



CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTÉ DE VIE CHRÉTIENNE
COMUNIDAD DE VIDA CRISTIANA

CLC

Standing Orders

CLC STANDING ORDERS

(as presented and approved at the 13th World Assembly, 1998)

About our *Standing Orders*

Standing orders express the operating procedures followed by the World Executive Council when dealing with certain issues. Since fixed rules do not express the richness of a dynamic community life, it is important to be able to change those operating procedures without too much difficulty.

Standing orders in CLC are discussed and adopted by a simple majority vote at the annual meeting of the World Executive Council, which informs the next General Assembly of the decisions made.

Standing Order 1 (GN article 16e)

Criteria and Procedures for Establishing a National Community as a Member of the World CLC

The following text is based on the original proposal of the World ExCo modified by suggestions coming from the reactions of the National Communities and by changes arising from our discussion in the ExCo. It was - as such - accepted as the final version to be sent out 3 months before Itaici (1998 World Assembly) and to be submitted for vote to the General Assembly.

(A) What will the World CLC require from a new member?

World CLC demands a certain maturity in the CLC way of life that allows the survival of the community even if the founding members or strong leaders would withdraw. It *assumes* that such maturity exists if there are:

- Some groups of adult members who have experienced the full Spiritual Exercises in any of its modalities and who fully live the CLC way of life.
- Groups in more than one place or institution (e.g., groups based at a Jesuit institution can be a good beginning but they are not sufficient for a National Community's membership with World CLC).
- Certain structures (e.g., a National ExCo or guiding team elected by a national Assembly, a team responsible for formation).
- Acceptance of World CLC's General Principles, General Norms, and any other documents approved by the World CLC.
- Some experience with communal apostolic discernment and openness for mission.
- An understanding of CLC as an apostolic community within the Church, an open and loving attitude within the community of the Church and acceptance of the Church's teaching.

(B) The procedure for Establishing Membership

The establishing of new communities is laid down in General Norms 30 to 33. Before the World Executive Council can approve a new National Community, it must make sure that this community fulfills the criteria for being established as a member. Therefore, the following procedure is followed:

A National Community seeking membership sends a formal request to the World Executive Council. The request, signed by the National Executive Council, should contain the following information:

- A short history of development and growth
- A short report in which the fulfillment of the above criteria is explicit

If the **World Executive Council approves** a National Community, they will then ask the next **General Assembly to confirm** the ExCo decision.

A developing community should not be left alone on its way to membership. The World Executive Council, therefore, suggests the following **additional procedures**:

- Before a National Community can become a member, we ask them to live through a certain *trial period of membership*, which can be compared with the temporary commitment of an individual member. In this trial period either a *companion National Community*, if available, or a *companion team* proposed by the World ExCo in consultation with the candidate community, accompanies the new community.
- The "companions" help the candidate community to grow according to the General Principles and General Norms and the formation guidelines of the World CLC. They help in the formation of the members of the new community.
- The "companions" propose the full membership of the candidate community to the World ExCo, and present the candidate community at the General Assembly for confirmation as a new member.

The World ExCo believes that this procedure not only helps a new community in its growth but also strengthens the sense of responsibility for each other among the members of the world community.

Standing Order 2 (GN article 15)
Criteria for the nomination of delegates to the World Assembly
Amended August, 2002

GENERAL NORM #15: *The General Assembly is the supreme governing body of CLC. It is made up of the Executive Council and the delegation of each National Community. Each delegation will consist normally of three delegates, one of whom should be the Ecclesiastical Assistant or his representative. Difficulties, which may arise in making up the delegation, are to be settled by the Executive Council.*

Selection of delegates requires 'discernment of spirits' and preference should be given to those who best fulfil the following criteria. Every member in the National Community must understand, that to be chosen as a delegate is not an 'honour bestowed' but a serious obligation and a mission received for the benefit of the World CLC.

Delegates should be truly representative of their National Community. As the delegates are *missioned* by the National Community to continue, on their behalf, the discernment process initiated in preparation and continued during the upcoming World Assembly, it is important that they:

- have a commitment to CLC as a personal vocation in the Church and fully identify with the General Principles;
- have an experience of the complete Spiritual Exercises (GN #4);
- are members of a stable, local group living the CLC way of life which is essentially apostolic as expressed in the CLC Charism (cf *PROGRESSIO SUPPLEMENT* 2001);
- have an awareness of and commitment to the World CLC;
- are supported by the National CLC, family and the local CLC group where he/she lives;
- are able to communicate in one of the official languages (English, French or Spanish);
- have the ability and the time to:
 - prepare for the Assembly as a member of the National Preparatory Team
 - participate fully in the Assembly
 - convey the experience and the decisions of the World Assembly to his/her National Community
 - participate actively at the national level in the implementation of the decisions made at the World Assembly.

