Membership Guidelines (2022)[1]

Introduction

The Christian Life Community of the Philippines (CLCP), through the CLC Formation Institute (FI) and the Community Development Team, with the guidance of the CLCP Core of Responsibles (CORE), offers this manual on CLCP Membership Guidelines. This is the result of the National Community having practiced the General Norms (GN), local communities' procedure in recruitment and acceptance, and categories of community membership through the years. We hope that as in General Principle (GP) no. 2, "because our Community is a way of Christian life, these principles are to be interpreted not so much by the letter of this text but rather by the spirit of the Gospel and the interior law of love," we shall use this manual in the same manner. These Membership Guidelines are meant to help us grow in our community life, respond to God's call more fully and more generously as a National Community.

I. CLCP Categories of Membership

1. Membership in the Christian Life Community of the Philippines is both Individual and Communal. As mentioned in the General Principles, "Our gift of self finds its expression in a personal commitment to the World Community, through a freely chosen local community."[2]
2. **Individual Membership.** An individual may become a member of the CLCP National Community through membership in a local community that is a member of the CLCP. Individual Membership in CLC entails participation in the CLC formation process. Built into the CLC formation process is the discernment of the individual vocation of members, which may lead to a temporary and then to a permanent commitment to CLC.
3. **Local Community Membership.** Membership in the CLC is derived from membership in a freely-chosen local community that is a recognized member community of CLCP. Adult CLCs are further categorized into 3 levels of membership status: emerging, observer, and full member. Each level has varying rights and obligations.
4. **Based on the Spiritual Exercises and Stages of Community.** The 3 levels of community membership and the individual member's journey in commitment are aligned with the CLC formation process, which is rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Table 1 shows the relationship of all these fundamental aspects in CLC formation.

Table 1. Relation of the Spiritual Exercises and the Fundamental Stages of CLC Growth

[1] The Membership Guidelines were revised in 2022 in response to a resolution of the National Assembly in 2019 to bring the Membership Guidelines in-line with the experiences of the various local communities in the CLCP. The revisions were proposed by the Membership Guidelines Taskforce of the Community Development Team and endorsed by the National Leadership National Community.

[2] General Principles #7

Spiritual Exercises	Stages of Community[1]	Duration[2]	Stages of Mission[3]	Individual Commitment (during the stage)[4]	CLCP Membership Status (during the stage)
DISPOSITION DAYS	Pre-community	6 mos–1 yr	Welcoming	None	Emerging
PRINCIPLE & FOUNDATION	Initiation	2 – 3 yrs	Preparation for discernment of vocation	Temporary	Observer
FIRST WEEK	Redemption 1	1 – 2 yrs	Preparation for discernment of vocation	Temporary	Observer
CALL OF THE KING	Redemption 2		Discernment of vocation	Temporary	Observer
SECOND WEEK Incarnation to Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem	Redemption 2		Discernment of vocation	Temporary/Permanent	Observer
			Apostolic discernment	Temporary/Permanent	
THIRD WEEK Passion and Death of Christ	Deepening		Living out of discerned vocation & mission in fidelity	Permanent	Full Member
FOURTH WEEK Resurrection – Ascension	Continuing Growth		Living out of discerned vocation & mission in joy	Permanent	Full Member
CONTEMPLATIO				Permanent	Full Member

[1] *Survey* (1981)
[2] According to the *Survey,* this is the number of years that local communities normally take to complete the stages.
[3] *CLC Charism*
[4] GN #2 states: "After a period of time ordinarily no longer than 4 years and no less than 1, a member assumes a temporary commitment to the CLC way of life." And GN #3 states that "the length of time between temporary commitment and permanent commitment should be ordinarily no more than 8 years and no less than 2.

