

**Couples for Christ
Foundation for Family and Life
Pastoral-Governance Structure**

In the Philippines

Manila, in the Philippines, is the center of the International CFC-FFL Federation.

The Pastoral-Governance structure of CFC-FFL has three basic levels.

Servant General
District Head
Chapter Head

The chapter is the mini-community of CFC-FFL. It has all the necessary elements with which to carry out the life and mission of CFC-FFL. Most members belong to chapters. ¹ The district is the larger subdivision of the whole CFC-FFL, corresponding to a territorial area that comprises a diocese. All together, the districts, composed of chapters, make up the one community of CFC-FFL.

Now there are other persons and bodies that assist the above in governing the community. They fall under three categories:

- (1) Those who give counsel.
- (2) Those who help handle parts of the governor's territorial responsibilities.
- (3) Those who function as staff.

Those who give counsel

The Servant General is assisted by a Body of Counselors. A District Head is assisted by a core team of seniors. A Chapter Head is assisted by his Unit Heads.

Those who help govern parts of community

Assisting the Servant General are: ²

- (1) For Metro Manila: NCR³ Mission Coordinator.
- (2) For the Philippine provinces: Luzon/Visayas/Mindanao Mission Coordinators, Region Coordinators, and Area Coordinators.
- (3) For countries outside the Philippines: International Mission Coordinator, Regional Coordinators, and Country Coordinators.

Assisting the District Head are his Cluster Coordinators. ⁴

¹ There may be some very few exceptions for those who are higher up in the pastoral-organizational structure.

² The bishop governs his diocese, but at the same time, there are archbishops and papal nuncios "over" them. In a similar way, according to our alignment with Church structure, there are these various seniors who are over the DHs.

³ National Capital Region, that is, Metro Manila.

⁴ In our aligning with the Church structure, CICs are like vicars. The parishes are run by the parish priest directly under his bishop, but the vicar forane is between them with a particular role.

Assisting the Chapter Head are his Unit Heads.

Those who function as staff

These are the heads of the ministerial and pastoral groups within CFC-FFL.

The ministerial groups are as follows:

- (1) Family Ministries.
 - a) Kids for Family and Life
 - b) Youth for Family and Life
 - c) Singles for Family and Life ⁵
 - d) Handmaids for Family and Life
 - e) Servants for Family and Life
- (2) Social Ministries.
 - a) Economic
 - b) Education
 - c) Empowerment of women
 - d) Health
 - e) Prison
 - f) Shelter/community building
- (3) Pro-Life.

The pastoral groups are as follows:

- (1) Home Office ⁶
- (2) Pastoral Formation ⁷
- (3) Others ⁸

Putting it all together

The basic governance structure of CFC-FFL is simple -- SG, DH and CH. In addition, there are others who help govern, that is, the coordinators. They govern as extensions of and under the delegated authority of the SG and the DH, respectively.

To clarify further, for example, it is not the NCR Mission Coordinator who governs the whole NCR, but rather it is the DHs who govern parts of NCR, under the SG who is the one who governs all of NCR. It is the DHs who plan, implement, etc., while the NCR MC puts everything together, that is, coordinates, under the authority of the SG. Given the SG's delegated authority, the NCR MC would of course also govern with real authority.

A caveat: DHs, though having direct access to the SG, should normally work within the pastoral-governance structure that includes other seniors over them.

Outside the Philippines

⁵ KFL, YFL and SFL together make up the Young Ministries.

⁶ Administration, Communications, FFL Shoppe, Finance, IT, Legal, Special Events.

⁷ Center for Pastoral Formation, Counseling Services, Fulltime Pastoral Workers.

⁸ Church Liaison, Missionaries, Music.

CFC-FFL's pastoral-governance structure outside the Philippines depends on whether a community is fully integrated or affiliated.

For a fully integrated community, the pastoral-governance structure would follow the pattern in the Philippines, with the addition of a Country Head who is assisted by a Body of Counselors. The Country Head falls under the category of "those who help govern parts of community."⁹

For affiliated communities, they have their own particular pastoral-governmental structure,¹⁰ subject to the approval of the SG.

Throughout the worldwide community

There exists an International Core of Seniors.

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Related documents:

Pastoral-Organizational Structure – Roles and Responsibilities

Body of Counselors

The International CFC-FFL Federation

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⁹ Fully integrated communities are an integral part of the one community of CFC-FFL.

¹⁰ This may vary from community to community.