

Meeting Minutes (October 17 – 22, 2005)

The International Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 17 – 22, 2005

Present: Dennis Day, Tina Parayre, Marie-Christine Rossignol

Absent: Wayne Bodkin

Place: Domus Laetitia (Capuchin Guest House), Assisi, Italy

1. With great sadness, the Steering Committee accepted the Resignation of Sergio Lara from the Steering Committee for personal reasons. The Committee will solicit recommendations for a replacement and will appoint an individual to fill out his term by the end of 2006.
2. The Steering Committee reviewed and revised a letter addressed to the Abbots and Abbesses in attendance at the General Chapters of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance. (See link to letter and reply)
3. The Steering Committee reviewed and revised the document, The Structure of the Steering Committee of the International Lay Cistercians. (See link to document)
4. The Steering Committee initiated an internal document, The Principles of Involvement in the Steering Committee of the International Lay Cistercians, to assist members of the committee to reflect upon the manner in which the Steering Committee sets about to accomplish its goals and objectives.
5. The Steering Committee has received a request from ARCCIS (Association pour le Rayonnement de la Culture Cistercienne) to be represented on its Administrative Board. After the French-speaking meeting in 2006 and, with the agreement of the Steering Committee, one person will be identified and appointed to ARCCIS' administrative board during 2006. (See link--<http://www.arccis.org/>)

6. The Steering Committee discussed the need and ways to identify all Lay Cistercian communities from around the world from all branches of the Cistercian Family.
7. The Steering Committee felt it was important to identify areas of the world that each member would have primary responsibility for:
 - A. Mare-Christine Rossignol: France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Switzerland, French-speaking Africa and Canada.
 - B. Tina Parayre: Spain, Italy, Portugal, Latin America
 - C. Dennis Day: North America, English-speaking Canada
 - D. Wayne Bodkin: non-French-speaking Europe, the Philippines, Asia, English-speaking Africa
 - E. Dennis Day and Wayne Bodkin: Australia, New Zealand
8. The Steering Committee discussed communications among the communities of Lay Cistercians around the world.
 - A. Potential translators from and to the three languages of the International Lay Cistercians were identified.
 - B. The structure, frequency, and distribution of a biannual Newsletter were identified.
 - C. The international website was discussed and various means to encouraging and improving communications among members were discussed.
9. The Steering Committee identified a major objective of the next three years of developing a list of characteristics, with the input of as many existing Lay Cistercian communities as possible, of Lay Cistercians and Lay Cistercian Communities. When compiled, this document will be published widely as an aid 1) to abbots and abbesses of all branches of the Cistercian Family, 2) to new and beginning Lay Cistercian communities, and 3) to existing and senior Lay Cistercian communities.
10. The Steering Committee began a discussion of where and when the next International Encounter of Lay Cistercian Communities would be held. In order to facilitate attendance:

- A. The date and place of the 2008 Encounter will be published by the end of 2006.
 - B. An effort will be made to identify resources to assist all Lay Cistercian communities to be present and to participate.
11. The International Steering Committee participated in the OCSO General Chapter and read in a plenary session a letter addressed to the abbots and abbesses from the Steering Committee requesting an official liaison. After the presentation of the letter, the Steering Committee answered questions from the abbots and abbesses there present...
 12. The Steering Committee discussed the financial needs of the committee. The primary expenses of the Committee are 1) communication expenses such as the website and postage, 2) travel, room and board to participate in annual Steering Committee meetings, and 3) travel expenses for representatives of Lay Cistercian communities to participate in International Encounters. A proposal will be developed and submitted to the member communities of the International Lay Cistercians.
 13. Next meeting: it was proposed, in order to reduce expenses as much as possible, to hold the next Steering Committee meeting in 2006 at Abbaye Sainte-Marie du Désert.