

## **Assumptions**

1. The structure process is progressing with an agreed upon set of defined terms.
2. That we are committed to a model and process that is flexible, inclusive and allows for the potential to evolve over time as circumstances change and/or permit.
3. That the value and contribution of Mercy elementary and secondary schools to family, Church, and society will continue now and into the future.
4. That new and emerging roles in leadership in elementary and secondary education call us to greater collaboration with lay and religious in the ministry of Mercy education in governance.
5. That this process is consistent with the Institute's accepted challenge to reconfigure itself to meet mission and ministry needs of the future.
6. That an office for sponsorship services (currently known as the Network for Mercy Education) will continue and its role and mission will evolve as the model(s) evolve.

## **Values/Principles**

- ❖ Mercy charism, core values and tradition require exploration of new models to continue and we choose to make the changes that will ensure their endurance
- ❖ Desire for unity/collaboration coupled with respect and accommodation for local diversity
- ❖ People are in different places at this time of change

9/12/02