



Christian Life Community

Australia

Information Paper about Guides in CLC

The Guide has a specific service role within CLC. There are certain characteristics of a person/CLC member who is suited for that role. The process of choosing and accompanying a Guide is always a communal process. *The Guide is sent for this task and is supported by the community - especially for the formation task.*

Well formed Guides are vital for the ongoing growth of the Christian Life Community in Australia. To continue to grow and deepen CLC, we know we need to form new groups which means recruiting, accompanying and forming new Guides.

Role and Responsibility of CLC Guides (based on “The Process of Growth in CLC - Guidelines for Formation” 2009)

The CLC Guide facilitates the formation of the CLC Group in all its stages of growth, helping it to live the CLC way of life, being sensitive to the movement of the Spirit at the personal and group level. The Guide embodies the CLC Charism, and has experience of all three pillars of CLC, namely, Ignatian Spirituality, Community Growth and Apostolic Mission.

The Guide is familiar with the communal nature of CLC. He or she understands the dynamics of group processes and encourages deep and respectful listening in the CLC group. The Guide is aware of CLC foundational literature and the outcomes of CLC Assemblies - National and World.

In particular, the CLC Guide:

- Assists in the CLC way of proceeding, encouraging the group to use:
 - *Ignatian methods of prayer*
 - *The daily Awareness Examen*
 - *The practice of discernment in response to God’s call in daily life*
 - *Spiritual direction*
 - *The Spiritual Exercises*
 - *DSSE (Discerning, Sending, Supporting, Evaluating) as a way of discerning mission.*
 - *Major CLC documents such as the General Principles, The CLC Charism, “The Process of Growth in CLC - Guidelines for Formation” 2009.*
- Suggests and facilitates the contents and experiences belonging to the relevant stages of growth.
- Maintains close contact with other Guides and the wider CLC community.

- Highlights the processes unfolding in the Group, identifying and making suggestions about matters which need to be addressed in more depth.
- Encourages a growing integration of faith and life.
- Whenever necessary, helps the group identify personal and/or group situations of stagnation.
- At the stage of apostolic discernment, encourages a dynamic apostolic life according to the principles of apostolic discernment, sending (missioning), supporting and evaluating (DSSE).
- Encourages members to continue to discern their vocation in the Church, recognising that CLC is but one way of Christian commitment.
- Encourages members to continue to discern whether they are ready to make a Temporary or Permanent Commitment to CLC.

Qualities and Experience Desirable in a Guide¹

The guide is a person who:

- Has a growing relationship with Christ through prayer.
- Values the Ignatian story and The Spiritual Exercises as the source of Ignatian spirituality and has some experience of the Exercises.
- Desires to be a 'contemplative in action'.
- Has discovered the need and importance for personal spiritual guidance.
- Demonstrates maturity and generosity.²
- Has some felt knowledge and understanding of CLC foundational documents, especially the General Principles.
- Is prepared to participate in and promote the activities of CLC at state, national and world levels.
- Participates in ongoing formation as a Guide.
- Is able to listen.
- Manifests freedom in relation to being a Guide.³
- Has some experience of working with groups.
- Shows compassion and solidarity with the poor.
- Recognises their financial responsibility.

How is a Guide Chosen and Formed?

It is the responsibility of State and National EXCOs to select potential Guides. State EXCO will mission those guides following a discernment process. The State and National CLC creates and provides formation for Guides in the various aspects of this work. The State EXCOs will also provide ongoing support and mentoring for their guides.

¹ "The Process of Growth in CLC - Guidelines for Formation" 2009 - Point 195. Points 193 – 204 offer more information about Guides.

² "The CLC Charism Revised". Supplement No. 56 December 2001. See Points 32-36 The Profile of the CLC Person.

³ Ignatian indifference SP. Ex. [23]