

STATUTES
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAY CISTERCIAN COMMUNITIES

Adopted:

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the organization is the International Association of Lay Cistercian Communities (IALCC).

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of IALCC are to:

- (a) foster communion among the Lay Cistercian Communities worldwide and with the Cistercian Family as a whole, through international encounters, etc.;
- (b) provide a mutual point of contact between the different branches of the Cistercian orders and any and all Lay Cistercian communities associated with monasteries of Cistercian orders for the purposes of 1) communication, 2) discussion, and 3) decision-making; and,
- (c) provide a means for all Lay Cistercian communities that wish to be associated with the Cistercian Charism a means of recognition and participation in the Cistercian Family.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

Section 1. Membership. The Association is comprised of lay communities that are associated with and recognized by a Cistercian monastic community and that further agrees to (i) collect dues when notified by IALCC and (ii) abide by these statutes and such other rules and regulations as IALCC may adopt. The Association recognizes two types of membership, either of which is provided by the monastery with which a lay community is associated, and which is not within the scope of the IALCC or its Coordinating Committee:

a. Provisional Lay Cistercian Communities: Before the time when a lay community 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 lay community is formally recognized by the conventual chapter of the monastic community.

Section 2. Renewal. For lay communities with provisional status, the Coordinating Committee will request that the recognition by a Cistercian monastic community be renewed every three (3) years.

Section 3. Voting Rights. Each member community in attendance at an international meeting shall be entitled to one vote on matters coming before the members. Substitute and absentee voting are not allowed.

Section 4. Resignation. Members may resign from IALCC at any time by giving written notice to IALCC's Coordinating Committee.

Section 5. Termination of Membership. If an Abbot or Abbess rescinds the recognition of a Lay Community, that community's membership in the Association is rescinded. If a Lay Community, without reason to justify their behaviour, does not pay dues, does not attend Encounters, and has no communication with the International Coordinating Committee, that community's membership in the Association may be terminated by a vote of the membership present at the international encounter.

ARTICLE IV

DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

The annual dues for members of IALCC, the time for paying such dues and other assessments, if any, shall be determined from time to time by the Coordinating committee. As a recommended value, this contribution can be equal to the economic value received by an hour of work, or retirement income, for each individual member of a member community. The Coordinating Committee, in its sole discretion, may exempt certain members from paying dues.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1. International Encounter. A meeting of the members shall be held every three years at such day, time and place as may be determined by the Coordinating Committee.

Section 2. Meeting Attendance. Two representatives of Lay Cistercian communities that are members of the IALCC and who have been elected by their Lay Cistercian

community may participate in the International encounter. Monastic representatives from the monasteries with which the communities are associated may also participate.

Section 3. Notice. Notice of triennial meetings of the members shall state the time, date and place of the meeting and shall be given at least one year prior to the date of such meeting.

Section 4. Quorum. A simple majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the members.

Section 5. Manner of Acting. The decision by a simple majority of members present at a meeting for which a quorum is present is the decision of all members.

Section 6. Meeting Guests. The Coordinating Committee may invite any person whose presence is necessary: Abbot General, local bishop, translators, moderator or presenters, etc.

Lay communities which are not part of the IALCC but wish to attend a meeting, may apply to the Coordinating Committee. After making contact with the Abbot or Abbess of the monastery they are associated with, the Committee will decide whether they may attend. This attendance will require full payment of participation fees. Such attendees may not participate in the deliberations or vote, but are only recognized as an "observer."

ARTICLE VI

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Section 1. General Powers. The affairs of IALCC shall be managed under the supervision and direction of the IALCC Coordinating Committee. The Committee shall determine the policies of the IALCC, subject to the provisions of these statutes, and shall actively promote the IALCC's purposes and have discretion in the payment of its funds. The Coordinating Committee may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may judge advisable and may, in the execution of the powers granted to the Coordinating Committee, appoint such individuals to assist as it may consider necessary.

Section 2. Composition, Election, and Term. The Coordinating Committee shall consist of three (3) at-large committee members representing the following:

- One (1) from the English-language group.
- One (1) from the French-language group.
- One (1) from the Spanish-language group.

