

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



**The Franciscan Federation**



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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

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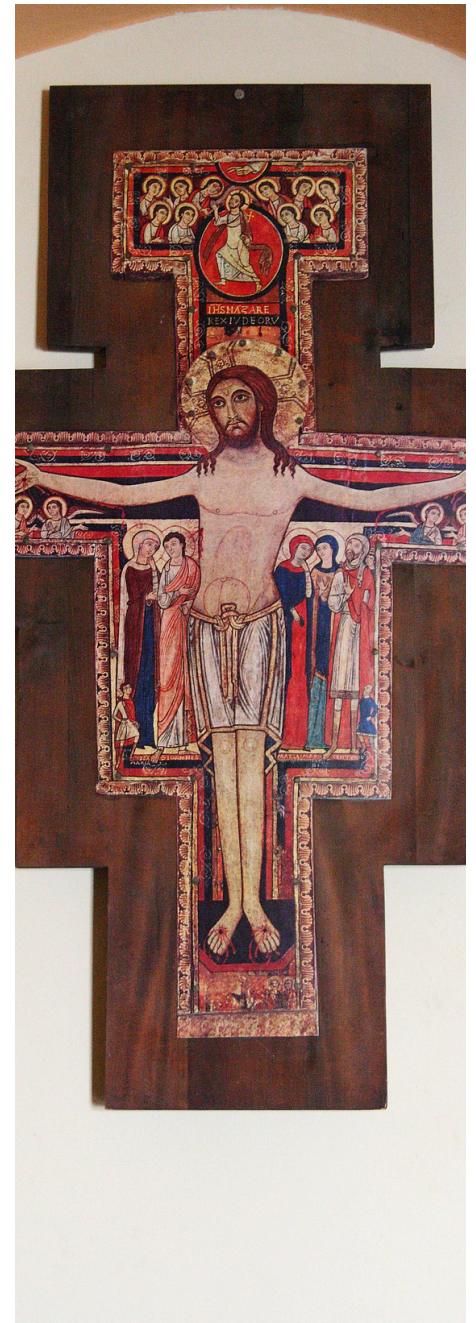
**Sara P. Marks**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the Federation grows, organizationally and in its membership, I find myself being struck deeply by the question, what does it mean to be Franciscan? It is a question that I have returned to at various times in my personal, professional, and vocational life. This question returns to me at major points of discernment and calls forth in me a commitment to my deeply held values, all of which genuinely lie in the Franciscan tradition. At the last Annual Federation Conference, held in June 2023, Darleen Pryds, PhD hosted a breakout session on “Re-Membering the Franciscan Tradition”—this call to define our future through a redefining of our past once again begs the question, what does it mean to be Franciscan?

Being Franciscan is not solely professing vows to a religious congregation, it is not solely committing oneself to Franciscan ministry, it is not solely wearing an outward symbol such as the Tau or San Damiano cross, it is not solely making a promise, or vocally declaring it, or even claiming it. It is all of these things and none of these things. Being Franciscan is living in right relationship with each other and all of creation as sister and brother. It is being open to the continued call and re-understanding of that call from God to rebuild the church. As the Federation moves through the final year of the Transformation process, I am keenly aware of this question, what does it mean to be Franciscan?

I have never been fond of the term “Franciscan-hearted” because for me, my Franciscan identity is the noun in my life. Making it an adjective lessens the importance of what being Franciscan means in my life. Being Franciscan effects every-



thing, from the daily decisions I make in the relationships in my life to the decisions I make about how I invest my money—what companies I support, my practices of giving to charity, and the products I purchase with the desire to lessen harm to the environment always on my mind. From the mundane to the larger life questions, I am shaped by and live out of my Franciscan identity. There is one caveat I must make here, I have come to understand there is a place for the phrase Franciscan-hearted, in those who identify with a different charism but who interact with or minister within the Franciscan tradition, like the Sister of Charity who ministers at Franciscan Action Network who pointed out to me that in fact she did identify as Franciscan-hearted because her primary identity is that of being a Sister of Charity.

Suffice to say, I have grown in accepting that there is a place for this term in our Tradition, but

I do encourage those who fully identify as Franciscan to embody and own a new phrase, a simple one that we can all embrace together as we move into the future of the Franciscan Federation; I am Franciscan! In this year we have expanded our membership, we have created structures to support our canonical congregational members alongside of associate communities and individuals. We are halfway through our Year of Listening & Learning that invites all Federation members to the table to learn about the direction of the Federation and to provide valued feedback as we continue to define and shape our future. In this Annual Report you will read about the good work of the Commissions and the National Board. You will receive the financial report. You will read of the final stages of the transformation process, and the impending board transition. Through all that has unfolded this year, and all that is to come, may we remember we are Franciscan! ✨



Eunice J. Park (Associate Director), Susan Marie Pleiss, OSF (Chair Commission of Life and Mission), and Sara P. Marks (Executive Director) meeting with Franciscan Media in Cincinnati, OH.

# NATIONAL OFFICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Presented the work of the Federation at an LCWR breakout session
- Created new and inclusive membership structure
- Grew the website capacity to include members resources with login credentials
- Obtained 60% Funding for the Associate Director position
- Established a regular column in Saint Anthony Messenger Magazine
- Planned and began implementation of the Year of Listening & Learning
- Launched The Damiano, the Newsletter of the Franciscan Federation
- Hosted a successful evening of Franciscan Storytelling as a fundraising effort
- Began creating the structure for an Advancement Committee including policy writing



Federation members gathered in Marriottsville, MD for the first Listening & Learning session of the year. Sisters Marie Lucey and Janet Garder (CCL Chair) with Associates Barbara Flanagan and Colleen Collins.



Katherine Giorgio and Eunice Park, members of the listening & Learning Session planning committee, gather for the first session.

# BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

**Suzanne Marie Kush, CSSF**

BOARD PRESIDENT

The Franciscan Federation Board of Directors in 2023-2024 continued implementation of the Transformation Task Force recommendations. The goal was to complete this task by June 2024. It was only possible with the dedicated engagement of all the members of the Board of Directors who served on various committees. During this past year the relationship between the Board of Directors and the Convocation of Canonical Leaders (CCL) was extremely helpful in furthering the implementation. Meetings with the CCL Leadership and Members assisted us in asking clarifying questions, providing additional insights and encouragement. The Board of Directors are especially grateful to Janet Gardner, OSF, Chair of the CCL who attended the Board Meetings and served as a liaison between the Board of Directors and the CCL.

While this year's accomplishments were very tedious the Board of Directors feel that as we come to the completion of the mandate given to us by the membership at AFC 2022, we have a stronger organization. So, what was accomplished this year?

## **Associate Director**

With the expanded responsibilities of Sara P. Marks, Executive Director, and the desire to grow the Franciscan Federation, the Board of Directors approved the creation of the associate director position. Eunice Park assumed this position in January 2024. Prior to accepting this position, Eunice served as Commission Coordinator. In addition, Eunice was instrumental in the Emergent Group initiatives and worked on the planning committee of the intentional communities. As Associate Director, Eunice is responsible for networking with existing and potential organizational partners, creating and disseminating communications to members, planning, and carrying out programs and participating in strategic planning for the organization.

## **Board of Directors Treasurer**

Frank Scornaienchi, TOR has served as the Franciscan Federation National Board Treasurer for several years. Because his term has expired, a search for a new treasurer was initiated. The treasurer is appointed by the Board and is a voting me-

mber. A national search surfaced several candidates. Based upon interviews and recommendations, the National Board selected Michael Fenn. Michael brings to the Federation professional skills that will enhance the effectiveness of the Board of Directors. In addition, Michael brings a knowledge of and a living of the Franciscan spirit. He has served as Executive Director of Mt. Irenaeus Franciscan Mountain Retreat, Friendship, NY and has volunteered at St. Francis Inn Soup Kitchen, Philadelphia, PA. Michael's three-year term begins in August 2024.

## By-laws and Articles of Incorporation

During the process of re-envisioning the Franciscan Federation, the organization operated under the existing bylaws. To reflect the new structure, the Bylaws needed to be rewritten. To undertake this task a committee was formed whose focus was to keep the Bylaws current; the goal, to have bylaws that do not need regular revisions. Therefore, a Policy Book will be created to include material that frequently requires updating. Marlene Weisenbeck, OSF, canon lawyer was consulted. After multiple drafts the Bylaws were reviewed by Rosemary R. Corsetti, a lawyer in the state of Pennsylvania for compliance with civil law. The Articles of Incorporation were amended and filed with the state of Pennsylvania.

## Restructuring of the National Board

The newly revised Bylaws calls for a 9 to 11-member board, and three of whom are members of the CCL and hold the reserved powers. To fulfill this responsibility the National Board appointed a nominating committee who designed a process to nominate the next cohort of members of the Board of Directors. This process included documentation of a prospective Board member's background, experience, and expertise; a compilation of cumulative Board member's gifts; and a list of recommended Board members. To provide continuity, four current board members will serve out their terms: Celeste Crine, OSF, Michelle Balek, OSF, Jeanne Bessette, OSF and Jeanne Connolly. The newly elected Board of Directors are Michael Higgins, TOR, Darlene Pryds, Kevin Ryan, and Betsy Savare who will each serve a three-year term, renewable once.



Suzanne M. Kush, CSSF (Board President), Eunice J. Park (Associate Director), and Sara P. Marks (Executive Director) kicking off the Year of Listening & Learning in Marriotsville, MD

The Nominating Committee also presented for consideration the creation of a Governance Committee whose responsibility will be the application of the Federation by-laws, implementation of the nominating process, and mentoring of new board members. The Governance Committee will be implemented by the next Board of Directors.

The responsibilities of the Board of Directors and the National Office were clarified.

Finally, I am most grateful to the Board of Directors who have worked diligently the past two years to complete the recommendations of the Transformation Task Force. Each member used their gifts to accomplish the tedious task of strengthening the structure of the Franciscan Federation. Thank you to, Michelle Balek, OSF, Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Jeanne Connoly, Celeste Crine, OSF, Elizabeth Hughes, Frank Scornaienchi, TOR, Joyce Shanabarger, OSF, Kathleen Warren, OSF and Sara P. Marks, Executive Director. ✨



Sandra Lyons, OSF, CCL Rep engaging Federation members at a Listening & Learning Session.

# CONVOCATION OF CANONICAL LEADERS REPORT

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The newly named Convocation of Canonical Leaders consists of all canonical leaders in each religious congregation holding membership in the Franciscan Federation. The superior or his/her designee has the right to vote in the name of the congregation. Led by the Coordinating Committee, the CCL has been working closely with the National Board to realize the transition taking place in the Federation. Three Zoom meetings with the CCL and Board allowed the religious leaders to keep abreast of the transition progress, financial status of the organization and ongoing endeavors by the National Office. Members also reviewed drafts of the Bylaws and discussed the changing role of the canonical leaders and the expansion of the Federation.

Following the May Zoom meeting, in a written ballot, the CCL elected three of its canonical leaders to the National Board with terms to begin July 1, 2024. These CCL-Designated Directors will hold Reserved Powers on the Board as the Members of the Corporation, powers that are rarely exercised, but assure adherence to the purpose and mission of the Federation. The CCL also approved the Federation's revised Bylaws, the civil governance document of the

501(c)3 organization, which simplifies the organizational structure and opens opportunities for a wider body of Franciscan-spirited men and women to join in our efforts to live and promote, in our contemporary world, a radical gospel-centered way of life, as did Francis and Clare of Assisi in their time.

The CCL hopes to continue to support the Federation as a whole and to meet the needs of its canonical leaders as we navigate the uncharted waters of our contemporary reality. ✨

## **CCL COORDINATING COMMITTEE 2023-2024**

**Sister Janet Gardner OSF (Chair)**

**Sister Jeanne Bessette OSF  
(National Board Liaison)**

**Sister Renita Brummer OSF**

**Sister Leonette Kochan OSF**

**Sister Nancy Linenkugel OSF**

**Sister Joyce Shanabarger OSF**

# ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR REPORT

**Eunice J. Park**

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

In this new position, I've been able to joyfully witness the fruits of the last few years of the Federation's transformation process. We have grown in memberships of different types, engaged more young lay Franciscans, firmed our relationships with Franciscan partners, and begun relationships with Franciscans outside the Catholic sphere.

