

**Couples for Christ
Foundation for Family and Life
The International CFC-FFL Federation**

CFC-FFL is a federation of CFC communities in different countries throughout the world.

What makes CFC in a country part of the CFC-FFL federation?

- 1) Same Vision & Mission, Covenant and Core Values.¹
- 2) Same basic formation, basic pastoral structures of support (households), and basic pattern of life.
- 3) Acceptance of Manila as spiritual center.
- 4) Formal accreditation by the Servant General (SG).

Within this federation, there are fully integrated communities and there are affiliated communities.² What is the difference?

Characteristics of a fully integrated community:

- 1) An integral or constituent part of the one CFC-FFL community.
- 2) Adoption *in toto* of the statements of vision and mission, the covenant, and the core values.
- 3) Pastoral-organizational-governance structures are the same as Manila.
- 4) All seniors are chosen and approved according to the governmental processes as determined by Manila.
- 5) Their work in their country is overseen by a Country Coordinator appointed by Manila, who has direct authority, delegated by the SG, over the seniors in the country.³

Characteristics of an affiliated community:⁴

- 1) A part of the CFC-FFL international family but autonomous to a certain degree.^{5 6}
- 2) Adoption in principle and in substance of the statements of vision and mission, the covenant, and the core values, but may be stated in different ways.
- 3) Pastoral-organizational-governmental structures may take on different forms, subject to the approval of the SG.

¹ The formulation may be different, as long as the essence is still the same or adequately similar. It is up to the Servant General to accept any non-verbatim formulation.

² The choice is made by the community and its own leaders.

³ There will still be Regional Coordinators (RCs) overseeing a group of countries.

⁴ There can be affiliated communities in places in the Philippines or in places in other countries where the CFC-FFL community on a national level or a diocesan level is fully integrated. There can be a number of affiliated communities in a particular area or country.

⁵ "Autonomous to a certain degree" means basic self-governance, but not total self-governance, since there is still the authority of the SG and involvement of seniors from outside the country.

⁶ If the community has or will have statutes, these are subject to the approval of the SG and the local Church hierarchy.

- 4) Most seniors are chosen and approved by the country leadership. The overall Country Head however, and possibly other seniors, would be chosen by or subject to the confirmation of the SG.⁷
- 5) Their work in their country is overseen by a Country Coordinator appointed by Manila, who acts as liaison between Manila and the country.
- 6) The community may take on a different name, that is, not “CFC-FFL.”

Characteristics similar for both types of community:

- 1) All Family Ministries (kids, youth, singles, handmaids, servants) are established.⁸
- 2) Social Ministries are established or implemented selectively according to need and capabilities.⁹
- 3) Particular programs and pastoral thrusts are adapted to local needs and situations.
- 4) Finances are utilized for their own work within their country and also for their missions.¹⁰
- 5) Submission to the local Church hierarchy.
- 6) Subject to regular visitation, evaluation and audit as directed by the SG.

International Core of Seniors (ICS)

In order to further the international mission of CFC-FFL and strengthen the fraternal bonds among its top leaders, a body called the International Core of Seniors (ICS) has been established.

What is the basic rationale for the ICS?

- 1) This reflects the universality of CFC-FFL.¹¹
- 2) This enables the CFC in the different countries, especially top non-Filipino seniors, to participate actively in the life and direction of CFC-FFL.¹²
- 3) This reflects the co-responsibility of top seniors of the different countries in promoting and preserving the authentic charism of CFC-FFL.
- 4) This provides an important component in the interconnection among the autonomous CFCs in the different countries that are in the CFC-FFL federation.

Composition of the ICS:

⁷ The specific list of seniors to be appointed or confirmed by the SG is subject to the agreement between the SG and the group applying to become an affiliated community.

⁸ Not necessarily all at once, but is the intent.

⁹ Being part of CFC-FFL necessitates involvement in the social dimension. However, such involvement can vary widely from country to country.

¹⁰ Their own work within their country includes providing for the pastoral visits of Country Coordinators and other seniors from outside the country as needed. Further, this does not prevent a country or area to help in our international work by sending funds to Manila, since work in the global center also affects positively the work within their own country.

¹¹ The Catholic Church, of which CFC-FFL is a part, is universal. While dioceses are autonomous, the spiritual center is in Rome. This is the place of Manila within the international federation.

¹² Members of the ICS are not necessarily the top leaders in their respective countries, and thus are not to usurp the functions proper to top leaders who are not ICS members (for example, a Filipino Country Head).

- 1) Top seniors in the different countries *who are not Filipino in origin*.¹³ Normally not more than one senior per country.¹⁴ Not all countries have to be represented in the ICS.¹⁵
- 2) Regional Coordinators (irrespective of race or nationality).
- 3) Members of the Body of Counselors in Manila.
- 4) The SG.
- 5) Anyone else that the SG in his discretion will appoint.

Qualification of the ICS member from the different countries (aside from the RCs):

- 1) The highest non-Filipino senior of the community.¹⁶
- 2) Strongly committed to the vision and mission of CFC-FFL.
- 3) Recommended by the Country Coordinator.
- 4) Appointed by the SG.

Role of the ICS:¹⁷

- 1) Help promote the CFC-FFL evangelization and mission throughout the world.¹⁸
- 2) Give inputs, whether as ICS or as individual members of ICS, at anytime to the SG on the life and mission of CFC-FFL.
- 3) Give inputs on matters brought by the SG to the ICS.
- 4) Review and make recommendations regarding the life and mission of CFC-FFL during the regular ICS meetings.
- 5) Freely interact and give inputs to each other through e-communications in the furtherance of the CFC-FFL mission.

Meetings:

- 1) The whole ICS meets once every three years.¹⁹
- 2) Regional ICS meetings (for ICS members within a region) may be held every year, generally coinciding with and at the venue of the regional annual Conference.²⁰
- 3) E-meetings may be held regularly.
- 4) Other meetings can be called as needed by either the SG or by a third of the ICS.

Meeting of Country Heads

¹³ This reflects the reality that CFC-FFL is not a Filipino movement but a movement within and for the universal Church.

¹⁴ Both fully integrated and affiliated communities are included, if they have a qualified senior.

¹⁵ While all countries are important, they do not have to be directly represented in the ICS. For pastoral purposes, their representation is through the Regional Coordinators.

¹⁶ A senior is one who is a Chapter Head or higher in pastoral service.

¹⁷ The ICS is not a governance body and is not involved, as a body, in the day-to-day affairs of CFC-FFL.

¹⁸ Basic responsibility for evangelization and mission lies with the territorial seniors.

¹⁹ The basic objectives of this meeting are: (1) to evaluate the life and mission of CFC-FFL; (2) help define the directions and strategies for the next 3 years; and (3) to strengthen fraternal bonds among the concerned seniors. These meetings start on 2009 and every 3 years thereafter. These meetings will normally be in June in Manila.

²⁰ Large countries can be akin to regions, and may in fact have regional CFC-FFL groupings within the country. Examples would be the USA and Canada. These may have their own country conference.

Country Heads meet in Manila once every five years on the anniversaries of CFC-FFL that are multiples of five.²¹

Approved by SG. June 16, 2008

²¹ These meetings start on 2011 and every 5 years thereafter.