5. **CLCP Commitment to Members.** The CLCP sees to it that the individual members and member local communities are given the needed support towards growth in their Ignatian formation. Communications are sent to them that will give them updates on the World and National Community life. Formation programs and materials are made available for their use. To assist the local communities, training programs may be conducted when and where they are needed. The Community Development Team is primarily responsible for supporting the individual members and local communities. It is also primarily responsible for implementing these Membership Guidelines.
6. **Youth Membership and Youth Christian Life Community (YCLC).** Youth, defined as individuals between 12 to 22 years of age[3], typically do not participate in the categories of membership described above. Rather, a youth may become a member of a Youth Christian Life Community (YCLCs) usually organized in a school, college, or parish. The National Community, through the Youth Development Team, takes responsibility for the formation of the YCLC members and ensure that they are exposed to various aspects of the CLC Way of Life.
7. **Friends of CLCP.** Furthermore, individuals may loosely affiliate with CLCP through participation in the activities and apostolates of the National Community.

[3] National Statutes #50

II. Individual Membership

A. Becoming a Member of CLCP

1. Membership in the Christian Life Community of the Philippines is derived from membership in a member local community. The General Norms of the Christian Life Community (CLC) provides for three ways for an individual to acquire membership in the CLC:
   a. By initiating along with others a local pre-CLC community, which is accepted as a local community by the National Community;
   b. By being a member of an existing group of Christians which has chosen the CLC way of life and is received as a [new local] CLC community by the National Community;
   c. By joining [and being accepted as a member] by an existing CLC local community.[4]
2. **Pre-Membership.** An individual starts a period to come-and-see the CLC way of life either (a) as part of a pre-CLC local community, (b) as part of a group of Christians that have chosen the CLC way of life, (c) or by exploratory participation in an existing CLC local community. This period ordinarily lasts no less than six weeks and no more than six months during which the member participates in the CLC way of life and is invited to enter the formal membership process.
3. **Pre-Commitment.** Individual membership in the Christian Life Community begins when an individual becomes a member of a local community that is a member of CLCP. This happens either with (a) an acceptance of a pre-community as an emerging community by the National Community, (b) the acceptance of existing group of Christians as an emerging community by the National Community, or (c) the acceptance of the individual as a member by an existing CLC local community.
4. The Community Development Team, together with the CLCP National Secretariat, is responsible for keeping a database of all individual members which should include the individual's name, contact information, community, date of membership, date of temporary commitment, date of permanent commitment. The Community Development Team, together with the CLCP National Secretariat, also keeps a database of all local communities.
5. In whichever way admission takes place, the new [individual] member must be helped by the Community to assimilate the CLC way of life, and to decide whether a call, the ability, and a willingness to live it are present, and to become identified with the wider Christian Life Community.[5]

B. Personal Temporary and Permanent Commitment

1. Commitment is the response of the member to the Lord's invitation to accept and live the CLC way of life. The CLC General Principles and Norms provide that the decision for commitment to the CLC way of life must be made in the spirit of discernment with the support of the Community.[6]

Commitment includes the acceptance of the CLC General Principles.

2. **Temporary Commitment.** After a period of time ordinarily no longer than four years and no less than one [year], an [individual] member assumes a temporary commitment to this way of life. An

[4] General Norms #1; National Statutes #1
[5] General Norms #2; National Statutes #2
[6] Please refer to General Principles #10

experience of the Spiritual Exercises is strongly recommended as a means of arriving at this personal decision.[7]

The temporary commitment continues as such until, after a process of discernment, the member expresses his or her permanent commitment to CLC, unless he or she freely withdraws from the Community or is excluded by it.[8]

3. **Permanent Commitment.** After a period of time, ordinarily no more than eight years and no less than two, after making a temporary commitment, an [individual] member makes a permanent commitment.[9]

A permanent commitment is an expression that a member fully accepts the General Principles and strives to live out the CLC way of life in its entirety for the rest of his or her life.

An experience of the complete Spiritual Exercises in one of their several forms (in daily life, a closed month, retreats over several years), precedes permanent commitment to Christian Life Community.[10]

The member making a permanent commitment is expressing his/her apostolic availability to serve where he/she is most needed. This includes a willingness to discern leadership roles for the Regional, National, Asia-Pacific and World Community and to participate in the various teams and tasks that comprise the life of the CLC. A commitment to the CLC way of life entails responsibility for the community, organization, and its way of life.

