



Christian Life Community
Australia

NATIONAL STATUTES

OF

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY
AUSTRALIA

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NATIONAL STATUTES OF CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY AUSTRALIA

PART ONE:- OUR IDENTITY

1. NAME

The World Christian Life Community (CLCW) is a public world association of the faithful in accordance with Papal law according to the *Code of Canon Law* related to public associations of the faithful (CCL V, chapter I and II, code 312–319) and is the continuation of the Marian Sodality (Congregations) officially approved by the apostolic bull, *Omnipotentis Dei*, of December 5, 1584.

The basic documents that describe the charism, spirituality and the way of life of the CLCW are the *General Principles* (GPs) and *General Norms* (GNs) approved by the General Assembly of the CLCW on September 7th 1990 and confirmed by the Holy See on December 3rd 1990. The General Norms were amended by the General Assembly on July 29th 1998.

Christian Life Community Australia (CLCA) is recognised and established as a National Community as part of the CLCW.

These statutes are made according to the requirements of GN 35.

CLCA is incorporated according to the Victorian Associations Incorporation Act 1981. Inc Reg No A0029889G(Vic).

2. DEFINITIONS

- a) "Administration Manager" means the person that may be engaged by CLCA from time to time to assist in the administration of CLCA.
- b) "National Community" means Registered Members of CLCA
- c) "National Assembly" means the governing body of CLCA.
- d) "NEXCO" means National Executive Council, the leadership team for CLCA.
- e) "National Gathering" means the event that is convened by the NEXCO every four years (two years after a National Assembly) to which all CLC members are invited.
- f) "Regional Community" means any Regional Community established by the National Assembly.
- g) "Regional EXCO" means Regional Executive Council, the leadership team of a Regional Community.



- h) "Regional Gathering" means the Gathering of the Regional Community.
- i) "Regional Gathering for Election" means the Gathering of the Regional Community for the purpose of electing an EXCO.
- j) "Registered Member" means a person who is registered according to Clause 3.3 of these Statutes.
- k) "Secretary" means the Secretary of NEXCO.

3. MEMBERSHIP

There is a variety of ways in which a person can become a member of CLCW (see GN 1). However they are admitted, "the new members must be helped by the community to assimilate the CLC way of life, and to decide whether a call, an ability and a willingness to live it are present, and to become identified with the wider Christian Life Community" (GN 2).

3.1 Enquirer

The National CLCA Document, "Process for Responding to CLC Enquirers", approved at the NEXCO meeting of December 2010, provides some guidelines for the steps to follow when an enquiry is received about CLCA. Central to these guidelines is the suggestion that the person be engaged in dialogue and that a group experience of CLC be offered if this is sought.

3.2 Period of Reception/Welcome – Pre-CLCA member

This is the CLC induction period, referred to as "Pre-CLC".

- a) The Enquirer is invited to attend six meetings in a small group to "Come and See" the CLC experience. The first six meetings of "To Share in the Life of Christ" by Laurence L. Gooley SJ are recommended. At the end of this experience, the Pre-CLCA member has an opportunity to discern if CLC is for them.
- b) If it is not possible for the Enquirer to be part of a "Come and See" group, it may be suggested that the Enquirer join an existing group for about twelve meetings or six months using material from "To Share in the Life of Christ" by Laurence L. Gooley SJ as part of an existing CLCA group. Alternatively other material may be used. Suggestions for content that is appropriate to this induction stage can be found in "The Process of Growth in CLC: Guidelines for Formation *October 2009* (Table 2: A Journey For CLC Formation– Its Stages)".
- c) The induction period may continue for several months. At the end of this period, an Evaluation in the form of prayerful reflection takes place. The person decides if they wish to continue on the CLC journey or that it is not for them.
- d) Induction is completed when the individual becomes registered as a member of CLCA. This involves acceptance of the GPs which is a prerequisite for membership in CLC on any level.



3.3 CLC Membership

If the person decides to become a member of CLC, discussion will take place to choose the CLC group most appropriate to their needs. The person will be invited to complete and submit a New Membership Form. There is a membership fee listed on this form and each is asked to contribute according to their means. Upon acceptance of the application by NEXCO the person becomes a Registered Member of CLCA. Following this, the person receives a membership kit with basic CLC materials and is welcomed into the Christian Life Community family.

Unless otherwise determined by the National Assembly, the amount of any membership fee shall be determined by NEXCO from time to time

The Secretary shall keep a register of the names and addresses of all members. The Secretary may engage the Administration Manager to assist. Members shall advise the Secretary of any changes of address and/or contact details. Each Regional EXCO shall annually provide updated data for the register to the Secretary/Administration Manager.