The committee members shall be elected by the members of IALCC for three-year terms from a slate of two candidates nominated by each language group. The nominee from each language group who is not elected to the Coordinating Committee shall serve as the alternate for that language group in the event that a Coordinating Committee member is unable to perform his/her duties.

Alternates will be kept informed of committee activities and decisions and may be asked for assistance, especially within the region. Alternates have the right to attend regional and international meetings regardless of whether they are a community delegate.

Section 3. Resignation and Removal. Any Coordinating Committee member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Coordinating Committee. A Coordinating Committee member may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members entitled to vote at any duly called meeting of the members whenever in their judgment the best interests of the IALCC would be served in so doing.

Section 4. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Coordinating Committee for any reason shall be filled by the individual elected by the membership as the alternate for that language group at the triennial meeting. Should the alternate be unable to fill the position, the Coordinating Committee may appoint a person until the next triennial election.

Section 5. Regular Meeting. The Coordinating Committee may provide the time, date and place for the holding of a triennial meeting and additional meetings of the Coordinating Committee.

Section 6. Manner of Acting. The decision of a majority of the Coordinating Committee members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the decision of the Coordinating Committee, except where otherwise provided by these statutes.

Section 7. Telephone conferences. Members of the Coordinating Committee, or of any committee designated by the Coordinating Committee, may take any action permitted or authorized by these statutes by meeting via means of conference telephone or similar telecommunications equipment by means of which all persons participating in a meeting can communicate with each other. Participation in a meeting according to this subsection shall constitute presence in person at such a meeting.

Section 8. Rules. The following rules shall bind the IALCC and all persons acting for or on behalf of it:

- (a) No part of the monies of the IALCC shall benefit, or be distributed to its Coordinating Committee members, or other private persons, except that the IALCC shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable costs for services provided and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in these statutes. No Coordinating Committee member will be paid by the IALCC for his or her services as a committee member while holding office.
- (b) Committee members may be reimbursed for their direct expenses related to their service, such as travel.

ARTICLE VII

LIAISON

Section 1. Liaison. The Coordinating Committee shall coordinate with the Cistercian monk or nun appointed as liaison between the OCSO and the International Association of Lay Cistercian Communities.

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees. The Coordinating Committee, by resolution, may designate committee(s). Such committee(s) shall have and exercise the authority granted in the resolution, but the designation of such committee(s) and the delegation of authority the committee(s) shall not relieve the Coordinating Committee, or any individual Coordinating Committee member, of any responsibility imposed upon them.

Section 2. Nominating Committees. The Nominating Committees shall be all the IALCC members of each language group in attendance at the triennial meeting.

- (a) The three (3) Nominating Committees, by language group, shall nominate two candidates each for the at-large Coordinating Committee member positions, selected from the individual representatives of lay communities. The slate of nominees shall be presented to the members for election to the Coordinating Committee. Nominated individuals do not need to be present, if that person indicates a willingness to serve when contacted during the nomination process.

ARTICLE IX

CONTRACTS, CHECKS, AND DEPOSITS

Section 1. Contracts. In addition to the Coordinating Committee members authorized by these Statutes, the Coordinating Committee may authorize any individual(s), to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any contract in the name of and on behalf of the IALCC and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2. Checks, Drafts, Etc. All checks, or other orders for the payment of money, issued in the name of the IALCC, shall be signed by such Coordinating Committee member, or individual(s) and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Coordinating Committee.

Section 3. Deposits. All funds of the IALCC shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the IALCC in such banks, or other depositories as the Coordinating Committee may select.

ARTICLE X

BOOKS AND RECORDS

The Coordinating Committee shall keep correct and complete books and records of financial accounts and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its Coordinating Committee and committees.

ARTICLE XI

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the IALCC shall be the twelve-month period ending December 31 of each year or such other period as may be established by the Coordinating Committee

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENTS TO STATUTES

These statutes may be amended or repealed and new statutes may be adopted by a majority of the IALCC members present at any regular meeting of the membership, *provided* that at least three (3) months written notice is given to members of the intention to amend or repeal or to adopt new Statutes at such meeting. These statutes and any subsequent changes made to them shall be distributed from time to time to the members.

ARTICLE XIII

DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the IALCC, the Coordinating Committee shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities of the IALCC, dispose of all the assets of the IALCC in accordance with the guidance of the OCSO liaison.