4. **Process for Making a Permanent Commitment.** An individual member wishing to make a permanent commitment informs the members and Group Guide of his/her local community and discerns with them if he/she is called to live a vocation in the CLC. After prayerful discernment with the members and Group Guide of his/her local community, the individual member shall inform the Community Development Team and provide endorsement of the local community and Group Guide. This is then relayed to the National Leadership Community who appoints a delegate to receive the permanent commitment.
5. The National Community through the Community Development Team ensures adequate opportunities for individual members to discern a commitment to the CLC way of life including an annual call to discernment to all individual members, provision of modules to discern a commitment, and training of guides who can accompany individual members in their discernment.
6. A temporary or permanent commitment is a commitment to the CLC way of life in unity with CLC members throughout the world. The commitment is ideally made in a public setting with other members of the CLC, preferably on World CLC Day. The National Community, through the Community Development Team, and in coordination with Regional Leadership Communities ensures that there are regular opportunities for members to make their commitment.
7. Personal commitment to CLC may take on different forms for every individual, depending on his/her context. The commitment form formalizes one's own expressions of commitment. The signatures of the one making the commitment and the one accepting on behalf of the National Community, seal the covenant of mutual acceptance and support as the member strives to faithfully live the CLC way of life.

---

[7] General Norms #2; National Statutes #2
[8] General Norms #3; National Statutes #3
[9] General Norms #3; National Statutes #3
[10] General Norms #4; National Statutes #4

C. Continued Individual Membership

1. Membership in the Christian Life Community of the Philippines is derived from membership in a member local community. Membership is lost when membership in a local community stops, such as when an individual ceases journeying with the local community, or when the local community is dissolved or excluded from the National Community.
2. Members are to regularly declare their intention to continue journeying with their local community to the National Community whenever requested by the National Community through the Community Development Team. This is ordinarily done during the period leading to World CLC Day.
3. In their regular update, local communities declare the members that are continuing to journey with the local community. The local community discerns this matter prayerfully and honestly. Ordinarily, continued journeying is expressed through regular and consistent participation in all aspects of the life of the local community (i.e., prayer sessions, community-building, apostolate). However, personal circumstances (e.g., temporary relocation, family issues, etc) is also taken into consideration when arriving at the local community's response.
4. In case of relocation, a member may choose to join a CLC community in the locality or to continue membership in his previous local community through online participation.
5. In case of dissolution or exclusion of a local community, an individual member who wishes to continue membership with the CLCP is expected to join a local community within one (1) year. This decision—whether to continue or to leave CLC— is made in the spirit of discernment, preferably in a retreat.
6. It is strongly encouraged that he/she chooses a community that is closest to him/her in terms of level of formation growth.
7. Based on the individual member's declaration and the regular update of the local community, the Community Development Team regularly publishes a roster of members, their local community, and their commitment status. This is the basis for the submissions to World CLC and is the basis for participating in the rights and obligations of membership. Individual members or local communities may appeal to the National Leadership Community by providing a letter/email explaining the situation of the individual member or the local community.

III. Membership of Local Communities

A. The Local Community

1. Members participate in the life of the community at several concentric levels. The local community level (also called "small CLC community" or simply "group") is the most appropriate for a communal continuation of the dynamics of life generated by the Spiritual Exercises. These small communities practice the type of prayer and relationships which foster a process of integration of faith and life by offering to all members a permanent communal verification of their spiritual and apostolic growth.

Experience shows that for this end it is of great help that these communities be composed of no more than twelve (12) members of like qualities, such as age, occupation, or state of life, and that they

meet weekly or every fifteen (15) days so that the process carries over from one meeting to the next.[11]

2. Each local community, within the framework of a wider community (CLCP and the region) adopts its process for accepting new members, its own programs, service, and the content and format of its meetings. All members participate periodically in celebrating the Eucharist and share responsibility for the life of their local community and of the wider community in which this is inserted. Thus, the entire community decides all its affairs except those it delegates to its leaders.[12]
3. On the World CLC level, the establishment of national communities is first approved by the World Executive Council and confirmed by the General Assembly (GN 31). By analogy, on the national level, the acceptance of local communities is approved by the National Community through the processes outlined in these Guidelines.
4. The Christian Life Community of the Philippines has a three-tier framework for community membership (Emerging, Observer, Full Member) with escalating rights and obligations of membership.