A registered member may resign upon written notice addressed to the Secretary who shall record in the register of members the name of the resigning member and the date upon which the membership ceased.

If an application for membership is refused by NEXCO, the person shall have the right to have the application referred to the next National Assembly for determination.

PART TWO:- LIFE AND GOVERNMENT OF CLC (Australia)

4. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- a) The National Assembly is the governing body of CLCA.
- b) The policies and decisions of the National Assembly shall bind members of CLCA – individuals, groups, Regional EXCOs and NEXCO.
- c) The delegates who shall attend a National Assembly are all the members of NEXCO plus a maximum of six delegates from each Regional Community, or such number as shall be determined by the National Assembly from time to time.
- d) These delegates shall be chosen by the Regional EXCO from the Registered Members of their Regional Community.
- e) At the National Assembly decisions shall be taken in a spirit of discernment by a majority vote in which each delegate has one vote.
- f) Observers may be invited to attend the National Assembly but shall have no right to vote.
- g) The National Assembly shall meet no less than once every four years and shall be ordinarily convened by NEXCO not less than six months in advance.
- h) NEXCO shall convene an Extraordinary National Assembly at such other times as it may determine after due consultation with Regional EXCOs and upon consent in writing of a majority of Regional EXCOs. An Extraordinary National Assembly

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may be conducted in person or by such electronic means as deemed appropriate. Any such National Assembly may be taken into account in determining the scheduling of the subsequent National Assembly.

- i) A quorum to hold a National Assembly shall be a majority of the maximum number of delegates entitled to attend a National Assembly. In the absence of a quorum, the President may adjourn the meeting to such date and time as he or she deems fit.

4.1 Role of the National Assembly

The National Assembly shall:

- a) Review the policies and orientations of the National Community since the previous National Assembly.
- b) Receive the activity reports and accounts of the period since the previous National Assembly.
- c) Set policies and orientations for the period up to the next National Assembly.
- d) Determine the financial policies of CLCA.
- e) Determine any amendments to the National Statutes.
- f) Determine any amendments to the Constitution.
- g) Determine the establishment or abolition of a Regional Community or a Regional EXCO.
- h) Determine matters relating to membership.
- i) Determine matters relating to participation and presence of members or others at meetings or National Assemblies.
- j) Determine matters relating to the program, agenda, content, processes and procedures of National Assemblies.
- k) Ratify procedures for the election of leadership teams (NEXCO and Regional EXCOs) from recommendations made to the National Assembly by NEXCO.
- l) Elect the NEXCO for the period till the next National Assembly.

5. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEXCO)

- a) NEXCO normally comprises:
 - i) Seven members elected for four years by the National Assembly: four Office Bearers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) and three Ordinary Members;
 - ii) the National Ecclesiastical Assistant (EA) of CLCA, who is appointed by NEXCO;
 - iii) from time to time, as determined by NEXCO, up to two co-opted members of CLCA.
- b) If seven members are not elected, the National Assembly will determine the way forward.
- c) A member of CLCA who is a member of the World EXCO of CLCW may be invited by the NEXCO to be involved in the work of NEXCO for such time and upon such terms and conditions as NEXCO shall determine.
- d) All NEXCO members are to be Registered Members of CLCA.
- e) Each NEXCO member has an equal voice in deliberations and one vote in decision-making except if the terms and conditions established under 5c) determine otherwise for the World EXCO member.
- f) Four members shall form a quorum for a valid NEXCO meeting.

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- g) No person shall occupy the same Office on NEXCO for more than two consecutive terms. A member of NEXCO may be elected only for three consecutive terms.
- h) If a member of NEXCO ceases to be a Registered Member of CLCA or resigns from NEXCO by notice in writing to the Secretary, their position becomes vacant. NEXCO will determine if and how to fulfil this role, and may co-opt a person to join NEXCO.
- i) NEXCO shall meet at least annually and as often as it determines. NEXCO shall determine if meetings are in person or by some other means, and their duration.
- j) NEXCO decisions shall be taken in a spirit of discernment by a majority vote.
- k) NEXCO represents CLCA in respect of all matters and dealings with CLCW.

