

THE CONSTITUTION OF CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY OF KENYA

ARTICLE I: NAME

1. The name of the organisation shall be Christian Life Community of Kenya (hereafter referred to as CLCK). It is a member of the World Christian Life Community as described in the Christian Life Community General Principles.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

2. The Objectives of CLCK are to:
 - a. Assist members to live their Christian lives more fully under the inspiration of Ignatian Spirituality, especially through the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, as members of the World Christian Life Community;
 - b. Enable CLC communities in Kenya to function faithfully in accordance with the *CLC General Principles and Norms*;
 - c. Facilitate growth through communication and mutual support among CLC communities throughout the country;
 - d. Co-ordinate and facilitate participation by CLC members in the mission of CLC, which mission involves a discerned service to the church and to the world in any way needed;
 - e. Foster the development of CLC within Kenya and beyond, particularly in the neighbouring countries.
 - f. Represent Christian Life Community of Kenya on the regional, international and world levels;
 - g. Promote collaboration where feasible and appropriate with other organizations, both national and international, especially in the promotion of justice.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. CLCK is the union of all the CLC communities located within Kenya. Groups are accepted as CLC communities upon completion of an introductory period and acceptance by the National Executive Council (hereafter, EXCO).
2. To be community member of CLCK, a community must:
 - a. Accept the *General Principles and Statutes* of the World Christian Life Community.
 - b. Accept the constitution of CLCK and resolutions approved by CLCK through its National Assembly.
 - d. Accept responsibility for the contribution of subscriptions fixed by EXCO.
 - e. Normally be composed of 6 to 12 members.
1. Membership of a CLC community in CLCK may be revoked by EXCO if the community is found to be significantly lacking in CLC characteristics.
4. Membership in CLCK is reserved to persons at least 18 years of age who are members of CLC communities unless by an exception granted by EXCO (e.g., on a temporary basis for a person who has moved to a part of the country where a CLC community is not yet established). Each member is required personally to fulfill the commitments listed in Article III, 2. Regarding Article III, 2, d., one's membership is suspended if one has unpaid subscriptions for three or more months or has not attended at least 75% of community meetings annually unless excused by the group.
5. Membership of an individual may be revoked by a decision of his/her local community in the following cases:
 - a. Where one gives serious and ongoing public scandal, refusing to respond to fraternal correction as called for by Matthew 18:15-16.
 - b. Where one causes serious harm to members of CLC or to the CLC community.
 - c. Where through a process of communal discernment, one is deemed unable and/or unwilling to develop the characteristics of a CLC person.
 - d. In any other case judged so deserving by the local community/EXCO.In such cases, a written report of this action must be sent to EXCO for ratification. The individual may appeal the decision. If this procedure can not be followed, EXCO may take this initiative of excluding the member by a majority vote. During and after such a process, reconciliation is always to be sought and when achieved, the former member is eligible for reinstatement.

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNANCE

1. As a primary means of deepening its Ignatian character, CLCK's ordinary way of decision-making is a discerning and consensus approach which includes formal communal discernment where appropriate.
2. The National Community functions in accordance with The CLC General Principles and Norms.
3. **National Assembly:**
 - a. The governing body of CLCK is the National Assembly. All members of CLCK for at least one year may be delegates. At least one non-voting member of each community younger than one year may be invited with observer status. It may be necessary for the National EXCO to limit the number of delegates from each community in order to best accomplish the purposes of the Assembly. All members of the National EXCO are to be present *ex officio*. Group Guides or Regional or National Assistants (who are religious or priests) may be delegates.
 - b. The National Assembly will meet approximately every two-and-a-half years, that is, twice between each World Assembly (held every five years) on dates to be set by the National EXCO at least 9 months in advance of the National Assembly.
 - c. In the Assembly each delegate has one vote.
4. **The National Executive Council**
 - A. The National Executive Council (EXCO) has responsibility for leading CLC Kenya in its growth and development in the formation of its members, in the growth of CLC community and in mission according to *The General Principles* and according to directives given by a CLC National Assembly.
 - B. The Executive Council is composed of the following:
 1. Six (6) elected members in the following positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and three elected Consulters.
 2. The National Ecclesial Assistant, who will normally be a Jesuit, will be appointed by the National EXCO in conjunction with the Jesuit Provincial. The National Ecclesial Assistant will serve *ex officio* on the National EXCO.

