

2025 Annual Report



Francis and the Sun
Sr. Kay Francis Berger, OSF
Joliet Franciscan



PRESENTED BY

The National Board of the
Franciscan Federation

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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Julianne E. Wallace, D.Min.

My first year at the Franciscan Federation passed quickly, as we moved forward with many important projects that are reflected throughout this annual report. It was a year marked by meaningful progress, new connections, and hopeful work toward the future of the Federation.



One of the greatest joys of the year was the opportunity to meet members of the Franciscan Federation across the country. From visits with the Felicians in Pittsburgh, to connecting with members at LCWR, to many other stops in between, the year was rich with relationship building. On all of these visits your presence, energy, and commitment brought vitality and encouragement to my work at the Federation.

Another significant highlight of the year was the continued development of our Strategic Plan, which was approved by the Board in early 2026. This plan is the result of years of listening, dreaming, and discerning what the Franciscan Federation may become in the years ahead. It reflects the wisdom and contributions of many voices across the Federation and points toward a future grounded in Franciscan values, hope, and growth.

At the close of last year's letter, I outlined several priorities for my first year in this role. On the pages that follow, you will see the progress made toward those goals, along with the priorities for 2026, many of which are already well underway. It has been encouraging to witness what can be accomplished in a relatively short time through clear direction, committed collaboration, and a shared sense of purpose.

I am grateful for the steady work of my colleague, Brady Young, our Manager for Member Engagement and Communication. Brady has been an excellent addition to our team, bringing a contemplative spirit that strengthens our work. His presence has been a gift to the Federation and to me as we continue this important work together. Most of all, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to our members, supporters, and friends. Your

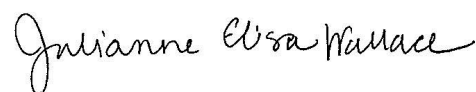
encouragement, trust, and generosity sustain the Franciscan Federation and make this work possible.

Forward Momentum into 2026

The story of 2025 is one of real challenge. We faced significant financial headwinds that required difficult decisions and tested our resilience. We are deeply grateful for the steady support of this community, which sustained our mission through a demanding year. Even so, 2025 became a turning point. It invited us to refocus, strengthen our approach, and clarify our priorities.

As we move through 2026, we are already seeing encouraging signs of renewed momentum and support. We step forward with a stronger foundation and a deepened sense of purpose.

Peace and all good,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julianne E. Wallace". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Julianne E. Wallace, D.min.

2025 PRIORITY UPDATES & 2026 GOALS

2025 Priority Updates	Status	Notes
Implementing New Community Membership Model	Completed	We successfully launched a new Community membership model making community membership more accessible and more inclusive.
Improving Communication and Data Management	Ongoing	We have established a regular rhythm of communication with members, strengthening connection and engagement across the community. Work continues on updating our back-end database to improve data management and increase operational efficiency.
Launch a Mini-Giving Campaign	Completed	We successfully met our fundraising goal for FY 2025!
Strategic Plan	Completed	The Strategic Plan was approved by the Board in early 2026.
Brand Refresh	Ongoing	This project was delayed and will be completed in 2026.
Community Engagement (Virtual & In-Person Meetings)	Ongoing	We have increased the number of regularly scheduled events and plan to offer several in-person gatherings in 2026.

Priorities for 2026

- **Launch the Piazza:** Launch Piazza as an online community designed to foster connection, collaboration, and the sharing of the Franciscan Charism across the world. This platform will serve as a virtual gathering place for communication, relationship-building, and ongoing formation.
- **Data Management:** Migrate our membership database to Wild Apricot to strengthen data accuracy, improve administrative efficiency, and support more effective member engagement. This transition will enhance recordkeeping and streamline communication, registration, and reporting processes.
- **Brand Refresh:** Refresh our brand by updating our logo and visual identity to better reflect our mission, values, and evolving organizational life. This work will help create greater consistency across print, digital, and event materials.
- **2027 National Gathering:** Assemble a planning committee to design and implement the next National Gathering, scheduled for June 3-6, 2027. The committee will guide program development, logistics, hospitality, and communications to ensure a meaningful and well-organized event.
- **Establish and Build Endowment:** Establish and grow an endowment to provide long-term financial stability and sustain the mission into the future. This effort will help strengthen the organization's capacity and ensure greater sustainability for years to come.

