



# Marianist Moments



Principles of Good Practice for  
the Board of a Marianist-Sponsored Institution

~ Meeting aid ~

## Opening Prayer:

Prayers for Marianist Boards, [www.marianist.com/board-resources](http://www.marianist.com/board-resources)

Gracious and loving God, the giver and sustainer of life, we thank you for the opportunity we have to sustain and nurture our Catholic Marianist community, a community of prayer, life, work, and service that contributes to building up a just and peaceful society.

Guide our efforts during this meeting with the wisdom of your life-giving Spirit. Let us be receptive to your guidance and love. May we imitate the Blessed Virgin Mary and say yes to directions you put before us.

May we minister to build a community of faith dedicated to deepening the Gospel message among our stakeholders.

We make our prayer to you, our gracious God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

## Scripture Reading:

John 14: 12 – 15, NRSV-CE

“Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.’”

## Silent Introspection:

Mission Integration Resources for Governing Boards, [www.marianist.com/board-resources](http://www.marianist.com/board-resources)

In this present moment, which of the following ***Marianist Board Descriptors*** seem particularly striking in the context of the immediate work before you as a Marianist Board?



### THE BOARD OF A MARIANIST-SPONSORED INSTITUTION:

1. **Is aware of Marianist spirituality and charism**, including the discipleship of equals – mixed composition, the lives of the Founders Fr. Chaminade, Mother Adele, and Marie Therese, and the Marianist understanding of Mary as first among believers, a model for discipleship and an example for social justice.
2. **Determines the Marianist ministry's mission and purpose** with Catholic and Marianist traditions. It is the Board's responsibility to create and review a statement of mission and purpose, provide oversight of that mission which articulates the organization's goals, means, and primary constituents served.
3. **Exercises its governance role in ensuring that the Marianist ministry supports and upholds** the mission statement, core values, statement of faith, vision statement, and sponsorship agreements with the Marianist Province and/or Diocese.
4. **Enhances the Marianist ministry's public standing.** The Board should clearly articulate the ministry's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garner support from the community.
5. **Ensures effective strategic planning.** Board members actively participate in strategic planning to implement and monitor the Marianist ministry's mission.
6. **Ensures effective organizational planning.** Board members actively participate in an overall planning process and assist in implementing and monitoring the plan's goals.
7. **Is aware of its fiduciary responsibilities** to ensure that the budget includes formation in best practices for governance, ongoing Marianist formation and participation in sponsorship requirements,
8. **Ensures legal and ethical integrity and maintains accountability.** The Board is ultimately responsible for ensuring adherence to ethical norms and legal standards.
9. **Recruits and orients new board members and assess Board performance.** All Boards have responsibility to articulate prerequisites for candidates, orient new members, and periodically and comprehensively evaluate its own performance.
10. **Determines, monitors, and strengthens the organization's programs and services.** The Board's responsibility is to determine what programs are consistent with the Marianist ministry's mission and to monitor their effectiveness.
11. **Selects the chief executive.** The board members reach consensus on the chief executive's responsibilities and undertake a careful search to find the most qualified individual for the position.
12. **Supports the chief executive and assess his/her performance.** The Board should ensure that the CEO has the moral and professional support s/he needs to further the goals of the ministry.

### Group Sharing:

How might the Holy Spirit be leading us to apply these principles of good practice as a Board of a Marianist-sponsored institution?

