

WHĀNAU MERCY MINISTRIES

# HUI WHĀNAU 2025

**DAY 2 - 14 October 2025**

Te Wāhanga Atawhai Mercy Conference Centre

Thorndon, Wellington



# HUI WHĀNAU 2025

He Wā Whakamaumahara

a space to experience, encounter,  
and engage in Mercy.



# WORKSHOP A

Care for our Common Home

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A lush green forest with a dirt path leading through the trees. The path is in the foreground, and the trees are dense and tall, with sunlight filtering through the canopy. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

# **Responding Courageously to the call to Care for our Common Home**

Whānau Mercy Ministries Hui  
October 2025

A photograph of a forest path. The path is a narrow, light-colored trail that leads from the foreground into the distance, flanked by dense green foliage and tall trees. The lighting is soft and dappled, suggesting sunlight filtering through the canopy. In the center of the image, there is a white rectangular box with rounded corners containing the word "Introductions" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# Introductions

# Laudato Si' 101

The seven goals of Laudato Si' are:

## 1. Response to the Cry of Earth

Protecting our planet by addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.

## 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor

Defending the rights and dignity of vulnerable and marginalised communities most affected by ecological harm.

## 3. Ecological Economics

Promoting economic systems that prioritise sustainability, social justice and care for creation over profit.

## 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

Embracing simplicity and conscious consumption to reduce ecological impact.



## 5. Ecological Education

Fostering awareness, understanding and action for integral ecology through learning and formation.

## 6. Ecological Spirituality

Cultivating a spiritual connection with creation through prayer, reflection and faith-inspired ecological action.

## 7. Community Resilience and Empowerment

Strengthening local communities to participate in ecological justice and build a more sustainable and just future together.

# What is Integral Ecology?

**“We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.”**

*(Laudato Si' #139)*

- The ecological crisis is not separate from the social challenges faced by vulnerable communities; in fact, it is deeply interconnected.
- We have a moral imperative to care for both people and the planet.
- Every decision impacts the web of life, and every act of care contributes to the healing of our Common Home.
- Integral ecology is a way of understanding the world that emphasises the interconnectedness of:
  - People and planet.
  - Social justice and environmental sustainability.
  - Spiritual life and material choices.
  - Global systems and local realities.

**“...changing the human heart and changing human society are not separate tasks, but are as interconnected as the two beams of the cross.”**

*Henri Nouwen*

# Who is your neighbour?



**“He said to him,  
‘You shall love the Lord your God with all  
your heart,  
and with all your soul,  
and with all your mind.’  
This is the greatest and first commandment.  
And a second is like it:  
‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’”**

*Matthew 22:37–39 (NRSV)*

A photograph of a forest with a dirt path leading through trees. The path is in the foreground, and the trees are dense and green. The lighting is soft, suggesting a forest interior. A white text box is overlaid on the image.

***In the community you serve, how do you see climate change impacting the needs of people?***

# What does this mean for Mercy Governance boards?

- Integral ecology offers a framework for discerning how policies, priorities and practices align with both the Gospel and Earth's needs.
- Knowing we are called beyond the basics and ticking boxes.
- 'Walking towards' the issues of our time.
- A summons to live our charism more fully at a time of global urgency.



