

henri nouwen
SOCIETY

The Way Forward

2022 – 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN



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Who Are We?

Henri Nouwen was a brilliant Dutch-born Catholic priest and pastor, psychologist, professor, and prolific writer. He wrote and spoke with honesty and deep vulnerability about faith, spiritual formation, community, and other themes that still resonate today. Although he passed away unexpectedly in 1996, Nouwen is acknowledged as a spiritual master for our times.



The Henri Nouwen Society is a not-for-profit organization in both the USA and Canada. The Society partners with the Henri Nouwen Legacy Trust, which holds the copyright to all Nouwen works.

There is an enduring hunger in our world for the spiritual encouragement, inspiration, and equipping that the words of Henri Nouwen offer. We respond to this hunger by promoting, publishing, and preserving Nouwen's rare and powerful voice proclaiming God's unconditional love for all people.

Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director

When we set out in spring 2020 to develop our new Strategic Plan, we had two key questions. They were, "What can Henri Nouwen's words offer the world today and in the future?" and "How can the Society ensure that Nouwen's legacy continues to grow?"

The Board and staff embarked on an ambitious process to refresh our organizational purpose, clarify our core values, and pursue answers to the above questions. We sought insights and ideas from a broad cross-section of people who could help us identify the themes, challenges, and strengths before us today.

We see in our world today a deepening interest in spirituality, a hunger for authentic community, and an urgent call to pursue justice and inclusion. We are committed to partner with individuals, likeminded organizations, and academic institutions to present Nouwen's work in away that connects to today's audiences.



Our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan reflects the hard work and engagement of the many people who provided their thoughtful insights, ideas, and feedback. We are deeply grateful for the partnership and encouragement of each one. Forward!

Sean Mulrooney, Board Chair

Karen Pascal, Executive Director

Our Purpose

We share Henri Nouwen's spiritual vision so that people can be transformed through experiencing themselves as God's beloved.

Our 4 Strategic Priorities

PRIORITY 1: Engage and expand the Nouwen community

We will increase our engagement with current audiences and engage new and diverse audiences. This will include a focus on growing our digital footprint.

PRIORITY 2: Expand publishing opportunities, in partnership with the Henri Nouwen Legacy Trust

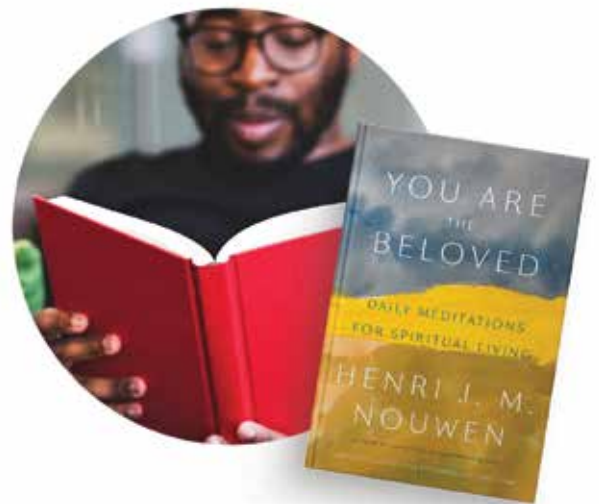
We will continue to strengthen and build relationships with our existing and potential publishers as well as grow the pipeline of fresh Nouwen material for a variety of audiences.

PRIORITY 3: Build diverse partnerships and collaborations

We will partner with churches and other faith-based organizations to support the spiritual life of individuals and communities. We will also partner with academic institutions to encourage and support Nouwen studies and collaborate with like-minded organizations to advance areas of common interest.

PRIORITY 4: In partnership with the Henri Nouwen Legacy Trust, strengthen the preservation and use of Henri Nouwen materials

The Henri J.M. Nouwen Archives and Research Collection is housed at the John M. Kelly Library at the University of St. Michael's College (USMC). We will continue to strengthen our relationship with USMC, promote the use of the Archives, and support the Archives in continuing to build the Nouwen collection.





Our 4 Strategic Enablers

These are the elements that will enable the successful implementation of our strategy.

ENABLER 1: Vibrant Fund Development

We will continue to invite individuals and foundations to join us as giving partners while nurturing and celebrating their ongoing generosity, involvement, and encouragement.

ENABLER 2: Strong Governance and Management Practices

We will continue to ensure strong Board governance and management practices.

ENABLER 3: Effective Technology and Facilities

We will ensure that our physical facilities and the technology we use effectively supports our operations.

ENABLER 4: Skilled and Collaborative People

We will continue to recruit, retain, and empower a highly skilled, engaged, and diverse staff and volunteer team.



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– SEAN MULROONEY

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Our 6 Core Values

LOVE: We believe that all people are deeply loved by God and reflect this truth in our interactions. We treat others with compassion and kindness, respecting and valuing each one.

SPIRITUALITY: Our spirituality is both rooted in Christ and open to all people, recognizing that spirituality can be authentically lived in diverse ways.

CREATIVITY: We embrace beauty, imagination, and inspiration in all we do, valuing them as creative expressions of faith.

COMMUNITY: We bring people together in fellowship, inclusion, and acceptance. We work in a spirit of hospitality and partnership with other individuals and organizations to achieve our goals and create the greatest possible impact.

STEWARDSHIP: As stewards of Henri Nouwen’s priceless legacy, we are grateful for everything we receive and carefully manage the resources entrusted to us. We are mindful of our role in caring for the resources of our community and the earth.

INTEGRITY: Striving for excellence, we are committed to working in an honest, ethical, and fair manner. We speak up, listen, and keep our word.