

**Statute on Membership in the  
International Association of Lay Cistercian Communities**

1. The Association is comprised of lay communities that are associated with a Cistercian monastic community. The Association recognizes two types of membership:
  - a. **Provisional** Lay Cistercian Communities

Before the time when a lay group receives official recognition from the monastic community it is associated with, there is a period of establishment, growth and development.
  - b. **Recognized** Lay Cistercian Communities

After a period of discernment, a monastic community “represented by its Abbot or Abbess” (*Identity Document*, 4.3) may decide to recognize a lay community as an “expression of the Cistercian Charism” (MGM 2008, Vote 71).
2. Lay Cistercian Communities complete an application form. This application, signed by the Abbot/Abbess, indicates which type of membership is relevant for the group making the application.
3. Only **Provisional** or **Recognized** Lay Communities associated with a Cistercian monastery may attend meetings of the Association.
4. If an Abbot or Abbess should rescind the recognition of a Lay Community, then that community’s membership in the Association is rescinded.

Approved unanimously at Dubuque, May 25, 2011