B. Emerging Community

1. **Emerging Communities.** Individual members of local communities at this stage are new to CLC and are beginning their awareness of themselves, each other, and God. This corresponds to the Pre-Community Stage in the Stages of Growth of CLCs. The members focus on learning about the CLC way of life, developing their community bonds, and noticing more attentively the movements of their spiritual and apostolic lives.

Members typically do not yet express a commitment to CLC and are still being oriented to the basics of the CLC way of life. Participation in the larger community usually focuses on learning and encountering others through support and engagement.

2. **Formal Application.** The local pre-community or existing group of Christians interested in choosing the CLC way of life submits a formal application to the Community Development Team. The application form and requirements is determined by the Community Development Team. This typically includes the following:
    a. *Letter of Intent.* A letter expressing the group's desire to be registered with CLCP as an emerging community and commitment to fulfill the obligations of emerging communities.
    b. *Local Community Data Sheet and Individual Member Data Sheet.* These are accomplished by the group and its individual members, respectively. The forms may be obtained from the Community Development Team..
    c. *Planned Formation Program.* A program that outlines the formation that the local community will undergo as an emerging community. It should lead the local community to grow in their vocation as they internalize and incorporate into their lives the General Principles of CLC. The following components should be included:
        i. Objectives
        ii. Time Frame (1-2 years)
        iii. Thematic Content guided by the General Principles and the CLC Formation Process

[11] General Norms #39; National Statutes #41
[12] General Norms #40; National Statutes #42

3. **Formal Acknowledgment.** After consideration of the application, the Community Development Team sends a letter to the local community formally acknowledging its registration with CLCP as an emerging community.[13]
4. **Obligations of Membership.** Once registered with CLCP as an emerging community, the local community assumes the following obligations:
    a. Regular Update. The emerging community participates in the regular update to be organized by the Community Development Team. They provide the requested information promptly. This typically includes a Local Community Data Sheet with a listing of individual members, and the Individual Member Data Sheet of all the members of the local community.
    b. *Submission of other reports requested by the National Secretariat and other national and regional offices and teams that may be formed*.
    c. *Attendance at the National Assembly (NA).* Emerging communities are encouraged to send delegates to the National Assembly. The delegation normally consists of two members of the local community and its EA/moderator/group guide. It can participate in the deliberations on matters for decision-making but is not yet entitled to vote.[14]
    d. *Regular remittance of tithes to CLCP through the National Secretariat.* To help finance the activities of CLCP, members are to give regular support in the form of monetary tithes. There is no fixed amount for tithes; it depends on the generosity and capacity of members. The date of regular remittance of tithes is decided upon by the local community.[15]
    e. *Participation in the regional and national activities of CLCP.* Community attendance and participation in regional and national activities such as assemblies, conventions, formation encounters, fund raising, retreats, recollections, and other special events/celebrations. Emerging communities are also encouraged to take on the roles of organizing and supporting activities of the regional and National Community as part of their formation and growth in the way of life.

C. Observer Community

1. **Observer Community.** Local communities at this stage would have been part of the CLC for a few years already and members would have learned about the way of life to a degree that they start to intentionally strive to live the way of life as union with Christ.

The local communities would be moving through the Stages of Initiation, Redemption I and Redemption II. Members would be growing in the clarity of God's love at work in their lives and in their awareness of God's desire and their desire for relationship with each other and their community. This also involves an invitation to greater participation in CLC as their personal vocation. The response to God's loving invitation is usually manifested by a temporary commitment and the beginning of vocational discernment that may or may not lead to permanent commitment.

---

[13] The letter of acknowledgment would be CLCP's own formal personalized acceptance of the emerging community. It shall also state the mutual commitment between the national community and the local community.

[14] National Statutes #19

[15] Tithing has been part of the CLCP tradition. This is explicitly stated here to reiterate the importance of financial support from the members in the operation and growth of the national community.