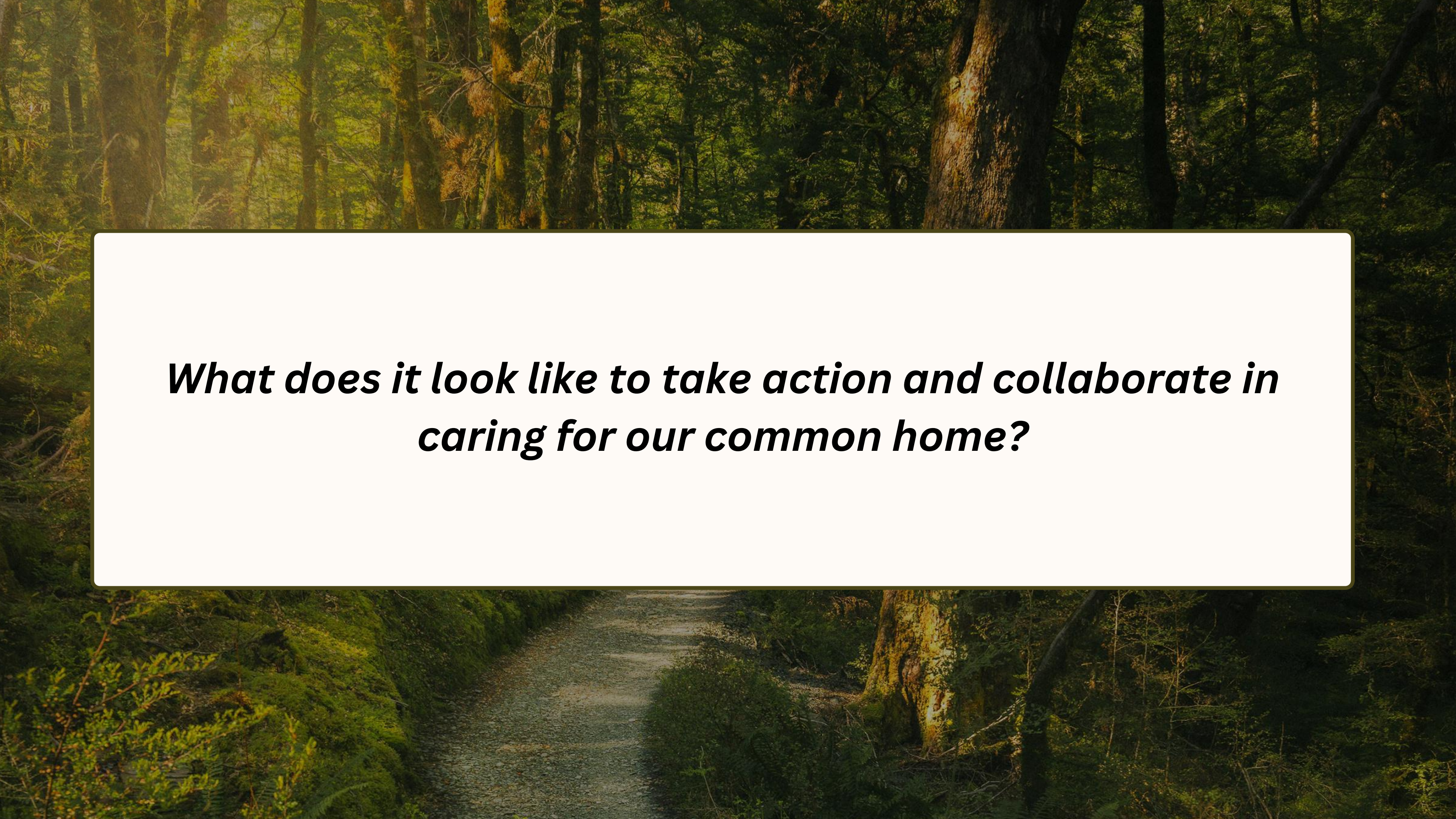
# What is the 'Mercy Way' of approaching an issue?

- Radical attentiveness to the needs of others, especially those who are vulnerable or marginalised.
- Listening, accompanying and responding with immediacy and care.
- Hands-on, practical, and solutions-oriented.
- Moral clarity.
- Trusting in God's providence
- Drawing on collective wisdom.
- Integrating spirituality.
- Advocating for wider justice.
- Trusting the young with leadership.
- Commissioning and sending others into action.
- Makes the mission known to others.
- Invites partnership.
- Works collaboratively with church structures.