3. EXCO shall appoint an Executive Secretary, who will be an *ex officio* member of EXCO.
 4. Up to three (3) co-opted Consulters to be selected by the Executive Council because of expertise or regional representation.
- C. The term of the Executive Council is the period from the end of one National Assembly to the end of the next. One may hold a particular elected position for two (2) terms, and may be elected to the EXCO for a maximum of four (4) consecutive terms. The President, however, may be elected to a second consecutive term even if this would mean that he/she would serve a fifth consecutive term on EXCO.

D. Description of the offices:

1. President: As chief executive officer, has special responsibility for the implementation of the work of EXCO (see A). Has particular responsibility to communicate the vision of CLC. Will stay abreast of the situation of CLC throughout the country. Makes decisions necessary between EXCO meetings in consultation with other EXCO members and is responsible for chairing the meetings.
2. Vice-President: Assists the President in his/her duties. Takes over the duties of the President if the latter is temporarily unable to carry them out. Becomes President should it be necessary for the President to leave office before the term is completed.
3. Treasurer: Has responsibility for keeping the financial accounts of CLC Kenya and has primary concern for fund-raising and collection of dues.
4. Executive Secretary: Keeps records of the EXCO and CLCK. Has responsibility for written communication of the EXCO, both among the members of CLC and with others when this communication does not pertain to one of the other officers.
5. National Ecclesial Assistant: Works in conjunction with the President and other members of EXCO for the Christian development of the community and its members, especially in matters connected with Ignatian spirituality. Has special responsibility for doctrinal and pastoral concerns and for the harmony proper to a Christian community. Plays a role in the promotion of CLC throughout the country.
6. All Officers, Consulters and the Ecclesial Assistant: Are willing to take on tasks requested by the EXCO in terms of responsibilities of the EXCO. Are able to

attend EXCO meetings regularly.

- E. The EXCO will meet at least twice yearly. A quorum is 50% of the membership.
- F. The EXCO should strive to be community and give time to this. Its mode of operation should be based in Ignatian Discernment. Decisions of the EXCO are taken by consensus or by a majority vote when necessary.
- G. If Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary or Consulter is unable to continue in office, the EXCO may name another member of CLC to this position. For serious reason, the EXCO may remove an officer or a member of the EXCO by two-thirds vote of the other members.
- H. Area Communities. The CLC communities of a particular diocese will normally make up an Area Community (but the National EXCO may grant exceptions). When an Area Community reaches the size that it needs a formal structure to facilitate its progress, it will initiate the setting up an Area EXCO. The composition and mode of operation of the Area EXCO must be approved by the National EXCO. An Area Ecclesial Assistant may be chosen and will normally be a religious or a priest who is formed in Ignatian Spirituality. The Area Ecclesial Assistant will be appointed by the Area EXCO in conjunction with the National EXCO and the proper Ecclesial authority.

4. Elections of the Executive Council

- a. The current EXCO has the responsibility for the implementation of the procedures for nomination and election.
- b. The election will be held at the National Assembly, normally on the last day of the Assembly.
- c. All who are Members of CLC Kenya in good standing and delegates to the National Assembly may vote in the election (electors).
- d. All laity who have been members of CLC for at least one year may be nominated and elected. Religious, priest or seminarian members of CLC, as well as lay members, are eligible to be co-opted Consulters.
- e. Nominations are made by communities which are at least a year old. A community, may nominate up to one member for each elected office and two consulters. Nominations must be received by the Executive Secretary at least six (6) weeks before the election.