NATIONAL BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jeanne Connolly

“.... they are like the person who, in building a house, dug deeply and laid the foundation on a rock. When a flood arose, the torrent rushed against the house, but failed to shake it because of its solid foundation.”

— Luke 6:48 (The Inclusive Bible)



As I reflect on 2025, my heart rejoices for the solid foundation of our Franciscan heritage—a timeless gift passed down to us by our Third Order Regular Sisters and Brothers. Like Saint Francis during his conversion, the Board of Directors has dedicated this year to rebuilding and reinforcing this foundation so that, even as the torrents of cultural and systemic change may rush against us, our mission remains unshakeable.

Leadership and Engagement

Our daily operations thrive thanks to the exceptional leadership at our National Office. We continually rejoice in the gifts of our Executive Director,

Julianne Wallace, and our Manager of Membership and Engagement, Brady Young. Together, they have infused our community with a renewed energy, deep professionalism, and passion. Because of their dedication, we have seen increased communication and a robust, regular stream of new programs. Crucially, they have simplified our dues process to better welcome and adapt to our changing demographics. Furthermore, our newly initiated Advancement programs are already bearing fruit, actively strengthening our future.

National Board Members

Jeanne Connolly, President
Darleen Pryds, Ph.D., Vice President
Kevin Ryan, Treasurer
Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Secretary
Betsy Savare
Michael Higgins, TOR
Celeste Crine, OSF
Michael Fenn
Sandra Lyons, OSF
Carolyn Townes, OFS
Julianne Wallace, Ex Officio

Fortifying the Structure Beneath the Surface

In 2025, the Board initiated several critical, behind-the-scenes structural enhancements to secure our long-term viability:

- **Operational Excellence:** We successfully implemented comprehensive new policies and procedures spanning finance, investment, compliance, advancement, and human resources.
- **Clarified Alignment:** We strengthened internal communication by establishing clear charters for all committees.
- **The Power of Networks:** We transitioned the excellent work of our Commissions into Networks. Federation Networks are dynamic, self-organized groups facilitated by dedicated core committees. Operating under written charters that clearly define their identity and relationship to the National Office, they serve as vital centers. They coordinate rich opportunities for shared learning, collaboration, and mutual support—drawing their ultimate strength from the deep relationships built among our member groups.

Courageous Visioning

In August 2025, Rev. Cameron Trimble facilitated our annual in-person Board Retreat and led our initial strategic planning. With stakeholder input, we began shaping an innovative, courageous plan designed to serve current members and create spaces for future generations seeking a Franciscan way of life. We also welcomed new board member Carolyn Townes, OFS, and bid farewell to Michelle Balek, OSF, thanking her for her many years of service.

With Gratitude for Our Shared Journey

An unshakeable foundation is nothing without the community it supports. I remain profoundly grateful to our Board and committees, the Convocation of Canonical Leaders, our Networks, their respective core teams, and most of all, to you—our faithful members and supporters. In a fragile world that so deeply hungers for healing, may we continue to stand together as bold, joyful witnesses of hope, peace, and love.

CONVOCAION OF CANONICAL LEADERS REPORT

In 2025 the CCL Coordinating Committee was able to refocus its activities since its long task of structure reorganization of the Federation corporation documents was now complete and an identified executive director was ready to assume the helm of the Federation. The attention now shifted into filling committee vacancies and learning and addressing the needs of the CCL members.

The committee strongly recognizes the need for ongoing recruitment for committee positions and that engagement of canonical leadership is vital to the life of the Federation.

Content of a programmatic nature was the focus for the CCL quarterly meetings. The June 2nd CCL zoom meeting included executive director, Julianne Wallace who presented a new Federation model to instill new life not only for CCL members but for an enlarged Franciscan family.