The Commissions have had a busy and fruitful year, too, carrying through some of the projects from last year, as well as embarking on some exciting new ones. The JPIC Commission continued its collaboration with the Franciscan Action Network in presenting workshops that highlight environmental justice issues around the country, along with work being done by activists and community organizations. It has also launched a new group, the Intergenerational Eco-Justice & Spirituality Network, which meets regularly and brings together individuals and organizations doing similar work to collaborate and share ideas.

The Commission of Member Engagement hosted the Federation's First Annual Virtual Retreat, which was attended by over 400 people, over two days! Featuring three speakers on the theme of "From the Crib to



Carmen Barsody, OSF (Little Falls Franciscan) and the Faithful Fools community being honored during an Evening of Franciscan Storytelling in Danville, CA

to the Cross" with opportunities for small group sharings, the retreat was a huge success, especially in meeting the needs of those who cannot always travel to gather together in person.

The Commission for Life and Mission has had many achievements this year. It oversaw the Franciscan Intentional Community Network (FICN) in starting and supporting intentional communities around the country. It launched a new cohort of the Emergent Group, consisting of individuals from all different branches of our Franciscan family. It began an effort to organize resources available from the Federation for education and formation, especially for associates, Companions, and Cojourners. In addition,

# ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR REPORT

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**Eunice J. Park**

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Associates, Companions, and Cojourners are taking part in a six-month-long assessment process, facilitated by board member Jeanne Connolly, to see how the Federation might best serve this large and energetic group of members.

Perhaps the Federation's biggest highlight of the year is the Special Evening of Storytelling we hosted at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, California in April. It was an amazing gathering filled with music from Jesse Manibusan and Janèt Whitaker Sullivan, with stories of early Franciscan lay women followers told by Darleen Pryds, surrounded by artwork from Jen Norton, and honoring the work of Sr. Carmen Barsody and the Faithful Fools Community in San Francisco. It was a wonderful and beautiful evening of celebration. The room was filled with Franciscans of all kinds and from various places, and I think that evening in particular was indicative of where we are going as a Federation, and how we will celebrate our family, together, and in joy. ✨



Eunice Park (Associate Director) with Jesse Manibusan at an Evening of Franciscan Storytelling in Danville, CA

# COMMISSIONS REPORTS

## Commission of Member Engagement

### Commission Members

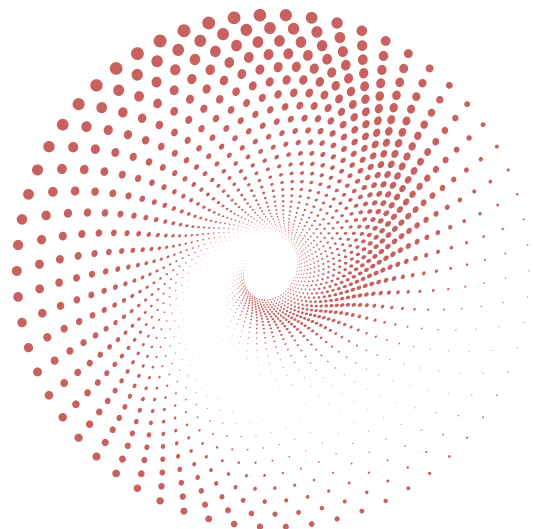
Sister Meg Earsley, Chair  
Sister Anne Amati  
Sister Dianne Kaiman  
Kristin Moline  
Sister Jeanine Morozowich  
Sister Maryann Mueller  
Sister Celeste Crine

Throughout the year, the Member Engagement Commission has enjoyed fellowship and collaboration as we planned our first annual virtual retreat. Each member brought their unique gifts and perspectives to create an event that brought our purpose and vision to life. As we seek to expand our commission membership, we are energized to explore future offerings.



### Past Events: First Annual Federation Virtual Retreat

Nearly 450 people joined speakers Father Murray Bodo, Eunice Park and Darleen Pryds for our First Annual Virtual Retreat, *Journeying from the Crib to the Cross*, held twice at the beginning of 2024. The days were filled with inspiration and connection, delighting and engaging diverse groups of Franciscan sisters, associates, and seculars, among others, with stories, reflection and conversation around the story of Greccio, Franciscan journeying and Francis' Stigmata.



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*I was amazed at the number participating, the fullness of the participation and the diversity of Franciscans present. Felt so connected and grateful for the Franciscan charism.*

## Future Considerations

Because of feedback from the annual virtual retreat, the Commission of Member Engagement is discerning the possibility of offering opportunities for monthly virtual connection among Franciscan Federation members. The additional experiences will require some additional help, so the Commission is in the process of inviting more active involvement with the group. Be on the lookout for more information in the Franciscan Federation newsletter and on the website toward the end of summer. ✨



Members of the Commission of Member Engagement participating with the larger membership in the Choir at AFC 2023. Chair, Meg Earsley, FSPA (second from left), Kristin Moline (pink jacket in back row).

# COMMISSIONS REPORTS

## Commission of Life and Mission

### Subcommittees \*

Education and Formation:

Susan Marie Pleiss, OSF

Emergents:

Br. Ian Boden, OLF

Franciscan Intentional Communities Network (FICN)

Diane Tomkinson, OSF

Associates and Co-journers\*\*

Associate Rick Deitz

Associate Geri Deitz



\*The two co-chairs of the CLM and the subcommittee chairs make up the Coordinating Committee for the Commission.

\*\*This subcommittee was disbanded in October 2023 and replaced by a board-initiated process, facilitated by Jeanne Connolly, “to support the invitation, inclusion, and integration of Franciscan Associate Communities into full non-canonical membership of the Franciscan Federation.”