Observer Communities would be engaged in apostolic discernment as they grow in the desire to become communities on mission. Their apostolic vision expands as they become more familiar with the General Principles, the missionary frontiers of the World Community, and the vision-mission and strategic directions of the National Community. They would be using Discern-Send-Support-Evaluate (DSSE) for their personal and communal mission.

Individual members of observer communities begin to share responsibility for mission with one another and the wider Community. They are also beginning formal involvement in the wider Community by assuming leadership positions in the Region and participating in the teams of the National Community. This vital and indispensable participation in mission is important in their discernment of their vocation in CLC.

2. **Formal Application.** The local community submits to the Community Development Team a formal application for observer status. The application and requirements is determined by the Community Development Team and typically includes the following:
    a. *Letter of intent.* A letter expressing the local community's desire to be registered with CLCP as an observer community and commitment to fulfill the obligations expected of observer communities.
    b. *Accomplished application form*
    c. *Updated Local Community Data Sheet and Individual Member Data Sheet.*
    d. *Planned Formation Program.* The program should enable the individual members to undergo the Stage of Initiation and the Stage of Redemption I of the CLC formation process. It should also guide the individual members toward making a temporary commitment, if they have not yet made one, and to deepen their vocation in the CLC way of life towards a permanent commitment. The following components should be included:
        i. Objectives
        ii. Time Frame (2 years or more)
        iii. Thematic Content guided by:
            1. the General Principles
            2. the description of the Stage of Initiation and the Stage of Redemption I
            3. the CLCP Vision-Mission Statement
            4. the teachings of the Church
3. **Commitment to the CLC Way of Life.** To qualify for consideration as an observer community, at least half of the individual members should have already made a temporary commitment at the time of application. The decision to assume a temporary commitment is made in the spirit of discernment.
4. **Review and Evaluation.** Aside from the application documents, the following are typically reviewed to evaluate the readiness of the local community for observer status:
    a. Regular updates and other submissions to the Community Development Team and the regional leadership community.
    b. *Previous formation program.* Evaluation of the previous formation program showing that the community's formation has prepared it well enough for the succeeding phase of formation, i.e., the Stage of Initiation, to be undergone as an observer community.
    c. *Apostolic endeavors.* The local community shall share about the various personal and community apostolates of the community
    d. Fulfillment of obligations as an emerging community.

5. **Recommendation to the National Leadership Community (LC).** Based on the review and evaluation, the Community Development Team makes a recommendation to the National Leadership Community for acceptance or deferment of the application.
6. **Approval by the National Leadership Community.** The National Leadership Community deliberates on the Community Development Team's recommendation and grants or withholds its approval of observer membership status.
7. **Presentation to the National Assembly.** The approval of the National Leadership Community having been gained, the local community is then presented to the National Assembly.
8. **Obligations of Membership.** Upon granting of observer status to the local community, it shall assume the following obligations of observer membership.
    a. *Regular Update.* (same as for emerging communities)
    b. Submission of other reports asked for by the National Secretariat and other national and regional offices that may be formed.
    c. *Attendance at the National Assembly.* Observer communities should send delegates to the National Assembly as part of their formation and growth in the CLC way of life. The delegation normally consists of two members of the community and its EA/moderator/group guide. It can participate in the deliberations on matters for decision-making but is not yet entitled to vote.[16]
    d. *Regular remittance of tithes to CLCP* (same as for emerging communities)
    e. *Participation in CLCP regional and national activities* (same as for emerging communities)

D. Full Member Community

1. **Full member.** Members of local communities at this stage would have mostly completed their vocational discernment and individual members would have made a permanent commitment to the CLC way of life. Having responded to this call, they stive to grow in ever greater union with Christ as encountered in the Second Week, Third Week and Fourth Week of the Spiritual Exercises. This status corresponds to the Stage of Deepening and onward.

Full member communities would have discerned their communal apostolic identity and mission and are sharing this with the wider Community.