Our first in-person gathering was held at the LCWR August meeting and was a great opportunity to meet so many we only see on zoom. The attendees appreciated the updates presented. Our October 15th meeting was directed to diminishing numbers and the aging of members affecting leadership pools. There was mention of the advanced work of several congregations initiating a “Franciscan Association”. Mr. Mark Shafely, a management consultant of LCWR informed us of collaborative efforts taking place among congregations which are available to us. Holly Fiedler shared that the Franciscan Central Archive has decided to locate on the campus of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart in the Chicago area. Information and application materials are available to congregations considering a Franciscan site to curate their archives.

Projected programs for 2026 are energizing the coordinating committee. These include the sharing of information on congregational celebrations related to the “Year of St. Francis” on this 800th Centenary of his death, the discussion on the Franciscan values at the heart of divestment of properties and the revival of an in-person gathering in 2027.

CCL Executive Committee

Renita Brummer, SMIC- Co-Chair

Janice Jolin, OSF - Co-Chair

Sandra Lyons, OSF -Board liaison

Jeanne Bessette, OSF – Board Liaison

Edna Michel, OSF

Maureen Irvin, OSF

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeanne Bessette, OSF

During the Board of Directors planning retreat in August of 2025, we engaged in a close analysis of revenues needed to meet current and future needs of the Federation. It became crystal clear that the traditional funding model, which relied almost exclusively on member dues, has not met expenses for several years. As congregations and provinces have grown smaller, a per capita dues model has become completely unable to meet increasing expenses, especially in light of having lay employees now and in the future.



A reconstituted Advancement Committee, made up of Sisters Jeanne Bessette and Bea Eichten along with Julianne Wallace, aided by some financial analysis by Mike Fenn, proposed launching a three-pronged funding model. Modest dues would still be asked of individual members, Franciscan congregations / provinces, and related organizations. More significantly, the committee recommended a development program to generate annual operating revenue as well as the establishment of an endowment to meet the goal of long-term sustainability.

Strong Start to 2026

It is worth noting the remarkably strong start to 2026. The work of the Advancement and Investment Committees, along with the generosity and confidence of our supporting congregations and partners, is helping to shape a more sustainable path forward. This effort has already resulted in the establishment of an endowment, made possible through two \$1 million gifts from congregations that wish to remain anonymous.

Advancement Committee

Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Chair
Bea Eichten, OSF
Julianne Wallace

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin W. Ryan

Last year, I proclaimed the era of Franciscan Renaissance as a permeating factor in the evolution of the Federation. It continues! 2025 found us substantially reorganizing ourselves, structuring ourselves to meet the challenges of our planning for the organization and introducing a new leadership team to direct and move us forward.



- Key to this was orienting our financial operations to this process. As such, we created new policies and procedures for our financial management. These were guidelines for the Board and Executive office in all functions of financial activities.
- We established an operations manual specific to our financial management. This was done to assure continuity in how the Federation responds to its fiduciary responsibilities and administer its daily operations. This manual corresponds to the Board approved Finance policies and allows for a standard of practice and a resource for our executive team and educational tool for management.
- We studied our financial needs and with the input of our Executive Director, Julianne Wallace, created a prudent yet meticulous budget for the FY 2025. This was somewhat challenging as we needed to support our operations at levels higher than our anticipated funds from membership. To offset our anticipated deficit, we utilized monies available from our investments and those restricted funds for program development. Thus, we were in a deficit situation and needed to reflect this in our budget.

Our collective challenge then was to achieve our targets for programs and planning activities while attempting to limit yet manage our outlay of funds during a period of growth via our reorganization and staff development.

Finance Committee

Kevin Ryan, Chair
Michael Fenn
Frank Scornaienchi, TOR
Thomas Fenn
Frank Pellegrino
Jeff Papia
Julianne Wallace

We ended the year at a budget level that was 15% lower than proposed and approved. This was significant because it was a deficit budget of \$183,137.00 yet, we achieved a reduction of \$25,000.00 to that number, ending the year with a negative \$158,000.00. We accomplished this, while meeting all of our budgetary targets for the year including our major thrust of establishing a strategic plan. Future planning goals are to provide a break-even operating budget. To this end, strategic plans will include structures and processes to improve operating income and create an endowment program.

