

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

(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:

1. There are some groups of adult members who have experienced the full Spiritual Exercises in any of its modalities and who are fully living the CLC way of life.
2. CLC groups exist 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).
3. Certain structures exist (e.g. there is a National ExCo or guiding team elected by a national Assembly and a team responsible for formation).
4. There is acceptance of World CLC's General Principles, General Norms, and any other documents approved by the World CLC.
5. There is some experience with communal apostolic discernment and openness for mission.
6. There is an understanding of CLC as an apostolic community within the Church, an open and loving attitude towards the Church and acceptance of the Church's teaching.
7. There is experience of having participated in a world General Assembly as an "Observer".

(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 to be followed:

A National Community seeking membership sends a formal request to the World Executive Council. The request, signed by the National Executive

Council, and supported by the "God-parenting" community (see Part [C]) should contain the following information:

1. A short history of the development and growth of the new community
2. A short report in which the fulfillment of the above criteria is explicitly addressed.
3. a copy of its proposed statutes. (see Standing Order #9)

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

(C) Guidelines for God-parenting relationships

A developing community should not be left alone on its way to incorporation. The World Executive Council therefore has put the following process in place :

1. 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 *God-parenting National Community*, if available, or a *God-parenting team* proposed by the World ExCo in consultation with the candidate community, accompanies the new community.
2. The "God-parenting community" helps the candidate community to discover the spirit of the CLC Charism and vocation and to grow according to the General Principles, the General Norms and the Formation guidelines of the World CLC. They help in the overall formation of members of the new candidate community.
3. The "God-parenting Community" works with the candidate community to assist it in all matters relating to its preparation for incorporation into the CLC World Community and also in preparing its case, according to Part (A) above, to the CLC World Exco.
4. The "God-parenting Community" proposes the full membership of the candidate community to the World ExCo, and presents the candidate community at the General Assembly for acceptance as a new member.
5. The God-parenting relationship ends with incorporation.
6. The World ExCo recommends that the support of the former God-parenting community for the newly incorporated community continues based on mutually agreed goals.

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 CLC world community.