Margaret Carney, OSF resigned as co-chair of the Commission of Life & Mission (CLM) after AFC 2023. Observing the strong presence of Associates and Cojourners at AFC, we were delighted to welcome Cojourner Patricia St. Clair as CLM co-chair in the Fall of 2023. With the disbanding of the six Associate workgroups in October 2023, invitations were sent to those workgroup members who were involved in formation and the creation of a database of presenters to join the Education and Formation subcommittee. Other Associates and Cojourners joined Jeanne Connolly’s process which kicked off in January 2024 and is set to complete its work in June. Both Rick and Geri Deitz are largely responsible for raising the profile and interest of Associates and Cojourners in the work of the Franciscan Federation and

we deeply appreciate their contributions and persistence during this multi-year process of transformation. One of the original Associate workgroups was responsible for providing the foundation and data to create the database of speakers and retreat leaders which currently resides on the Federation website as a primary resource available to members only.

## Commission Goals for the Coming Year

1. Continue to invite active participation of Federation members in the work of our Commission. Hearing from a diversity of voices and backgrounds is very important to each of our subcommittees.
2. We eagerly await the completion of the second round of our Emergent process as well as the process facilitated by Jeanne Connelly with Associates and Co-journers. We expect both processes will impact the work of the CLM going forward.

## Formation/Education

### MEMBERS

Michelle Balek, OSF  
Patricia St. Clair  
Paul St. Clair  
Colleen Collins  
Kevin Elphick  
Ann Kenyon, OSF  
Susan Marie Pleiss, OSF  
Bernie Tickerhoof, TOR

The initial focus of the subcommittee this year was building upon the Zoom consultations with member congregations held in April 2023 with those who are directors of initial and on-going formation, directors of centers of spirituality/retreat and those engaged in spirituality ministries. Coming out of AFC 2023, we held a second round of Zoom consultations in October 2023 that expanded participation to include Associates and Co-journers and all types of ministries.

- We had approximately 30 registrants in total for the original April sessions and approximately 34 for the October sessions.
- From the registration process, we now have a database of those engaged in this work, including others who were not able to join us for the consultations.
- National Office staff were able to join our April consultation and gave a thorough review of the Federation website which participants found very helpful and enlightening. Assessing our existing online resources informed the bulk of our subcommittee work the rest of the year (and continues).
- As the online membership process was rolled out in January, so were key updates to the website and the introduction of “member-only” resources. Our sub-committee has taken on the daunting task of making sure that resources are not only available on the website but can also be found and utilized by the various types of people who we want to be reaching with our rich content.

- We are also exploring adding a short tutorial video to help new users find what they are looking for on the website. In addition, we would like to explore a collaboration with the Commission on Member Engagement to provide a “welcome packet” to new Federation members.
- We are always searching for new members who would enjoy helping us shape our resource pages so they reach as many people as possible. Just a reminder that ANYONE can upload to the website a resource that they’ve found particularly helpful, as long as they have permission from the presenter or author.

We are excited to announce that Kevin Elphick’s educational program within the framework of Catholic Social Teaching on issues confronting LGBTQ persons held an introductory session over Zoom with the Neumann Community on April 20, 2024. Several more follow up sessions have been proposed. For the Neumann Communities, they are comparing it to their series on Racial Justice which was strategically planned out over a number of months, giving the opportunity for reading and reflection between sessions. Discussion began with the “why now” that this topic was being addressed, and participants viewed the 20 minute documentary “Families are Forever,” with group discussion afterwards. Participants then learned about the listening/accompanying approach to the LGBTQ communities from the ministries of Bishop Matthew Clark, -

Bishop Gumbleton, and Bishop Stephen Lowe (New Zealand). Their ministries each stressed genuinely hearing the stories of LGBTQ individuals and their families. Participants then heard personal stories from two Catholic parents of adult LGBTQ children. Participants have been asked to read Fr. Jim Martin’s book, *Building A Bridge*, in anticipation of future sessions.

Ideally, the presenters would like to do at least some follow-up sessions in-person. Important conversations take place during breaks and one-on-one (where participants might be uncomfortable asking questions in front of the whole group...) Funding would help with travel expenses. This is a timely pilot program coming out of our subcommittee and we encourage Federation members to watch for future developments and consider whether such a program offering might be useful for your group.



# Emergents

## MEMBERS

- Br. Ian Boden, OLF
- Krista Clements (facilitator)
- Br. Ben Ayodi, OFM cap
- Katherine Stevick
- Matalie Wasek
- Michael Krueger
- Janet Ryan, OSF
- Deborah LeeAnn
- Tucker O’Leary N/OLF
- Antonio Luevano, OFM
- Cristofer Fernandez, OFM conv
- Noreen Domingo
- Steve Greco, TOR
- Nicole Garcias, N/OLF
- Sara Hennessey, FSPA
- Merwyn De Mello
- Gabriela Martinez
- Ashley Skoczynski
- Verleah Kosloske, TSSF
- Sr. Carolyn, OLF
- Br. David Hirt, OFM cap
- Thomas Skowron, OFM cap
- Julia Walsh, FSPA
- Kelly Moltzen, OFS

The latest iteration of the Emergent Group began earlier in the year. The group is very engaged in forming relationships and getting to know one another. Some have already begun to think deeply about the question which they’ll consider in subsequent sessions: What in our time and place calls for a Franciscan response? Some issues that have already surfaced include: socio-economic realities, racism, and care for all of creation. This work will continue to unfold throughout this year.



Young adults gathered in St. Louis for AFC 2023, some now serve on the Emergent Group.



# Franciscan Intentional Community Network (FICN)

## MEMBERS

Caryn Crook, OSF; *House of Discernment, Srs. of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities*

Diane Tomkinson, OSF; *Canticle House FIC, Srs. of St. Francis of Philadelphia*  
Eunice Park; *Franciscan Federation, Associate Director*

Karen Pulaski; *Mt. Irenaeus Franciscan Mountain Community*

Maria Brizuela, OSF; *Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart*

Michelle L'Allier, OSF; *Welcoming House, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls*

Patricia George, OSF; *Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, MN (minutes)*

[Michael Fenn, of *Mt. Irenaeus Franciscan Mountain Community* stepped back from FICN in fall 2023 as he transitions from his role as Executive Director at Mt. Irenaeus.)