5.1 Role of NEXCO

NEXCO shall

- a) Implement the General Principles and General Norms.
- b) Implement the policies and decisions taken at the World Assembly of CLC.
- c) Implement the policies and decisions taken at the National Assemblies.
- d) Formulate policies and decisions which shall bind members of CLCA, groups, and Regional EXCOs.
- e) Undertake similar activities, functions, duties and exercises as the World Executive Council described in GN 22 as they pertain to Australia.
- f) Be responsible for the ordinary affairs and management of CLCA between National Assemblies.
- g) Be a community of discernment which functions according to the CLC process and serves by promoting, fostering and nourishing the CLC way of life.
- h) Respond to needs and requests as they arise from our National Community and our world community.
- i) Confirm the procedures for the election of Regional EXCOs.
- j) Facilitate collaboration and communication between Regional EXCOs, members of CLCA and others for the better promotion of the aims of CLC.
- k) Actively seek collaboration with the Society of Jesus.
- l) Convene National Assemblies and other national meetings.
- m) Nominate and appoint any person or subcommittee(s) for such purposes and with such powers as are deemed desirable for the furtherance of the aims and purposes of CLCA. Such person or subcommittee shall be provided with a clear mandate and at all times remains entirely subject to NEXCO. They shall have a term of office which does not exceed the term of office of the NEXCO which appointed them.
- n) Nominate delegates of CLCA to the General Assembly of CLCW, normally after consultation with Regional EXCOs. This shall normally be the Ecclesiastical Assistant and two other delegates.
- o) On behalf of CLCA, collect membership fees, raise money or obtain donations for the purpose of the better promotion of the aims of CLCA.
- p) On behalf of CLCA, purchase, hire, let or lease property and take appropriate steps for its protection and insurance for the purpose of the better promotion of the aims of CLCA.
- q) Decide whether to establish or maintain a “National CLCA Office” to administer such day-to-day secretarial matters as it considers desirable. NEXCO shall be responsible for this Office. It will be situated at a place determined from time to

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time by NEXCO. All official communication shall be addressed to NEXCO at the National CLCA Office.

5.2 Procedure for the Election of NEXCO

- a) Each Regional EXCO shall be entitled to nominate one candidate for any or all of the seven elected NEXCO positions. These nominations must be sent to the Secretary of NEXCO in writing.
- b) Members of CLCA shall be invited to recommend nominees to their Regional EXCO.
- c) The procedure for the nomination of candidates to NEXCO, criteria for candidates, job description of elected NEXCO members and the process of election can be found in Protocols held at the National Office. These may be amended or varied by NEXCO as appropriate. Other Protocols shall be developed as required.

6. REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

- a) Regional Communities are branches of the National Community.
- b) The National Assembly shall determine the establishment or abolition of a Regional Community, including its names and boundaries.
- c) There are currently five Regional Communities in CLCA - New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.
- d) Each Regional Community shall be governed by the National Statutes. Regional procedures need to be consistent with the National Statutes.

7. REGIONAL EXCO

- a) Each Regional EXCO comprises:
 - i) A Chairperson and not less than three and not more than five other members elected by the Regional Gathering for Election.
 - ii) The Regional EA, if there is one. (It is highly recommended that each Regional Community have an EA, preferably a Jesuit. The Regional EA is appointed by the Regional EXCO).
 - iii) Any members of NEXCO who are part of that Regional Community.
 - iv) From time to time, as determined by EXCO, other members of their Regional community may be co-opted onto EXCO.
- b) All Regional EXCO members are to be Registered Members of CLCA.
- c) Each Regional EXCO member has an equal voice in deliberations and one vote in decision-making.
- d) EXCO shall meet as often as it determines. EXCO shall determine if meetings are in person or by some other means, and their duration.
- e) Three members shall form a quorum for a valid EXCO meeting
- f) If a member of EXCO ceases to be a Registered Member of CLCA or resigns from EXCO by notice in writing to the Secretary, their position becomes vacant. EXCO will determine if and how to fulfil this role, and may co-opt a person to join EXCO.
- g) Regional EXCOs will serve for at least two years, with the precise term to be determined by the Regional Community.
- h) Regional Gatherings for Election shall take place at such times as to ensure adequate preparation for a National Assembly and proper follow up on the



decisions of the Assembly. To this end, a Regional EXCO should not change between six months before and twelve months after a National Assembly.

- i) No person shall occupy the position of Chairperson on a Regional EXCO for more than eight consecutive years. A member of a Regional EXCO may be elected for no more than twelve consecutive years.
- j) If a Regional Community is unable to elect an EXCO, it becomes the responsibility of NEXCO to serve that community by promoting, fostering and nourishing the CLC way of life in that community until such time as it is possible to elect an EXCO.