***How might your ministry respond to environmental challenges in a way that is more in line with the ‘Mercy Way’?***

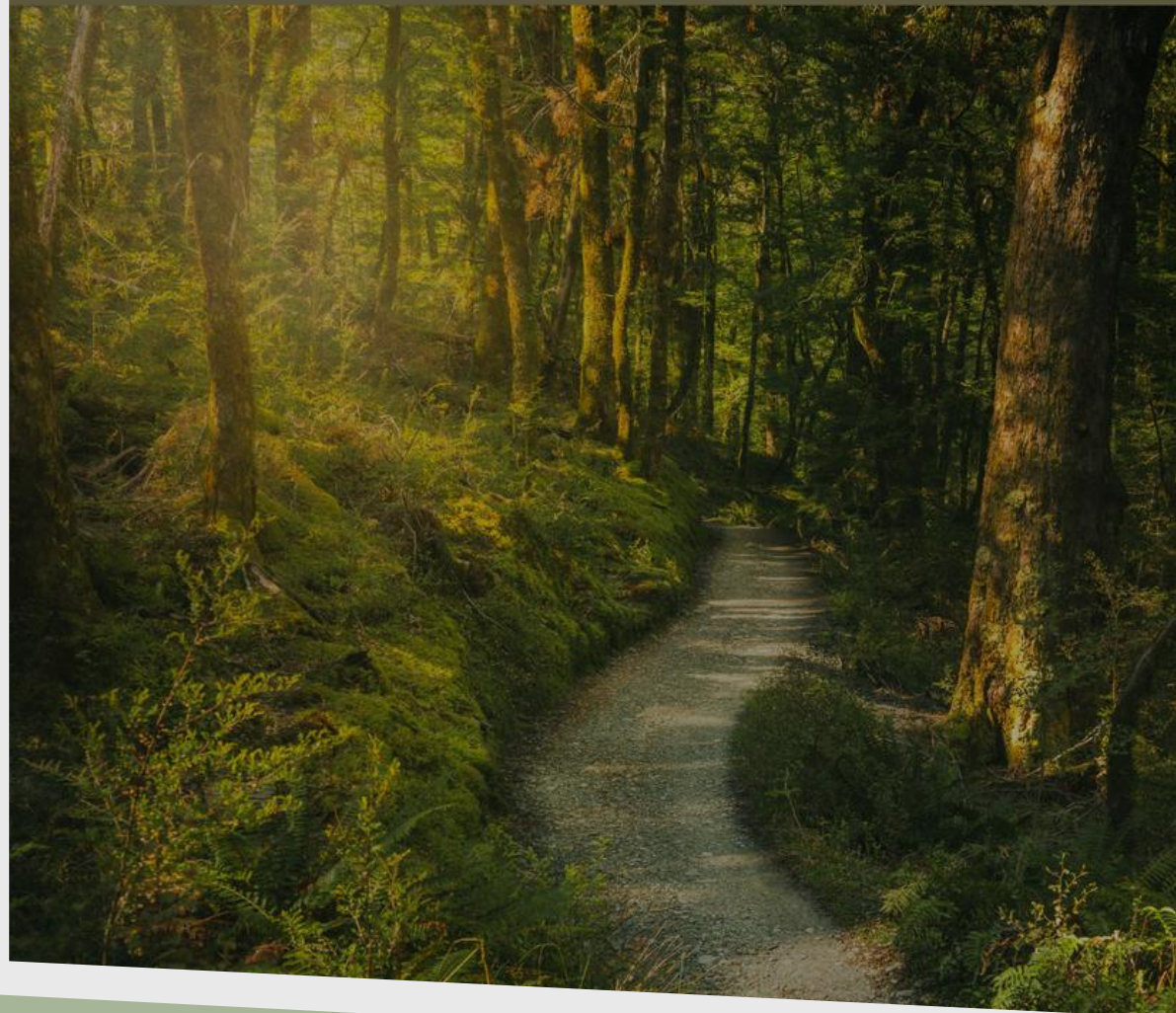


***What does it look like to take action and collaborate in caring for our common home?***

# Practical Next Steps

**Mercy Governance Approaches to  
Caring for Our Common Home:  
A Reflective and Practical Guide for  
Mercy Boards Responding to the Call  
of *Laudato Si'*.**

Charlotte Cummings  
Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellowship, Cohort Four.



**1) Read and engage with *Laudato Si'***

**2) Sign your ministry up to the *Laudato Si'*  
Platform for Action**

**3) Connect with A Rocha - Eco Org initiative**

**4) Engage with the Mercy Governance  
resource**

- Introduction to *Laudato Si'*
- Exploring the 'Mercy Way'
- Key Performance Indicators and Decision Making Framework
- Formation Activities

# Closing Prayer

**God of Mercy and Creator of All,  
You have called us into relationship with an Earth filled  
with beauty,  
a common home where all life is interconnected,  
where all life depends on justice and compassion.  
We thank you for the gift of leadership,  
for the wisdom of Catherine McAuley,  
and for the challenge of Laudato Si',  
which calls us to see with clearer eyes  
and to act with courageous hearts.  
As we carry this work forward,  
may we be leaders who listen—  
to the cry of the Earth,  
to the cry of the poor,  
to the quiet voice of the Spirit in our midst.**

**Help us govern with tenderness and conviction.  
Let our decisions sow healing, not harm.  
Let our structures reflect your justice,  
and our strategies bear fruit for future  
generations.  
In every policy and plan,  
may we honour the sacredness of life,  
the dignity of every person,  
and the integrity of creation.  
Catherine, woman of mercy and vision,  
walk with us as we lead in love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord,  
who walked gently on this Earth.**

**Amen.**

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**WHĀNAU  
MERCY  
MINISTRIES**

**Te Ngākau Atawhai – Heart of Mercy:** In Aotearoa, the Mercy Cross, central to Catherine McAuley’s spirituality, is supported by a pair of koru. The koru represent the unfolding of new life and link our Mercy story to the spirituality of Māori and the ancient lore of this land

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