## Goals and Accomplishments of the last year

Franciscan Intentional Community Network (FICN) coordinating group members hosted two initial sessions and one follow-up session at the AFC 2023 to share the FICN vision statement and invite others to participate in and/or support our continuing initiatives. About thirty people participated across the three sessions. Following AFC, we emailed interested, inviting volunteers to collaborate with us in two work groups which met regularly through the past year:

1. The database work group included Michael Fenn, Karen Pulaski, and Maria Brizuela. They worked with Eunice Park to develop a survey form and gather relevant information about existing Franciscan Intentional Communities for an initial FICN page on the Franciscan Federation website and an eventual searchable database to help match interested persons with relevant FIC's. This group has completed their work of gathering the information; the searchable database remains a work in progress through the Federation's staff and web vendor.
2. The content work group included Caryn Crook, Diane Tomkinson, Eunice Park, Michelle L'Allier, Pat George, and Lovina Pammit, FSSH, who had volunteered at AFC. This group worked on the format and content for the FICN page. Once that page went live in late January 2024, we collaborated on a common brochure about FICN, in several sizes, that can be shared digitally or printed for networking at conferences, etc. Future goals include exploring additional ways to create and share content about FICN, including social media, podcasts and feature articles.

The FICN Coordinating Group met regularly via Zoom throughout the year to coordinate the work group projects, provide peer support, and connect with other Intentional Communities to further develop our network. In January 2024, Joe Nangle, OFM (Assisi Community of D.C.) and Carmen Barsody, FSLF (Faithful Fools Street Ministry), both Franciscan founders of long-

standing intentional communities, joined us for a Zoom dialogue sharing insights and experiences among established and newer intentional communities. Faithful Fools then affiliated with FICN and is included on our page on the Franciscan Federation website.

Coordinating Group members gathered for our annual in-person meeting at Welcoming House in La Crosse, MN from Feb.19-22. Diane Tomkinson, Eunice Park, Karen Pulaski, Maria Brizuela and Pat George attended in-person, experiencing the hospitality and community life of Sr. Michelle L'Allier and the members of the Welcoming House intentional community. Caryn Crook and Carmen Barsody joined us via Zoom for several of the business sessions. Our time together included opportunities for deep sharing, leisure (including a visit to St. John's Abbey on Monday), and dialogue around agenda items such as sharing insights and best practices around policies, using inclusive and appealing language, supporting new FIC's (see Canticle House below), and continuing outreach to expand and promote our network. We reaffirmed the value of our gathering in-person at a different FICN community each year.

## Hopes and Goals for the Coming Year

- Supporting two newest FIC's: In March, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia initiated Canticle House as a new Franciscan Intentional Community in Chester, PA. Sisters Diane Tomkinson -

and Pat Millen, have moved in as initial residents and are hoping to welcome their first young adult community members in early summer 2024. Eunice Park recently moved into an intentional community of three persons in Oakland, CA.

- Sharing existing materials and best practices: we have begun circulating some of these materials via e-mail attachments, while we consider how best to create a FICN member only digital location to hold these types of resources.
- Continuing to develop the FICN page on the Franciscan Federation website, including adding additional FIC's as our network expands, and hopefully implementing a searchable database.
- Continuing to develop content to promote FICN and the member communities; new content will include an FICN common e-mail address using franfed.org, which Pat George will moderate. ✨



FICN Members gathered at Franciscan Welcoming House in St. Cloud, MN for their annual meeting.

# COMMISSIONS REPORTS

## Commission of JPIC

### Members

Chairperson: Pat Millen, OSF  
National Office Liaison: Eunice Park  
Caryn Crook, SOSF  
Michele Dunn, OFS  
Liz Fuhr, OSF  
Kelly Moltzen, OFS  
Carolyn Townes, OFS

The 2023 webinars on Environmental Racism were well attended, well received. Those attended expressed a need for continued education for members of the Federation and FAN. In 2023-2024, the Commission of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) for the Federation, continued its partnership with the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) in providing a 2-part training workshop “Awakening to Environmental Justice” in the Spring and another series in the Fall of 2024.

On April 2 Part 1 of the “Awakening to Environmental Justice” training workshops offered tools to use in researching instanc-

es of environmental injustice in your community. Gabriela Martinez provided a step-by-step demonstration on how to use these tools.

On April 9 at part 2, we learned from Carolyn Townes, OFS, how to reach out to community advocates in a respectful manner of solidarity.

If you missed any of the training, you will find links to the recordings and other resources at [FAN’s website](#).

Our Franciscan values lead us to be in community with one another, taking action to protect each other’s integrity of life & human dignity, and to be agents of positive change in our communities, whether that means helping directly at the grassroots level in addressing these issues, or in becoming the solution to preventing these issues in proliferating through congressional advocacy. Again, we encourage all members of the Federation to do your own research on your city or community using the information posted on FAN’s website.

# Intergenerational Environmental Youth Core: Subcommittee of JPIC

## Members

Joan Brown, OSF  
Caryn Crook, OSF  
Liz Fuhr, OSF  
Kayla Jacobs  
Kelley Anne Moltzen, OFS

The Intergenerational Eco-Justice and Spirituality Network continues to meet monthly. They have been collecting some additional young adult signatures on the letter to the USCCB & are currently at almost 30. Br. Cristofer Fernandez, OFM Conv., sent it to a Young Adult subcommittee affiliated with the USCCB and a few of them have signed on. The subcommittee is also working on streamlining communication channels and are developing a statement about the group, so that people thinking of joining will have a clearer picture of who we are. They also plan to show a 12-minute mini-documentary about Little Portion Farm in Ellicott City, MD, that was worked on with Karyn Bigelow of Creation Justice Ministries (one of the grantees from Sister. Liz's community's grant fund).