- f. The Secretary will notify each nominated who will inform the Secretary whether the nomination is accepted. Each candidate accepting nomination is asked to fill out a questionnaire of pertinent information, and this will be made available to the electors.
- g. Each nominee is asked prayerfully to consider the nomination and to accept unless the nominee perceives some clear personal lack which would preclude serving well or unless the nominee perceives that some circumstance is likely either to prevent having sufficient time to serve well or to preclude serving one's full term.
- h. The atmosphere for the elections should be one of Ignatian discernment. The atmosphere should not be one of electioneering but rather one of sharing information about the candidates and about perceptions of them so that each elector can make a good decision. Before the election, time will be set aside for informal interchange between candidates and electors.
- i. On the day of election, after appropriate prayer, the election will be conducted by secret ballot. Each elector has one vote. The elections will be in the following order: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, first Consulter, second Consulter, third Consulter. If a candidate does not receive more than half of the votes on the first ballot, a second ballot will be taken. The two receiving the most votes on the first are eligible for the second ballot. In the event of a tie on the second ballot, a third ballot will be taken between the same candidates. If there is still a tie, the choice will be made by lot.
- j. Candidates for President who are not elected are eligible to be elected as Vice President. All who were candidates for an office but not elected are candidates for the positions of first, second and third Consulters.
- k. The new EXCO takes office upon conclusion of the National Assembly.

ARTICLE V: COMMITMENT TO CLC

1. Temporary Commitment

A member initiates the process by making application for temporary commitment of one year at least six weeks before the commitment is made. The requirement shall be;

- a. Active member for at least one year by attending at least 75% of the small community meetings.
- b. At least a 3-day directed retreat or equivalent in daily life

c. Evidence of assimilating the CLC vision and living according to the CLC way of life.

2. Who Approves

- a. The guide together with two members of the small community elected by those who are members of the same group for at least one year will decide on the application
- b. The guide will tell each applicant whether he or she is approved to make the commitment and explain the reasons in an environment of support and encouragement

3. Renewal

This process applies to the annual renewal of commitment.

4. Permanent Commitment

A member shall initiate the process and consideration will be made subject to the following conditions:

- a. At least 25 years of age
- b. Has made temporary commitments for at least two years
- c. Normally has made the full Spiritual Exercises in some directed form

5. Who Approves

The approval is the same as in 12 above with the addition that a confirmation must be given by the National EXCO.

6. Format

a. WHEN

The commitment will normally be made at the World CLC Day on or near 25 March

b. FORM

Each person will formulate his or her own commitment statement, but it shall include the statement, "*As my way of living as a Christian, I, (name), with the support of the community, commit myself to Christian Life Community (for the period of one year) (for life)*". The commitment is made orally in the presence of CLC members. The statement of permanent commitment shall be signed and a copy sent to the National Secretary. A list of those making and renewing temporary commitment shall be sent to the National Secretary by the small community guide.

ARTICLE VI: OTHER MATTERS

1. National Secretariat

EXCO shall establish a National Secretariat. EXCO is responsible for laying down and overseeing the structures, policies and procedures of the National Secretariat.

2. Delegates to International Meetings

The delegates of CLCK to the General Assembly or any other international meeting of the World Christian Life Community are chosen by the Executive Council.

3. Committees

The National EXCO has the responsibility to name standing committees and *ad hoc* committees from among the membership of CLC Kenya in order to serve the needs of the national community.

4. National Formation Team

In particular, this committee, designated by the Executive Council, shall serve the needs of CLC formation in any way it can, especially through encouraging and facilitating courses for CLC guides and co-ordinators, as well as institutes on the Spiritual Exercises, particularly the Exercises in Daily Life, and Formation in general.

5. Publications

The Executive Council shall ensure the Publications of the *CLARION*, the newsletter of CLCK, at least three times yearly. Editors for this and other CLCK publications are appointed by the Executive Council.

6. Finances and Dues

A proposed budget for the year and the accounts of the previous year will be provided to members by the Treasurer. This budget will be approved by the National EXCO. Subscriptions will be set under the auspices of the National EXCO with attention to the relative ability of members to pay their subscriptions.

7. Approval of the Constitution

This constitution shall become effective when approved by at least two-thirds of those voting at the National Assembly and confirmed by the World CLC Executive Council.

8. Amendments

Proposed amendments may be submitted by CLC communities and should be sent to the Executive Secretary at least 6 months in advance of a National Assembly. In conjunction with those proposing them and with their agreement, the EXCO will work to provide refined amendments in good form. This constitution shall be amended by two-thirds majority of those voting at a National Assembly.

Approved by the National Assembly, October, 1999, Confirmed by the World Executive Council, February, 2000, Last amended by the National Assembly, June, 2007.