Further remarks:

Each National Community is asked to study these criteria carefully and use them to direct the process of choosing delegates and at least one substitute. If a National Community, for any reason, **cannot find 3 delegates who fulfil the criteria**, it should consider sending only the one or two members who fulfil most of the criteria.

A delegate, who is an Ecclesiastical Assistant, should remain in his/her position after the Assembly, at least until such time as the commencement of the implementation of Assembly decisions.

Standing Order 3 (GN 16f)
Candidates for the World CLC Executive Council
Procedure and criteria for nomination of candidates to the World CLC Executive Council
Amended August, 2002

1. Procedure for the nomination of candidates

Each National Community affiliated to the World Community is called to nominate candidates for all the elected positions (7) on the Executive Council.

President, Vice-President, Secretary and 4 Consultors *

The General Assembly elects the Executive Council for the period until the next Assembly (General Norm 16f). Each member community may nominate *one* person for each position, making a maximum of seven nominations. Those nominated can be members of the same National Community or from any other National Community.

According to General Norm 21a, an Executive Council member can be re-elected only once.

Nominations should be forwarded to the World Secretariat as soon as possible through the National Executive Council. According to General Norm 28, nominations in writing should be received at least six (6) months before the Assembly.

The World Secretariat will contact the nominated candidates to ask for their consent. At the same time they will receive a questionnaire.

The list of candidates, who have accepted nomination, with their answers to the questionnaire, will be sent in a further mailing to allow an initial discernment before the election itself.

The nomination of candidates is a great responsibility for the National Community. A prayerful approach is needed, as well as discernment on the basis of the following criteria.

** Dependent on approval of a proposed change in GN #21a to opt for a 4th consultor in place of a Treasurer.*

2. Criteria for selection of candidates

When the Assembly elects the Executive Council, they are not called to add another task to the number of their activities. They are invited to amend and reform their personal life and state (*Spiritual Exercises 189*) according to the call they have received from the Lord by means of the Assembly that elects them. They learn to consider and ponder how all the dimensions of their life have to be reordered (*Spiritual Exercises 21*). Considering that CLC is called to be an apostolic body, Executive Council members are expected to respond in a spirit of love and be thorough in their commitment.

In order to be accountable and adequately discharge the responsibility that the World Assembly entrust into its care, the Executive Council perceives its work as a mission in which it discerns, sends its members, supports and annually evaluates its own performance.

According to General Norm #20, the Executive Council is responsible for the ordinary government of our World Christian Life Community. For this important task, mature personalities, with leadership qualities, are needed to govern an international association. Thus, the following basic criteria have to be met by the candidate:

- commitment to CLC as his/her vocation;
- identification with the General Principles of CLC and a personal life style that is not contradictory to them;
- availability (willingness and time) to give priority to the obligations of an active, working member of the World ExCo and having the support of one's own National Community, family and CLC group;
- awareness and commitment to the one World CLC;
- have an experience of the complete Spiritual Exercises (GN #4);
- a profound experience of the CLC way of life that includes:
 - an understanding and experience of the Spiritual Exercises as a life process,
 - membership in a small CLC group where communal discernment and sharing life and faith can be practiced,
 - an apostolic commitment and an understanding of mission;
 - a sound CLC formation
 - understanding of the group process and the process of personal growth,
 - experience of leadership in the National CLC or in the ecclesial, professional or civic fields;
 - a good relationship within the National CLC, the Church hierarchy and with the Society of Jesus;
 - a good knowledge of Holy Scripture and the teachings of the Church;
 - the ability to work in a team
 - good knowledge of at least one of the official languages - English, Spanish or French.

Practical Requirements

- Availability to prepare and actively participate in at least the annual Executive Council meeting(s). (8 days plus travel days)
- Availability to be sent for periods ranging from two to ten days to any Regional or National Community that requires support in order to maintain an active and effective presence in the region.
- Ability and readiness to discharge shared responsibility of ExCo in between ExCo meetings. This will involve availability and ability to communicate at least weekly with other members of the ExCo using required means such as e-mail etc.

Capability of reading and writing letters, papers, documents in English and responding to them.