Kelly Moltzen is currently serving on the Franciscan Federation's Emergent Group. Recent conversations center around visioning and co-creating something new. Conversations around Eucharistic revival, eco-spirituality, the climate crisis, and visioning prompted the mention of the book The Meal that Reconnects: Eucharistic Eating and the Global Food Crisis by Mary McGann, the Food System Vision Prize proposal that Kelly wrote in 2020. Her proposal was about faith communities leading the way towards healthy, sustainable food systems; and the Interfaith Campaign for Food and Nutrition Security, a new campaign that Kelly is helping to lead with a consortium of national faith-based/anti-hunger organizations. The latter is part of a commitment for the White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities. ✨



Kelly Moltzen engaging CCL rep Janice Jolin on topics of justice.

# TREASURER REPORT

**Frank Scornaienchi, T.O.R.**

BOARD TREASURER

I would like to begin this report by thanking the members of the Finance Committee, Virginia Spiegel, O.S.F. and Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., for their service, guidance and advice concerning the finances of the Federation. Also, I want to thank our Executive Director, Sara P. Marks, for her work in the National Office with various advisors and services to bring us to the use of Quick Books fulltime. Sara and I have been working on streamlining the account line items to what we as a Federation utilize.

PLANCORP in St. Louis, MO, is managing our Investment Fund. As most of our Congregations have experienced with investments, we need to look in the long term to hopefully recoup some of our losses from the past couple of years. 2023 has been a better year for our investment fund.

The National Board continues to implement the plan for the transformation of the Federation. This transformation is an on-going process. The full time hiring of Eunice Park as Associate Director will add depth to the National Office. The National Board has agreed to make an Advancement Committee a standing committee of the Federation. Hopefully this will be bringing an additional source of income to the Federation.

As a new National Board of Directors will be chosen this year, my term as Treasurer will end. I want to let you all know that serving the Franciscan Federation for the past twenty five years as On Site Coordinator for the Annual Federation Conferences, Treasurer on two different occasions, member of the Finance Committee, member of the Executive Committee on the Commission of Elected Leaders, -



Frank Scornaienchi, T.O.R. with Margaret Carney, OSF celebrating at AFC 2023.

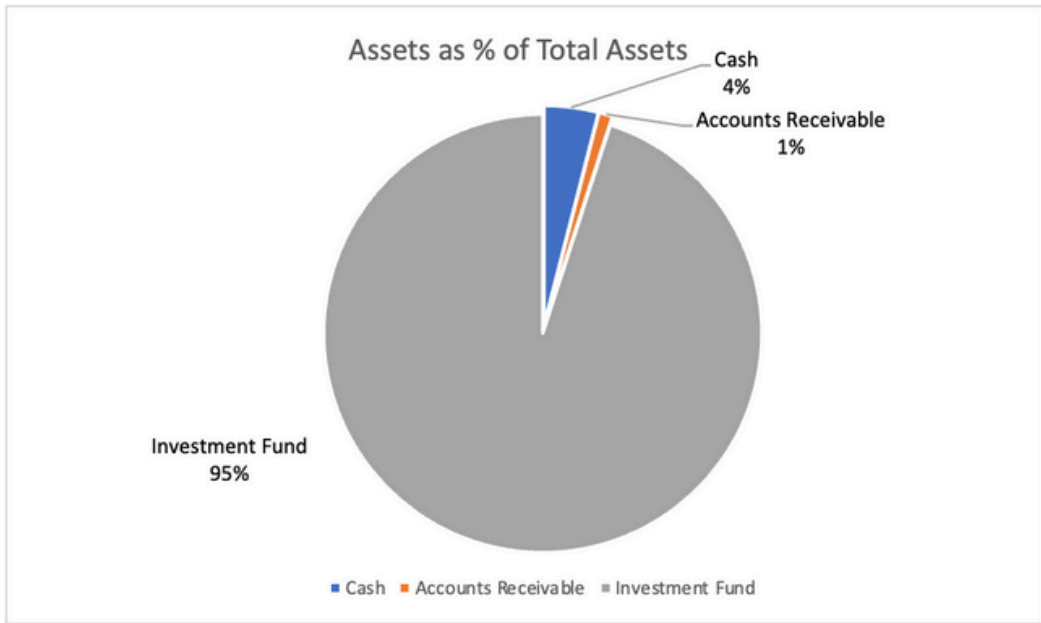
and National Board Director has been one of the highlights of my religious life. I thoroughly enjoyed working with all the different congregational members and Franciscan hearted persons. I wish great success to those that will follow in leadership.

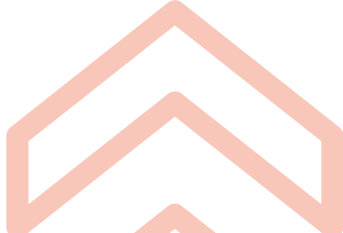
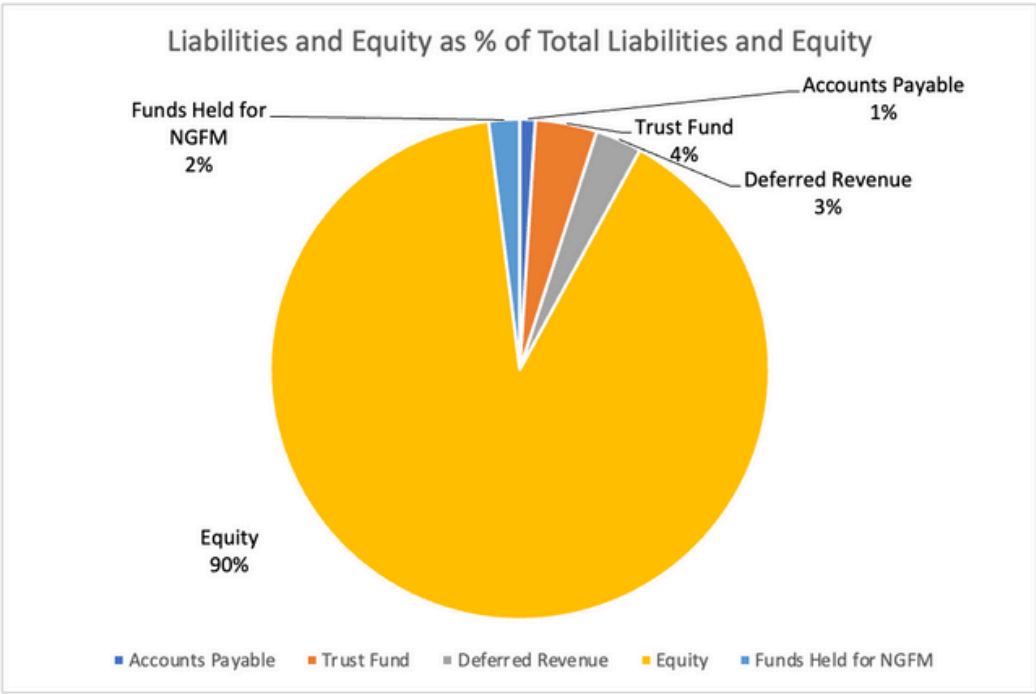
As we look to the future, I will continue to pray for the newly evolving Federation and its growth.