We established channels for the secure collection and management of financial data to support planning, reporting, and communication. This included aligning our financial accounting with our data systems and selecting appropriate software to ensure reliable, accessible information. While not highly visible, these systems are essential to daily operations, program planning, assessment, and outreach.

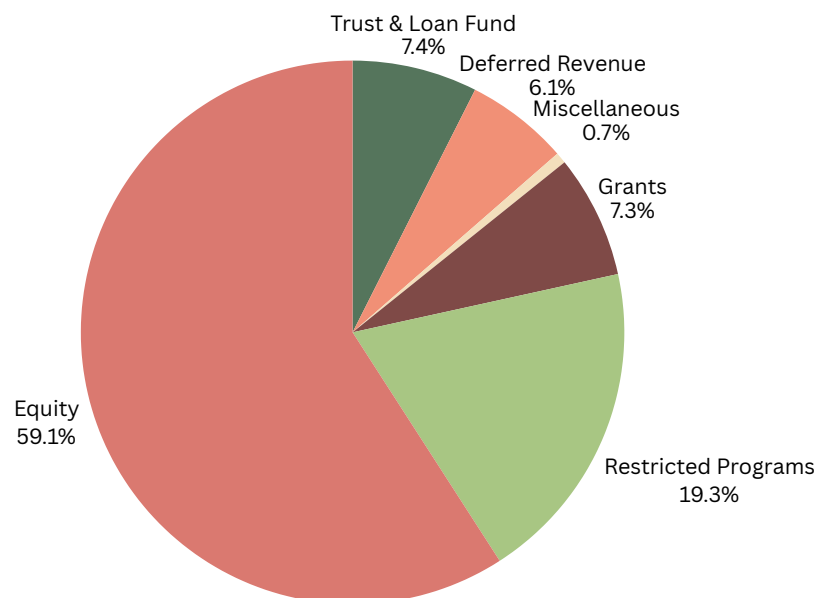
Through the Finance Committee, we also formed an Investment Committee to work with the Board Advancement Committee in shaping investment policies and implementation. This strategic decision supports both current assets and future needs. We anticipate that primary revenue will continue to come from donations, grants, and foundations, with additional support from membership and program growth. helping to strengthen our financial position and lay a more sustainable foundation for the future.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all who are associated with the Franciscan Federation for allowing me to serve them and you as a Board Member and Treasurer for this past year. I am thrilled and very happy to inform you of the appointment of Michael Fenn as the Treasurer effective January 2026. Michael has served on the Board since 2024 and has held the specific role of chairing the Advancement Committee for the Board. His knowledge and efforts in this capacity make him ideal as we pursue a significant effort in expanding our advancement efforts going forward.

BALANCE SHEET 2025

Assets	Dec. 31, 2024	Dec. 31, 2025
Cash Checking	\$12,617.97	\$9,567.16
Investment Fund	\$504,611.51	\$378,697.28
PrePaid Expenses		\$4,200.00
Total Assets	\$517,229.48	\$392,464.44
Liabilities& Equity	Dec. 31, 2024	Dec. 31, 2025
Accounts Payable	\$114.06	\$3,758.89
Trust & Loan Fund	\$38,500.00	\$38,500.00
Unrealized Gain		\$37,185.21
Deferred Revenue	\$31,729.00	
Miscellaneous	\$3,400.00	\$3,400.00
Grants	\$37,845.95	\$37,845.95
Restricted Programs	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Equity	\$305,640.47	\$175,174.39
Total	\$517,229.48	\$392,464.44