7.1 Role of a Regional EXCO

Regional EXCOs shall:

- a) Implement the General Principles and General Norms
- b) Implement the policies and decisions arising out of the World Assembly of CLC.
- c) Implement the policies and decisions taken at the National Assemblies.
- d) Be bound by and implement the policies and decisions taken by the NEXCO.
- e) Undertake similar activities, functions, duties and exercises as the World Executive Council described in GN 22 as they pertain to that Regional Community.
- f) Be a community of discernment which functions according to the CLC process and serves by promoting, fostering and nourishing the CLC way of life.
- g) Respond to needs and requests as they arise from the CLC members in their Regional Community.
- h) Facilitate collaboration and communication between members and groups at all levels.
- i) Actively seek collaboration with the Society of Jesus.
- j) Convene the Regional Gathering for Election, and other gatherings of the Regional Community.
- k) Nominate and appoint any person or subcommittee(s) to advance the aims and purposes of CLC. They shall be provided with a clear mandate and have a term of office which does not exceed the term of office of that Regional EXCO and at all times remain entirely subject to that Regional EXCO.

7.2 Finances of Regional EXCO

If a Regional EXCO maintains accounts, it does so on behalf of CLCA.

Regional EXCOs shall establish bank accounts on behalf of CLCA or utilize national accounts. The financial procedures that relate to regional accounts are outlined in the Protocols of CLC. These procedures can be amended through dialogue between NEXCO and the Chairpersons of each Region.

8. NATIONAL GATHERING

Every four years, or more often if it seems appropriate after negotiation with Regional Communities, NEXCO shall convene a National Gathering to which all CLC members are invited. NEXCO, in consultation with the Regional Communities, determines the process and content of each National Gathering.

9. WINDING UP

CLCA shall not be voluntarily wound up or dissolved unless a poll be taken at the National Assembly after each Chairperson has consulted members in each Region.

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If upon winding up and/or dissolution of CLCA, there remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, it shall at the discretion of the last NEXCO to give or transfer this property to CLCW or to an organization which has the same aims and purposes as CLCA.

10. ALTERATIONS TO NATIONAL STATUTES

The National Statutes of CLC shall not be altered unless by resolution adopted by a majority of the voting members present at a National Assembly or an Extraordinary National Assembly.



BACKGROUND TO NATIONAL STATUTES

General Norm 35 states the following:

Each national community of the World Christian Life Community establishes its own statutes in conformity with the General Principles and General Norms and the stage of development of the national community.

Such statutes would ordinarily deal with:

- a) Membership in and admission to the national community.
- b) Goals and means of the national community.
- c) Relationship with the hierarchy.
- d) Structures for choosing leaders and for making decisions.
- e) Procedure for selecting delegates to the World General Assembly.
- f) Any other matters essential to ordering the life, unity, growth and mission of the national community.

The statutes of national communities are to be confirmed by the Executive Council of the World Community.

History of These Statutes

In 1986 the first Australian National Assembly was held and those present discerned that we wished to move to become a National CLC community. One of the first things that was established was an Interim NEXCO. Over time this body was accepted as having a permanent role and a Role Statement was developed through dialogue with the State Guiding Communities (the name at the time for the Leadership teams in each State). The most recent version of this Role Statement was agreed in 1996 and it has not been changed since.

In 1994 CLC in Australia became a legal entity under Victorian law and a Constitution was drawn up.

In 1999 the NEXCO of that time, aware that we did not have in place any National Statutes, invited Kay Hooper to begin the process of developing them. As a result of this undertaking, the Role Statement for NEXCO and some further points about electing national leaders and selecting delegates to the World Assembly (points (d) and (e) in GN35.) were presented to the 2000 National Assembly and approved as the National Statutes.

Prior to 2000, Kay Hooper was also asked by the NEXCO to gather into a Working Paper information from each State about their current practices. This was presented to the National Assembly in 2000 but went no further. At the 2004 National Assembly, it was agreed that a Working Party begin to work on the further development of our National Statutes. Over the years, other things have taken precedence and little work was done on this. In 2011 Nick Galante, Chris Hogan and Kay Hooper were asked by NEXCO to review our current documents and make a

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recommendation about National Statutes that might address the requirements of GN35. With input from the Regional EXCOs, this Working Party prepared an initial draft. NEXCO agreed that this draft should be presented to the National Assembly in 2012 for their approval.

At the National Assembly 2012 it was unanimously agreed that “NEXCO, with its working party, will complete the updating of the Statutes.”

NEXCO invited each Regional EXCO to discuss this document and recommend any changes they wished to make. A working party of the Chairperson of each Regional Community and the Vice President of NEXCO has met on a number of occasions and has agreed on the following document which they present to NEXCO for their approval.

The accompanying National Statutes for CLC Australia were accepted and approved by CLC NEXCO at the meeting of the NEXCO and the Chairpersons of each Regional EXCO on 19th October 2014 and will be confirmed at the National Assembly in July 2016 and will then be presented to the World EXCO of CLC.

These Statutes replace those which were approved at the 2000 CLC National Assembly.