## Balance Sheet 2023

<b>ASSETS</b>		December 31, 2022	December 31, 2023
Cash Checking	\$	72,800.00	26,620.53
Investment Fund		552,352.00	547,820.15
Accounts Receivable/Inventory		38,936.00	*153.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$	664,088.00	574,593.68
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$	-600.00	897.74
Trust & Loan Fund		60,500.00	28,500.00
Deferred Revenue		49,285.00	25,577.00
Funds Held for NGFM		3,706.07	3,706.07
Equity		551,196.93	515,912.87
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	\$	664,088.00	574,593.68

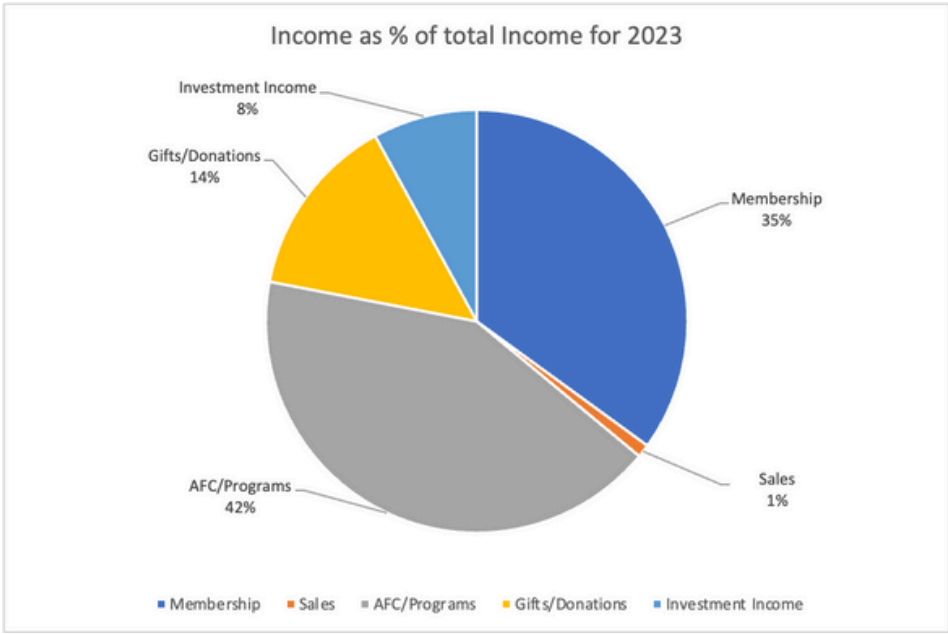
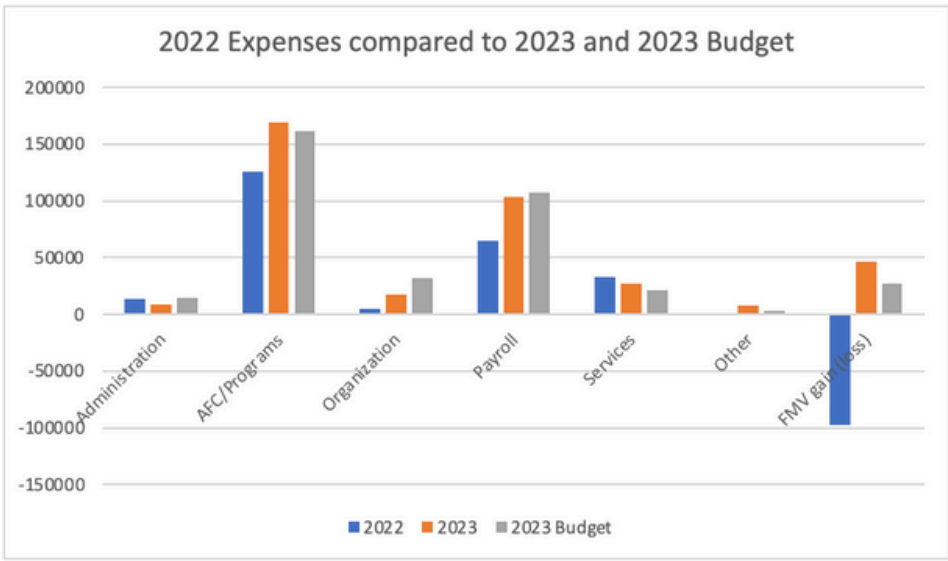
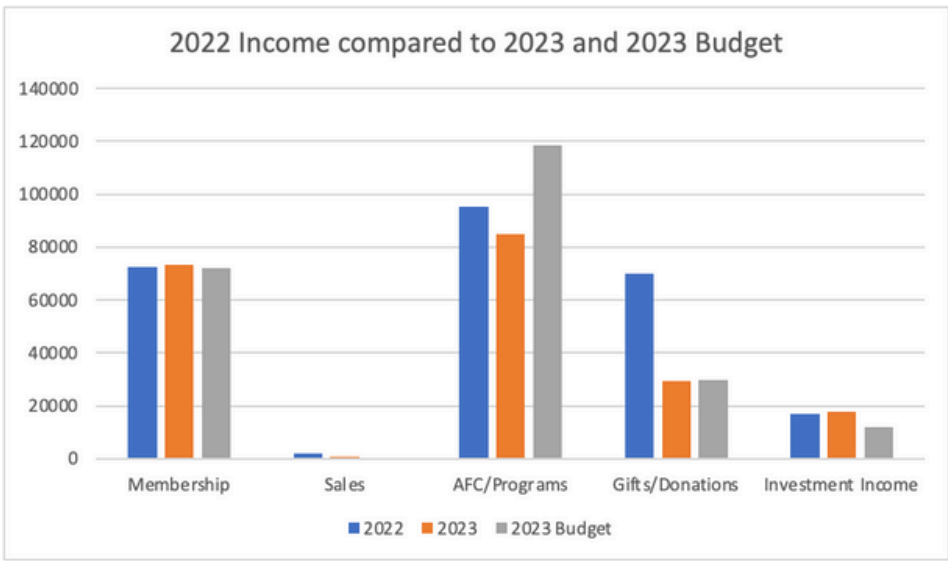
\*Inventory liquidated