Liabilities & Equity



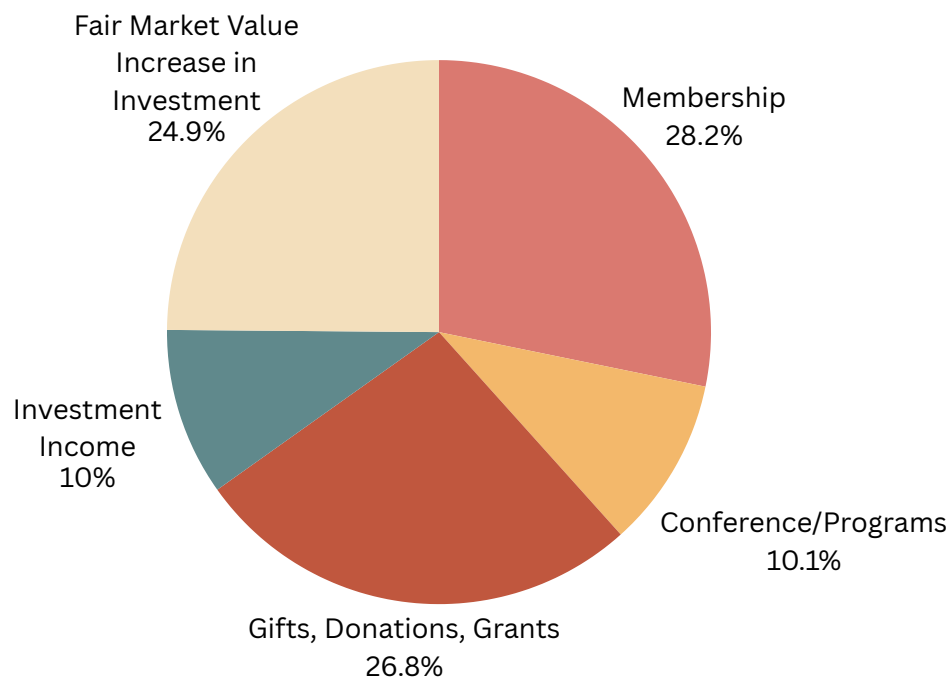
INCOME 2025

Income	Dec. 31, 2024	Dec. 31, 2025
Membership	\$64,043.00	\$42,185.00
Sales/Services	\$0.00	-
Conference/Programs	\$9,065.00	\$15,161.00
Gifts, Donations, Grants	\$124,587.00*	\$40,083.00
Investment Income	\$17,192.00	\$14,900.00
Fair Market Value Increase in Investment	\$22,322.00	\$37,185.00
Donated Services	\$4,179.00	**
Total Income	\$241,288.00	\$112,330.00

*Includes a one-time donation appeal of \$ 70,000.00 for staffing in 2024.

