

Selecting and Approving Marianist Representatives to Serve on Boards of Sponsored Ministries

*Marianist Province of the United States
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Introduction

This document is written for CEOs and board chairs of Marianist-sponsored ministries to assist them in fulfilling the expectation to have Province-approved Marianist Representatives serve on boards of sponsored ministries. This expectation is outlined in the Sponsorship & Services Agreement the Province has with its sponsored ministries. The agreement states that the sponsored ministry will “Include at least one Marianist (SM, FMI or Marianist-formed layperson) approved by the Province as a voting member of the organization’s governing board.” (Section III C.2.)

Why This Document Exists

In every Marianist-sponsored ministry it is important to ensure that the ministry is faithful to the mission of the Catholic Church and to its Marianist traditions and roots. The ministry’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the primary caretaker of this responsibility. The CEO is supported in this responsibility by persons and structures within the sponsored ministry and within the Marianist Province of the United States. These persons include the chair of the ministry’s governing board and specific members of the board who have a deep commitment to the Marianist charism as either a Marianist religious or a Marianist-formed layperson.

The makeup of a governing board should include people who can help contribute to strong, collaborative governance. This includes making sure you have people on the board who can help deepen and enrich the Marianist charism, culture and tradition of the ministry. Having representatives who can help bring the mission and history of an institution will help offer a richer perspective of a shared mission.

Selection of all board members should be discerned with a sense of prayerfulness—a prayerfulness like Blessed William Joseph Chaminade brought to Saragossa as he discerned the original mission and vision of the Marianist family.

Selecting Marianist Reps to Serve on Boards

Responsibilities of the CEO and Board Chair

Selection of a Marianist Representative to serve on a governing board is the responsibility of the CEO and the board chair. The CEO and Board Chair should notify the Province when a need exists to select a new Marianist Representative to serve on the ministry’s board.

Marianist Representatives may include either a member of the Society of Mary (SM), a member of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (FMI), or a Marianist-formed layperson approved by the Province. All Marianist Representatives serving on boards of Marianist-sponsored institutions must be approved by the Province.

Responsibilities of the Province

The Province—through its Office of Education—will collaborate with each sponsored ministry to identify individuals who possess the attributes, abilities and experience required to serve as a Marianist Representative on a sponsored ministry’s board.

The Marianist Office of Education will provide instructions on how the nomination and approval process works. Ministries must also adhere to their bylaws (and diocesan guidelines, as applicable) when adding new Marianist Representatives to their governing board.

Attributes Considered in Selecting a Marianist Rep

Individuals must possess the following attributes to be approved by the Province to serve as a Marianist Representative on the board of a sponsored ministry:

- They must have the ability to serve as an engaged board member – bringing knowledge, experience or capacity in board governance as well as wisdom and guidance to the deliberations of the board.
- If a Marianist-formed layperson, they must be someone who personally embodies the Marianist charism and tradition – exemplifying and able to articulate those characteristics in carrying out all aspects of their role as a member of the board.

- They must be steeped in Marianist charism and tradition – and open to ongoing formation so that they are able to help bring the uniqueness of the Marianist charism to all aspects of board governance (including mission alignment, goal setting, discernment and decision making, supervision of executive leadership, etc.)
- They must have a minimum of five years of engaged association with the Marianist family (or proven understanding of the Marianist charism as determined through collaboration with the Office of Education).

Additional Marianist Representation on Boards

The bylaws of province-incorporated ministries may also require that the Marianist Assistant for Education (or his designee) be a voting, ex officio member of the board. The bylaws may further require that the Assistant for Education (or his designee) also serve as a member of the ministry’s executive committee.

Roles and Responsibilities of Marianist Reps

Once approved, Marianist Representatives serving on boards of sponsored ministries:

- Help ensure that the values and principles of the Marianist mission and charism are an integral part of every important discussion and decision of the board—including such areas as admissions, academics, athletics, finances, facilities, marketing, programming, etc.
- Assist in the planning and implementation of both initial and ongoing formation of board members in the Marianist charism and its implications for governance.
- Assist in proposing new members of the board, especially other Marianist representatives.
- Assist in coordination of the board’s Mission Integration / Mission Identity committees.

Board Formation

The CEO and the board chair are responsible for making board formation available to the ministry’s board members. This includes formation on how the Marianist charism guides all aspects of board governance (including mission alignment, goal setting, discernment and decision making, supervision of executive leadership, etc.).

These formative experiences will be supported through consultation with the Marianist Office of Education and the Marianist Office of Sponsorship.

For more information, visit
www.marianist.com/board-resources
 or call the Marianist Office of Sponsorship
 314.533.1207