With individual members mostly having made a permanent commitment to the CLC way of life, the local community is called to greater responsibility for the growth and development of the wider Community. The full member community assumes responsibility for the support, development, and growth of the Regional, National, Asia-Pacific and the World CLC through consistent participation, missioning of members for roles in leadership, formation and/or other expressions of service, and fulfilling the invitations of CLCP received during National Assemblies and other national and regional discernments. With this comes the full extent of rights and obligations in the wider Community.

2. **Formal Application.** The local community submits to the Community Development Team a formal application for full member status. The application and requirements is determined by the Community Development Team and typically include the following:
    a. *Letter of Intent.* A letter expressing the local community's desire to be registered with CLCP as a full member community and commitment to fulfill the obligations expected of full member communities.

[16] National Statutes #19

b. Accomplished application form

c. Updated Local Community Data Sheet and Individual Member Data Sheet.

d. Planned Formation Program. The program should lead the individual members who still have a temporary commitment to assume permanent commitment during a period of approximately two years.

Moreover, the formation program should foster growth of the community in knowledge and experience of the essential elements of the CLC way of life as explicated in the General Principles and the General Norms of the World Christian Life Community and in the Statutes of the CLCP.

The formation program should include the following components:

i. Objectives

ii. Time Frame (2 years or more)

iii. Thematic Content guided by:

1. the General Principles
2. the description of the Stage of Redemption II and the Stage of Deepening and Election

3. **Commitment to the CLC Way of Life.** To qualify for consideration as a full member, at least half of all individual members should have already made a permanent commitment at the time of application. The decision to make a permanent commitment is made through a discernment process.
4. **Deadline of Application.** All applications should typically be received by the Community Development Team not later than 1 year prior to the upcoming National Assembly so that member or representative of the incumbent National Leadership Community would have enough time to visit, get to know its members, and clarify information about the local community.
5. **Review and Evaluation.** Aside from the application documents, the following is reviewed to evaluate the fitness of the local community for full member status:
   a. Regular updates and other submissions to the Community Development Team and the regional leadership community.
   b. *Previous formation program.* Evaluation of the previous formation program should show that the local community's formation has prepared it well enough for the succeeding phase of formation, i.e., the Stage of Redemption II, to be undergone as a full member community.
   c. *Apostolic life.* The local community shall share about the various personal and community apostolates of the local community and should be able to explain their communal apostolic mission.
   d. Fulfillment of responsibilities as an observer community.
6. **Recommendation to the National Leadership Community.** Based on the review and evaluation, the Community Development Team makes a recommendation to the National Leadership Community for acceptance or deferment of the application.
7. **Approval by the National Leadership Community.** The National Leadership Community deliberates on the Community Development Team's recommendation and grants or withholds its approval.
8. **Confirmation by the National Assembly.** The approval of the National Leadership Community having been gained, the local community is presented to the National Assembly for confirmation. It is granted a full member status upon two-thirds of the votes of the National Assembly.[17]

[17] National Statutes #16.d

9. **Obligations of Membership.** Upon confirmation of the local community as a full member, it assume the following obligations of full membership:
    a. *Regular update.* (same as for emerging and observer communities)
    b. Submission of other reports asked for by the National Secretariat and other national and regional offices that may be formed
    c. *Attendance at the National Assembly.* A full member community, represented by its delegation, forms part of the National Assembly, the supreme governing body of the CLCP. The delegation normally consists of the local community's EA/moderator/guide and two (2) of its members. One of the two members must be appointed by the local community as the head delegate. Each full member community, represented by its delegation, is entitled to one vote in decision-making matters.[18]
    d. *Regular remittance of tithes to the CLCP.* (same as for emerging and observer communities)
    e. *Participation in CLCP regional and national activities.* (same as for emerging and observer communities)

E. Regular Review of All Full Member Communities

1. Full member communities submit their ongoing Formation Program as part of the regular update.
2. The Community Development Team, with the support of the national Formation Team, reviews the program and make recommendations to the local community.
3. The Community Development Team, with the support of the national Formation Team reviews and evaluates the progress and extent of formation undergone by the group and their growth in apostolic life at least every four years.