** Donated services were not registered as income in the revised income statement.

Income 2025

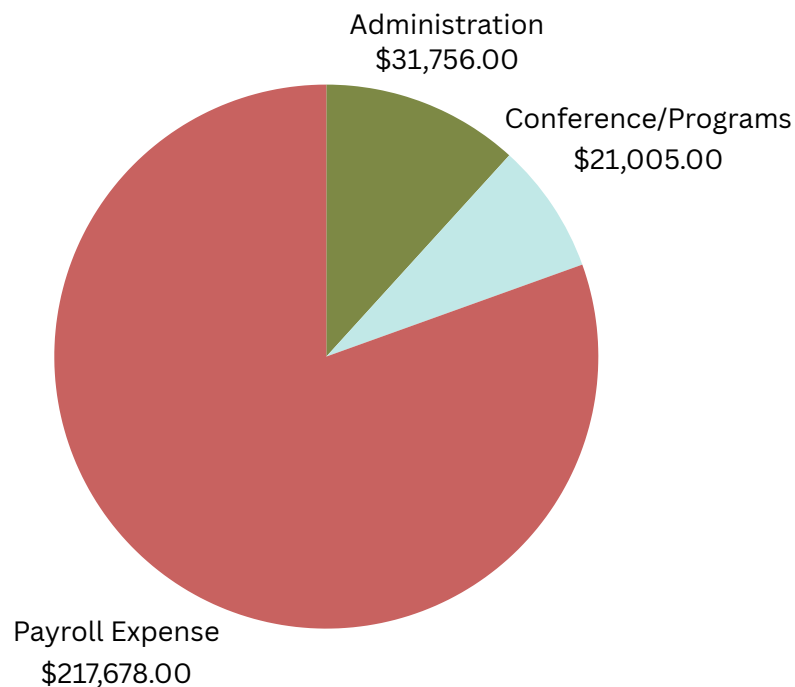


USE OF INCOME 2025

Use of Income	Dec. 31, 2024	Dec. 31, 2025
Administration	\$88,383.00	\$31,756.00
Conference/Programs	\$1,666.00	\$21,005.00
Organizational Expense	\$18,282.00	00.00**
Payroll Expense	\$157,981.00	\$217,678.00
Donated and Specialized Services	\$8,039.00	00.00**
Other	\$13,532.00	00.00**
Total Use of Income	\$287,883.00	\$270,439.00

** Due to accounting reporting changes, Organizational Expenses, Donated Services and Other categories were subsumed under the *Administration category

Use of Income



Intergenerational Eco-Spirituality Network (IEJSN)

During 2025, the Intergenerational Eco-Justice and Spirituality Network (IEJSN) steering committee established a monthly meeting structure, alternating Zoom gatherings between spiritual reflection and networking. The committee included Kelly Moltzen, Sister Elizabeth Fuhr, Sister Joan Brown, Gabriela Martinez, and Kayla Jacobs. These meetings provided a consistent space to share eco-justice and eco-spirituality efforts, support one another's work, and explore ways to engage a wider audience.

Beyond the steering committee, the most active participants in the IEJSN monthly gatherings came from the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Beth Blissman from the Loretto Community, and Tiffany Lee from Altagracia Faith & Justice Works.

Highlights from 2025:

- Created a Google Group which we used to share announcements about the IEJSN gatherings and other relevant opportunities.
- Connected IEJSN with the Order of the Sacred Earth (OSE).
- Sister Joan Brown shared a spiritual practice invitation for IEJSN participants to meditate on and practice during the month.
- Sister Caryn Crook led a presentation about the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis' Canticum of the Creatures.
- Honored the life of Joanna Macy and discussed eco-pilgrimages being planned across the country with support from Catholic Climate Covenant
- Invited IEJSN participants to join FAN's Green Amendments webinar, and then debriefed on the webinar and COP 30 during the following week's IEJSN gathering.

In October, Sister Caryn Crook stepped down from the steering committee after taking on a new role within her congregation. Gabriela Martinez also concluded her service this year as she transitioned from the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) to pursue a career in environmental education. Nora Collins from FAN joined the steering committee following Gabriela's departure.

In early 2026, we began to plan out a 4-session Zoom series that would be promoted broadly through the sponsoring organizations including the Franciscan Federation, FAN, Catholic Climate Covenant, and the Interfaith Public Health Network.

JUSTICE, PEACE, AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC) Network

During 2025, the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission continued its work by coordinating programming, cultivating the network. On Saturday, June 28 in collaboration with Franciscan Media, the Commission celebrated the 800th Anniversary of Francis' *Canticle of Creation*.

Illia Delio, OSF, Keith Douglass Warner, OFM and Pamela Wood, authors of the expanded edition of *Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth*, welcomed attendees to a virtual roundtable where they shared their reasons for publishing the expanded edition, including incorporating Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'* into their book.

During 2025 and early 2026, at the request of Federation, members of the Executive Committee began meeting to discuss its mission and its purpose. After numerous meetings, the JPIC executive committee came to the conclusion that JPIC should become a Network. Its revised mission is as follows:

“Grounded in the sacred interconnectedness of all people and creation, Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) is a network of Franciscan Federation members, JPIC coordinators and partner organizations united by a shared commitment to justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Together, we seek to bring the Franciscan voice to the pressing social, ecological and spiritual challenges of our time.”

The JPIC Network will gather regularly at an interval set by members. Meetings will be used to share about issues affecting local communities, especially those not receiving national attention. These gatherings will also serve as spaces for mutual support, sharing of resources and communal prayer to sustain those working for justice and peace and the empower the Franciscan family to take action.

To get involved, please email JPIC Network co-chairs Sister Pat Millen (pmillen@osfphila.org) and Kelly Moltzen (kellyamoltzen@gmail.com).