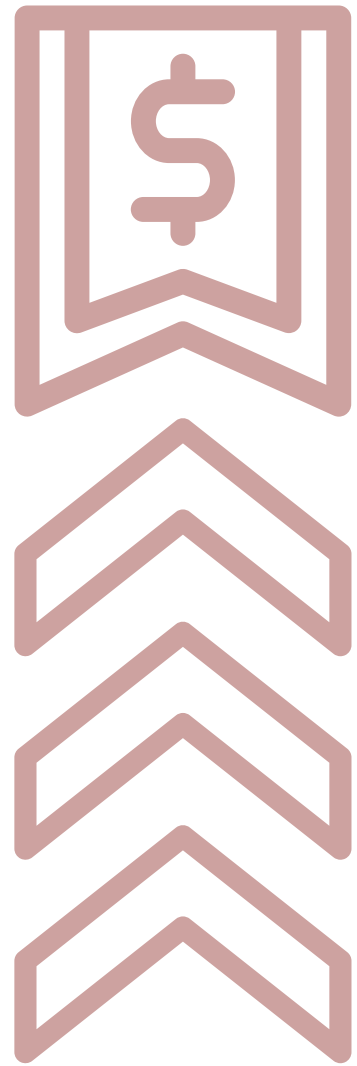
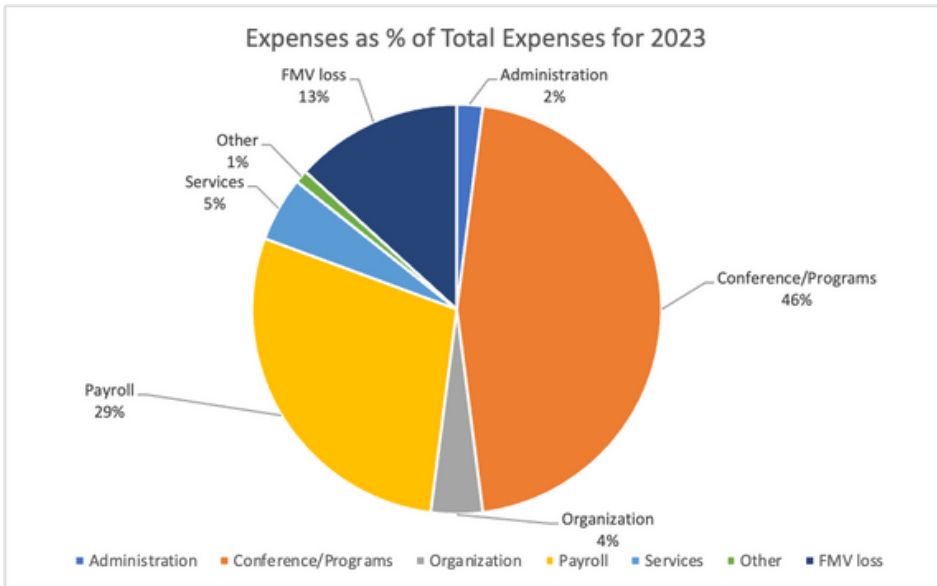




## Income and Use of Income 2023

<b>INCOME</b>		December 31, 2022	December 31, 2023
Membership	\$	72,350.00	72,354.00
Sales/Services		2,206.00	589.00
Conference/Programs		95,251.00	84,877.00
Gifts & Donations & Grants		70,020.00	29,229.00
Investment Income		17,061.00	17,591.00
Fair Market Value Increase in Invest.		-97,320.00	46,806.00
Donated Services		3,678.00	7,744.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$	163,246.00	260,190.00
<b>USE OF INCOME</b>			
Administration	\$	13,925.00	8,610.00
Conference/Programs		125,628.00	168,859.00
Organizational Expense		4,841.00	17,198.00
Payroll Expense		64,873.00	103,058.00
Donated & Specialized Services		32,977.00	27,339.00
Other		-226.00	7,959.00
<b>Total Use of Income</b>	\$	242,018.00	333,023.00
<b>Net Income</b>	\$	-78,772.00	-72,833.00





## Annual Federation Conference 2023

In order to be transparent and informative, I would like to summarize the use of the restricted donations and restricted sponsorships from the member congregations of the Franciscan Federation and also unrestricted savings in the Investment Fund for the 2023 AFC (Annual Federation Conference) held in Saint Louis, MO. The use of unrestricted Investment Fund savings was necessary due to the under estimation of registrations and inflationary expense of hotel catering. I will do this by listing to what category the funds were used and the amount used in each category.

I want to express my thanks to all the Congregations that have sponsored these various categories. Your support helps to make our Federation Conference so successful. ✨

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>AMOUNT UTILIZED</u>
Facilitator	\$ 8,777.00
Keynote Speakers	\$ 9,000.00
Printing	\$ 242.00
Liturgist, Musicians & Cantors	<u>\$ 3,141.00</u>
Food and Beverage	\$14,500.00
General Conference Expenses	<u>\$ 5,570.00</u>
Youth Participants	\$ 776.00
Scholarships	\$ 5,000.00
Unrestricted funds from Investments	\$ 37,771.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 84,877.00</b>