



Christian Life Community — USA

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Carmen Santamaria
Youth and Young Adult

Dear CLC Regional or National Leader,

You and several other leaders from your region/cultural or young adult group are invited to participate in two important leadership meetings of CLC USA. The first of these weekend meetings will take place in Pittsburgh, PA from April 24 – 27, 2008. The follow up meeting will be in early 2009. In both cases we will gather on Thursday evening and finish our work together on Sunday afternoon around 3:00pm. Our goals are to:

- Connect our diverse communities so that we all feel part of one CLC USA –“unity in diversity”.
- Develop supportive structures to link youth and young adults to each other and the larger CLC.
- Develop greater consistency of language and experience across our community.
- Develop models of organization to better support and facilitate growth of our membership -- geographically, culturally and among various age groups.
- Develop those characteristics needed for leading within CLC-USA including the skills needed for personal and communal discernment.

In July, 2004 after the Miami Assembly where we welcomed our Vietnamese (Dong Hanh CLC) communities into CLC USA, the NCC inaugurated a Culture and Structure Committee with the mandate to propose how we will serve the cultural needs of CLC – USA and “capture gifts of cultural diversity”. Much has happened since that historic meeting to enlarge the vision and expand the mandate. In July, 2007 the NCC charged the Diversity and Organization Committee (same committee, different name) to develop a process and convene leadership to “understand the current realities of CLC-USA, frame a vision of CLC-USA, and make recommendations for a new organization of CLC-USA that would support these realities and vision.” These weekend meetings in 2008 and 2009 along with input from local communities and regional/cultural leadership are the central place where we will do this work.

The first weekend will focus on creating a shared experience of leadership using modules developed at a World Leadership Course in Rome last November. This course was a response to the Nairobi CLC

World General Assembly mandate to strengthen CLC's leadership base to support becoming an Apostolic Body. Four people from the USA participated in the course: Simon Shin and Eileen Burke Sullivan from the National Formation Team and Mong Hang Nguyen and Lois Campbell from Diversity and Organization. Attached you will find a short description of each module from that course. These modules are in two lists. One list includes those core modules that will be presented in general sessions at the April conference, and the other list gives those modules that could be presented as concurrent workshops. We ask that you let the Diversity and Organization Committee know which of these potential concurrent workshop modules you and your community leaders would like included at the Pittsburgh 2008 meeting.

The second weekend in 2009 will focus on the reorganizing process. Between and after the 2 weekend meetings, all CLC members will be afforded an opportunity to have input through questionnaires. A final review and discussion of outcomes will occur at the 2009 CLC-USA National Assembly.

Please review the attached pages describing the modules and respond to Peggy Edwards on the enclosed survey reply form by December 15, 2007 with your suggestions of what to include in the April meeting. Please also begin to identify the people who should be present on the weekends. They will represent your regional, cultural group or young adult reality and be the links back to your leadership structures and communities during the process. Please select people who are current leaders or those you might be ready to move into leadership positions. They should be committed CLC members who will be in a position to bring the discussions and decisions back to your communities and bring your input and insights to the process. The ExCo and NCC will be present as a body as will the National Formation Team so it is not necessary to include those persons in your number. Each region, Youth and Young Adult or Cultural Group is responsible for arranging the method in which their representatives travel and conference costs will be handled. There are limited funds available if a region is in need of assistance in arranging funding for adequate representation. Please contact me with any requests of that nature. While travel costs will vary, the cost of the weekend lodging and conference materials is \$150 per participant.

We are happy to discuss the planned process with you and respond to any questions you may have. In the meantime please pray with us for the Spirit's guidance during this process. It is a very exciting time for CLC USA as we create relationships and structures to support our growth and diversity.

In Christ,

CLC-USA Executive Council

Ann Marie Brennan, *President*
Thomas Bausch, *Past-President*
Paula Burgan, *Secretary*
Kitty Gray, *Treasurer*
John LeVecke, S.J., *EA*

Diversity and Organization Committee

Peggy Edwards, *Co-Chair*
Mong Hang Nguyen, *Co-Chair*
Thomas Bausch, *ExCo*
Lois Campbell, *World CLC Consultant*
Katerina Kim, *KCLC*
Trung Pham, *Dong Hanh*
Claudia Rodriguez, *Y/YA*
Trung Pham, *Dong Hanh*
Ady Viera, *CVX CLC*