JPIC Network Core Committee

Pat Millen, OSF- Co-Chair
Kelly Moltzen, OFS- Co-Chair
Brady Young, National Office Liaison
Michele Dunne, OFS
Liz Fuhr, OSF
Carolyn Townes, OFS

FRANCISCAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (FICN)

Franciscan intentional communities are ongoing relational gatherings of people who, inspired by Francis and Clare of Assisi, and the early Franciscan movement, choose to consciously cultivate a shared, Spirit-led gospel life, through diverse expressions of community. We lend support in forming intentional communities and help existing communities to flourish, to provide people a space and place to listen to God and one another.

In 2025, the Core Team worked with three people to help them get started on their own intentional community by providing advice, forms and applications, and the do's and don'ts of intentional communities. Currently there are 5 intentional communities that are part of the network.

Core Team

Caryn Crook, OSF, Chair
Michelle L'Allier, OSF
Diane Tomkinson, OSF
Maria Brizuela, OSF
Eunice Park
Pat George
Karen Pulaski, OFS

- **Canticle House**, Philadelphia, Pa sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia
- **Faithful Fools**, San Francisco, Ca sponsored by Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
- **Franciscan Welcoming House**, St. Cloud, MN sponsored by Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
- **House of Discernment**, Pittsburgh, PA sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Francis of the Neumann Communities and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden.
- **Mount Irenaeus**, West Clarksville, NY

Accomplishments:

- 6 Core Team meetings and 2 full Network meetings
- 1 In-person meeting April 6-10 at Canticle House in Philadelphia, PA.
- Topics Discussed: diverse community living and conflict resolution, networking, promotion, and outreach for FICN and implement an annual member prayer service.
- Sister Caryn Crook became the Chair of the Network, relieving Sister Diane Tomkinson from the role she held since FICN's beginning in 2022.
- Advent Prayer Service with all the intentional communities and network members.



The Associates Network: A New Chapter in Franciscan Connection

Something remarkable took root in 2025—a grassroots movement that would grow into the Franciscan Federation’s Associates Network. For years, the bonds between associate members and the Federation had been quietly strengthening. Yet something was missing. Associates across the country shared a common Franciscan spirit, but had no real way to find one another—no forum for exchanging ideas, no channel to make their voices heard by Federation leadership. That was about to change.

It began, as so many meaningful things do, with a single person who decided to act. In mid-February, one associate leader reached out to a handful of her fellow Franciscan associate leaders with a simple but powerful invitation: come together, and let’s talk. That first gathering sparked an energy that no one wanted to let go of.

By March, the circle had widened. More associate leaders joined the conversation, and the questions on the table were ones that struck at the heart of what it means to belong: What do we, as associates, bring to the Federation? What do we need from it? And how can we support one another within it? The answers pointed clearly toward one next step—requesting a direct conversation with the Federation’s new Executive Director and Board Chair.

Four associate leaders were chosen to carry the group’s hopes into that April meeting: Colleen Collins, Linda Dees, Nancy Knipper, and Darcy Mason. What they discovered surprised and encouraged them. Executive Director Julianne Wallace had already been planning to connect with associates—their invitation had arrived just as she was preparing to reach out herself. It was a moment that felt less like coincidence and more like confirmation. An Associates Network, everyone agreed, was exactly the kind of initiative that could deepen the connection between Associates and the Federation.

In May, Julianne brought associate leaders together for the first time in this new spirit of partnership. She introduced herself, Board Chair Jeanne Connolly offered an update from the board, and associates gathered in small groups to share, dream, and discern. Out of that meeting emerged a call for a Core Group—a team of dedicated leaders who would help build the Associates Network from the ground up.

Five women answered that call and they brought not only commitment, but creativity and vision to the work ahead. One of their first priorities was ensuring that associates everywhere could find their way to this new community. Working with Brady Young, the Core Group developed a dedicated webpage for the Associates Network on the Franciscan Federation website—a digital home for a growing family.

