

Covenant of the Canadian Christian Meditation Community

A. Purpose of the Covenant

To establish an operating framework and governance structure to ensure that the living tradition of Christian meditation continues to be shared as broadly as possible in all the provinces and territories of Canada in both official languages as circumstances warrant.

B. Community's Mission Statement

To communicate and nurture meditation as passed on through the teaching of Dom John Main in the Christian tradition in the spirit of serving the unity of all.

C. The Canadian Christian Meditation Community (CMCC or simply the Community)

CCMC is composed of a number of elements as follows:

1. Member is a person who practices Christian meditation particularly as taught by John Main and is recognized by the Community as following the faithful expression of this teaching.
2. Group is a number of persons who meet on a regular basis to practice Christian meditation together, within a defined geographical area usually at the local or regional levels.
3. Area Coordinator is a member (usually but not necessarily a group leader) who in collaboration with the Regional Coordinator agrees to serve as a resource person, communicator and facilitator to a number of groups and meditators in a particular geographical area.
4. Regional Coordinator is a member of the National Council who in collaboration with the appropriate Area Coordinators agrees to coordinate all Christian meditation activities within a defined region of Canada.
5. National Council (or simply the Council) is the group of Christian meditation leaders composed in accordance with Section D.3 and charged by the Community with the responsibility of articulating a vision to sustain and share the development of Christian meditation throughout Canada and to oversee the Community's life and growth.
6. National Coordinator is the Chair of the National Council and thus will ensure its proper functioning and will see to the wellbeing of the Canadian Community as whole. He/she (or his/her designate) is a *de facto* member of the Board of Meditatio.

7. School is the specific structure within the Community that focuses on the transmission of the teaching to future generations. This 'school' will assist meditators to better accept and appreciate the spiritual gift they have received by coming to a fuller understanding of the tradition and a deepening of their spiritual life. As a result the 'school' will help meditators to personally share the teaching with others in the circumstances of their life. The 'school' will serve the Community through the National Council under the guidance of the Director and Guiding Board of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM).

8. Meditatio is the charitable corporation responsible for the financial and legal affairs of the English-speaking component of CMCC. Likewise, Méditation chrétienne du Québec (MCQ) plays a similar role for the French-speaking component.

9. National Resource Centres (one for English-speaking and one for French-speaking meditators) consists of paid or volunteer persons responsible for the ongoing affairs of the two linguistic components of the Community, e.g., Newsletter, data base, Medio Media distributorship in Canada, communications, liaison, Friends' Programme, etc.

MCQ in addition assumes responsibility and assigns a high priority to the French translation of resource materials and documents as well as to the development of original materials in the French-language.

Each centre receives its direction from and is accountable to Meditatio & MCQ respectively, in consultation with the National Council as appropriate.

D. National Council (or simply the Council)

1. Mandate

To articulate a vision to sustain and promote the development of Christian Meditation in Canada.

To oversee the implementation of this vision through the coordination of national activities such as - the financing of the production and distribution of the quarterly Newsletter; the work of Medio Media in Canada; the organization of Schools in Canada and of national tours by Fr. Laurence Freeman and other teachers of Christian meditation; the provision of scholarships to allow wider attendance at important national and international Christian Meditation events by persons who could not otherwise attend; and, the organization of the biennial National Conference and General Meeting.

To facilitate communication and dialogue between Christian meditation leaders initially in Canada on a priority basis and around the world and to foster the development of leadership thereby reducing the dependence of the Canadian community on a small core of leaders and thus ensuring that appropriate structures are in place to address necessary issues of succession and continuity.

To develop a sense of community among Christian meditators by encouraging the formation of meditation groups at the local level and of regional groupings as appropriate. In this regard the link with the monastic tradition, particularly the Benedictine, is highly valued and new forms of community life, such as the oblate community, will also be encouraged and supported.

To foster and guide dialogue and meditation among Christians of all denominations as well as with representatives of the contemplative communities of other religions and sacred traditions.

To undertake in a sustained way fund-raising activities for the above-mentioned national needs and for the support of the International Centre of the WCCM.

2. Responsibilities

First and foremost the Council exists to serve in the spirit of the Gospel the individual meditator in his/her personal spiritual journey and to support and encourage group leaders, area coordinators and other leaders who share in the work of the Community.

In the conduct of its affairs the Council will be inclusive, democratic, broadly consultative and transparently accountable in its finances and otherwise to the Canadian and World communities and should report thereon on a regular basis.

The Council will make an effort to ensure that Christian meditation activities are well coordinated in all areas of the country and should maintain close links with The World Community, its Guiding Board and International Centre.

The Council will hold a General Meeting in the context of the Community's biennial National Conference.

3. Composition

The Council will be composed of the National Coordinator and seven (7) members with typically one (1) representative from each of the following regions - British Columbia/Yukon, Alberta & Saskatchewan, Manitoba/Northern Ontario, Ontario, Québec, the Atlantic region and a delegate from Méditation chrétienne du Québec.

Efforts will be made to maintain an appropriate gender balance in the membership of the Council and to rotate the position of National Coordinator among the regions.

The Council may invite non-voting supernumerary members to participate/share in the Council's work as circumstances may warrant.

4. Appointment

Members, including the National Coordinator and *ipso facto* the Chair, will be appointed by the Council in broad consultation with the leadership of the Canadian community. Members attending the biennial National Conference (and General Meeting) will be asked to express their support of the then incumbents.

5. Term

The National coordinator will be appointed for a two (2) year term renewable once. Other members will be appointed for a two (2) year term renewable twice - efforts will be made to encourage as widely as possible the involvement of 'newer' members with leadership potential.

6. Meetings and Quorum

The Council will meet in person or by way of teleconferencing as frequently as they deem appropriate.

If the Chair is absent, the members of the Council will appoint an acting chair for the meeting.

The quorum for a meeting of the Council will be four (4) members.

E. Amending Formula

This Covenant can be amended by a unanimous vote of the National Council providing that the proposed amendment(s) is/are publicized in the Community's Quarterly Newsletter six months before a vote is scheduled and the general membership is encouraged to provide comments on the issues involved.

F. Proclamation

This covenant was unanimously approved by the voting-members attending the Community's National Conference and General Meeting held in Montréal, October 24-26, 2003.

Drafted by C. Sauvé
2003 07 26, as amended 2003 09 19 & 2003 10 26.
Amended 2015 06 13.