F. Dissolution and Merger of Local Communities

1. A local community whose number of members has dwindled to two (2) may decide to do any of the following:
    a. Recruit new members;
    b. Merge with another local community; or
    c. Dissolve the local community with individual members joining other local community/ies.
2. Dissolution of a local community or merger with another local community is the result of a prayerful deliberation by the concerned local community/communities.
3. If a local community is considering dissolution or merger, the Community Development Team together with the regional Leadership Community, ensures that it undertakes a process of prayerful deliberation and decides on the direction to proceed. If it will help, another guide may facilitate the process.
4. The process of prayerful deliberation may include sitting with the Community Development Team to look at relevant data (e.g., history of the group and current conditions) that will help in the decision-making.
5. Members who join another local community assume the status of that local community.

[18] National Statutes #15

6. Two local communities may decide to merge, regardless of the difference of their respective membership status. The status of the new local community that will be formed will depend on the decision of the group after a prayerful deliberation, which will have to include evaluation of the conditions of the new local community by the Community Development Team. The membership status of the merged local community is, ordinarily, based on the commitment status of the individual members and is never higher than the highest status attained by one of the merging local communities.
7. When (a) more than two-thirds of the individual members in each affected local community consent on the dissolution or merger of a local community, and when (b) the decision is endorsed by all the affected Group Guide/s, the merger and/or dissolution of the affected local communities is deemed completed. This is reported to the Community Development and the National Leadership Community.
8. In addition to the process stated above, a local community effectively dissolves itself when the individual members no longer participate in the life of the local community and when the local community no longer participates in the life of the wider Community. Some potential signs that may point to this situation include the following:
    a. The local community does not participate in the regular update for at least two (2) cycles
    b. The local community has not sent a delegation to the prior two (2) National Assemblies
    c. The local community has not had a community meeting (purely social activities not included) for a period of at least two (2) years
    d. The number of members of the local community has dwindled to two (2) and no steps have been taken to remedy the situation
9. In case a local community exhibits any of the potential signs mentioned above, the Community Development Team dialogues with the individual members and Group Guide of the local community to ascertain whether the said local community has effectively dissolved itself. Failure to respond after three attempts to communicate with the local community will be interpreted as the local community having effectively dissolved itself.
10. Once a determination has been made, the Community Development Team forwards its findings to the National Leadership Community, and the National Leadership Community to the National Assembly. An emerging community is considered officially dissolved after confirmation by the National Leadership Community. An observer or full member community is considered officially dissolved upon confirmation by the National Assembly through a two-thirds vote.
11. Community life being an essential element of the CLC way of life, the Community Development Team assists individual members in finding a new local community for them in cases of dissolution or exclusion of their former local community, relocation of residence, and other circumstances causing absence of community life through the CLC local community.

It is strongly encouraged that the searching member chooses a local community that is closest to him/her in terms of level of formation growth.

G. Suspension and Exclusion

1. The Leadership Community, respecting the legitimate rights and obligations of the local communities, may recommend to exclude a local community or an individual member, only in the

event of non-compliance with Statute No. 33[19]. The National Assembly reserves to itself the right of exclusion of a local community or an individual member through a two-thirds vote subject to appeal to the World General Assembly.[20]

2. In case there is a report of such matter, the Community Development Team enters into dialogue with the local community or individual member to gather information about the matter. The Community Development Team then prepares a report for the National Leadership Community.
3. The National Leadership Community deliberates on the findings and recommendations submitted by the Community Development Team and may further dialogue with the parties involved.
4. The National Leadership Community may recommend actions for the individual member or local community to rectify the situation. This may be accompanied with a timeline.
5. If there is a significant lack of progress, the National Leadership Community may decide, based on the gravity of the situation, to suspend the individual or local community, or to recommend exclusion to the National Assembly.
6. Suspension of a local community deprives it of the right to vote on any matter for decision-making, at any level of the Community and results in the suspension of all individual members of the local community.
7. Suspension of an individual member disqualifies him/her from official roles in the CLCP (including Community Coordinator, Guide, Moderator, member of a Leadership Community or Team at any level) and being appointed by his/her local community as a delegate to the National Assembly.
8. A suspension may be lifted by the National Leadership Community if the situation is properly rectified. Likewise, suspended individual members and/or local communities may appeal to the National Assembly which may lift the suspension through a majority vote.
9. Exclusion shall take effect only after a two-thirds vote by the National Assembly. This may be appealed to the World Community whose decision shall be final.

