of the key principles of mission: human dignity, the Common Good and social justice as evidenced in Catholic Social Teaching.**

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Catholic social teaching is foundational to policy formation, decision-making and relationships within organisations.

### **Understand the importance of lay leadership in the Church today**

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- Support of lay leadership within organisations.
- Positive and productive relationships with Church are nurtured

### **Implement Catholic ethical teaching which guides the development of policy and practice in Catholic organisations**

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- Key ethical teachings and standards are understood
- Principles of ethical behaviour apply to organisational life
- Moral dimensions of decision making are recognised.

### **Understand charism as a rich source of values, wisdom and the Gospel in action**

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- The vision and story of the founding congregations is known and valued.
- A contemporary expression of charism has been developed.

### **Appreciate the diverse elements of Catholic identity**

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- Catholic identity is evident in all levels of organisational life.
- Ritual and symbolic aspects of the Catholic faith are evident.



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## Personal Leadership for Mission

### **Understand your role within a ministry of the Catholic Church and the wider mission of God.**

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- The spiritual dimension of the whole person honoured,
- Programs and practices for spiritual growth (prayer, meditation etc.) are supported.
- Reflective practice.

### **Foster supportive environments and a commitment to developing personal giftedness in self and others**

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- Community building initiatives are initiated and supported.
- A positive work-life balance is promoted.
- Relationships are nurtured.
- Professional and personal development programs are encouraged.

### **Model leadership based on justice, compassion and self-awareness**

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- Inclusive communities.
- Leadership skills developed.
- Common vision.
- Empathy, solidarity and service.
- Integrity and fairness in all endeavours.
- Deep commitment to justice.

### **Understand the stories, legacy and vision of the founders and use these to build culture**

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- The role of the ministry within the wider mission of God.
- History celebrated.

### **Take a forward looking approach in response to contemporary challenges**

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- Challenges seen as opportunities for growth.
- Attitudes of hope and confidence modelled.
- Awareness of global and local trends in society.
- Understanding that the ministry exists to serve the evolving needs of the community.

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Each Catholic community lands on a Eucharistic way of seeing that animates its distinctive mission, activities and place in the world.

*(Theological Framework, p. 3)*



The list of board responsibilities is based on the following sources:

- CHA Pathways. Formation for Mission (2015)
- CHA Pathways. Continuing the Mission
- J.H. Thornber. Governing in Faith (2014)
- Mercy Partners: Formation Framework (2017)

*... a new order of personal relations in living out a gift and vision of community that imitates its foundation in Christ, embodying self-giving love and gratitude.*

*(Theological Framework p. 3)*

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