

Meeting Minutes (September 11 - 15, 2006)

Minutes of the International Steering Committee

September 11-15, 2008

Abbaye Notre Dame de Scourmont, Belgium

Present: Steering Committee: Tina Parayre, Marie-Christine Rossignol, Dennis Day; OCSO Liaison: Dom Armand Veilleux.

1. In response to the request for an appointed liaison from OCSO, to the General Chapter in October 2005 Dom Armand Veilleux, Abbot of Scourmont, has been appointed to meet with the Steering Committee of the ILC as advisor.
2. The Committee reviewed the status of Cistercian Lay Communities around the world. It determined that the purpose of the Steering Committee is not to define Cistercian Lay Communities or to determine criteria for Cistercian Lay Communities, but rather to be of service to those Lay Communities that identify themselves through being listed on the ILC web site.
 - Tina and Dennis visited the Lay Community in Monasterio de Santa María del Paraíso, (Ecuador) in February 2006 where they had the opportunity of making contacts with other South American Lay Communities
 - Marie-Christine met with a number of French-speaking Communities at Scourmont in May 2006.
 - Tina met with a number of Spanish-speaking Communities in Spain at Huerta.
 - Future meetings:
 - Dennis will meet with the Spanish-speaking Lay Community from South Florida
 - Marie-Christine will visit Timadeuc and the CSMF at Lourdes

- Tina will attempt to meet with the Lay Cistercian Communities from Germany
- The Committee decided that there was no need to establish liaison with ARCCIS.

3. Reviewed the Structure and Functions document of the Steering Committee document and noted the following:

- All three representatives that the Steering Committee noted that the Committee could function more efficiently and less expensively if there were three instead of five on the Committee-one for each of the language groups. Modifications to the document to this effect will be submitted to the International Encounter in 2008.
- Replacement of vacant positions on the Steering Committee: with the advice of Dom Armand, it was decided to leave the two vacant seats on the Steering Committee unfilled until elections can be held at the next International Encounter in 2008.
- Alterations to this document will be submitted in 2008 for review and approval of those Lay Communities there present.

4. The Principles of Good Practice, a document created to help the Steering Committee function better, will be translated and published on the web site.

5. 2008 International Encounter

- The 4th International Encounter will be held at Santa María de Huerta (Soria, Spain) from May 31st to June 9th 2008. The meeting will be invitational for all Cistercian Lay Communities listed on the ILC web site and will be limited to a maximum of three individuals from each community.
- At the present moment, the Steering Committee has identified three major goals:
 - To create a document for the OCSO General Chapter that expresses our Cistercian identity both as individual persons and lay communities. To this end, all Lay Communities will be asked

to participate in a pre-conference exercise in which individuals and communities write their own response to this question.

- To develop and propose to the OCSO General Chapter a model of relationship between Cistercian Lay Communities and both the local monastery and the OCSO.
- To develop a leadership structure that serves the needs of all Lay Cistercian Communities.
- The Steering Committee began developing a budget for the Encounter in 2008.
- The Steering Committee began delineating the functions and responsibilities for the up-coming Encounter-those of the Steering Committee and those of the local Coordinating Committee chosen by the Lay Community at Huerta.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee has tentatively been scheduled to be held at Huerta September 10-17, 2007.