IV. Membership in YCLC

1. Youth, defined as individuals between 12 to 22 years of age, typically do not participate in the categories of membership described in the earlier sections of this document. Rather, a youth may become a member of a Youth Christian Life Community (YCLCs).
2. Membership in a YCLC may be through any of the following ways:
   a. By joining an existing YCLC based in the high school or college where one is studying;
   b. By joining an existing YCLC outside the school, such as in one's parish or neighborhood; or
   c. By initiating along with others a new YCLC, whether based in a school or not, which is later accepted as a YCLC.
3. The National Community, through the Youth Development Team (YDT), takes responsibility for the formation of the YCLC members and ensure that they are exposed to various aspects of the CLC way

---

[19] The Christian Life Community of the Philippines accepts:
a. The General Principles and General Norms.
b. The resolutions approved by the General Assembly
c. The financial contribution fixed by the World Executive Council.
All local communities must likewise accept the above as well as the National Statutes, the resolutions approved by the National Assembly, and the financial contributions fixed by the Leadership Community.

[20] National Statutes #34

of life. This includes inviting YCLC members to explore continuing and growing in the Christian Life Community.

4. The Youth Development Team coordinates and oversees the promotion, establishment, operation, and activities of the YCLCs in the Philippines whether school-based or not.
5. A group may affiliate with the CLCP as a YCLC after registration and acceptance by the National Leadership Community based on the recommendation of the Youth Development Team. The Youth Development Team may develop guidelines and requirements for the acceptance of YCLCs, and the training and certification of YCLC moderators and YCLC guides. The Youth Development Team regularly reports on the status of YCLCs to the National Leadership Community.
6. A YCLC will have the following obligations of membership:
    a. Sending a regular membership update including the database of members and guides.
    b. Participation in Regional events and activities to help members deepen their formation through participation in the life of the larger Community. YCLCs are also encouraged to participate in National CLC events and activities to the extent possible to have a greater experience of the Way of Life.
    c. Adherence to the guidelines set by the National Leadership Community and the Youth Development Team.

V. Friends of CLC

1. While CLC is a particular vocation in the Church, we recognize that there are individuals who wish to participate in and support various programs, initiatives, activities, events and formation opportunities of the Community without becoming members of the CLCP or a CLC local community. In order to recognize their role and to support their journey with CLCP, we refer to these individuals as Friends of CLCP.[21] They may include, but are not limited to, former member of CLC local communities or YCLCs, and regular participants in CLC formation or apostolic activities.
2. Being a Friend of CLC is an informal category that does not impose any rights or obligations on the individual or the CLCP. However, the National Community will ensure that Friends of CLC are aware of CLCP activities, events, and initiatives, and are encouraged to support and participate in them.
3. Because CLC in itself is a Community, Friends of CLC are encouraged to consider if their involvement might reflect an invitation from the Lord to become a member through a CLC member local community.
4. To the extent that it is practical, Friends of CLC are to be included in the database.

VI. Ratification, Amendments and Revision

[21] General Norms #12 and National Statutes #12 provides that "For the sake of mutual help and apostolic collaboration, the CLC at any appropriate level can affiliate other associations of people who wish to share in our way of life but not to become full members. Similarly, the CLC at any appropriate level can find ways of expressing meaningful links with persons or institutions who are somehow related to the same tradition." We take inspiration from this in defining the Friends of CLC. There is a distinction though in that Friends of CLC does not impose a mutuality in the relationship.

1. Amendments to the Membership Guidelines are proposed in writing by local communities to the National Leadership Community at least six months prior to a meeting of the National Assembly.
2. Copies of the formal amendments will be circulated to the local communities at least three months prior to the meeting. A majority vote of the National Assembly is required for approval of such amendments.