They also knew that connection requires more than a webpage. It requires people showing up for one another. In October, the Core Group hosted its first Zoom gathering for associate leaders across the Federation. The response was immediate and clear: associates wanted more. They asked to meet four times a year—a resounding vote of confidence in what this Network could become.

What unfolded in 2025 was more than the launch of a program. It was the emergence of a community. The Associates Network is still young, but its foundation is strong, built by people who believed that connection is not just a convenience. It is a calling.

Associate leaders should already be receiving emails from the Core Team. If you are an associate leader and you would like to get on the email list or if you are an associate and want to contact the Core Team, email Colleen at ccollins@osfphila.org.

Associates Network Core Team



Nancy Knipper
Sisters of St. Francis,
Dubuque



Colleen Collins
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia



Linda Dees
Franciscan Sisters of Alleghany



Patricia Tomich
Franciscan Sisters of the
Sacred Heart



Darcy Mason
Sisters of St. Francis of
Mary Immaculate, Joliet

COMMISSION OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

The Commission of Member Engagement seeks to foster a sense of belonging among Federation members while also extending invitation to potential members. It encourages grassroots efforts that keep the Franciscan spirit alive throughout the year and deepens relationships among members, including through a virtual annual Federation retreat.

Commission Members

Meg Earsley, FSPA, Co-chair
Kristin Moline, Co-chair
Anne Amati, OSF
Verleah Kosloske, TSSF
Jeanine Morozowich, CSSF
Maryann Mueller, CSSF

In February of 2025, Franciscan Federation hosted the 2nd Annual Virtual Retreat ***The Canticle and Hope***. Brother Bill Short, OFM inspired all as he unpacked the experiences of Francis leading up to the composition of the Canticle of the Creatures. His unique and wise perspectives invited everyone to consider this movement in the life of Francis in new ways. More than 200 participants joined the retreat, reflecting and connecting with each other.

In March, monthly virtual Franciscan Connection Circles began as an experimental grassroots effort as a response to member's desire to connect with other Franciscans. Each month, Franciscan stories or articles and reflections are shared. Participants are invited to share their thoughts and ideas in small breakout groups. After the six-month trial, we were excited to announce that the experiment was a success! It has become a source of community for many and continues the second Monday of each month at 7pm Eastern.

Finally, in June, Ilia Delio, OSF, Keith Douglas Warner, OFM, and Pamela Wood joined Franciscan Federation virtually for an author roundtable about their recently expanded book, ***Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth***. The conversation was rich in Franciscan perspectives and understandings. Those in attendance enjoyed hearing about the book's intention, creation, and latest updates.

At the beginning of 2026, the Commission for Member Engagement will transition into the Virtual Retreat Working group, and their primary purpose will continue to plan and implement the Virtual Retreat.

2025 Fran Fed Year In Review

1 Virtual Retreat

With Br. Bill Short, OFM, we gathered to sing a canticle of hope and praise, deepening our Franciscan spirit across the miles.

5 Times We Gathered in Prayer

From lifting up prayers for the Conclave, to celebrating our Women of Hope Advent series, over 500 people showed up in spirit (and on Zoom!) to pray the Franciscan way.

4 Partner Events

Our Franciscan presence grew stronger through partnerships with the Franciscan Action Network, AFCU, LCWR, and All Franciscan Day in Cincinnati. Collaboration? Check. Community? Always.



**Franciscan
Federation**

3 Big Events 350+ Franciscan Hearts

From hearing insights from Keith Warner, Ilia Delio, and Pamela Wood, to virtually walking the streets of Assisi, to celebrating the legacy of the Franciscan Federation— we logged countless hours growing together in formation and friendship

10 Connection Circles

Each month, 15–30 Franciscans gathered to share life, laughter, and love of our charism. Zoom squares became sacred spaces of encounter and joy.

2 Town Halls 1 Shared Future

Members came together to listen, reflect, and dream big, paving the way for our 2026 Strategic Plan launch. The Spirit is moving!

\$40,000 Raised for a sustainable future

Together, we raised over \$40,000 to sustain the mission and future of the Franciscan Federation— a testament to your generosity and shared hope.

franfed.org

franfedoffice@franfed.org



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