**1*.*****Locate a few local supporters:** If you are a parent of a child with developmental disabilities, locate at least one other parent who has an interest in establishing a
Faith and Light community. You don’t have to be many to begin with, but it is good to have a core of people who are committed to the effort. Ask other adults or young people who could join your group just for support although they may not have a relative with developmental disabilities. Faith and Light organizes itself around a core of parents, children with developmental disabilities and friends young and old that will accompany the families and be “friends”.

**2**. **Get the basic documents** - Request the Provincial Vice Coordinator to send you copies of the Constituition and Charter, Leader Booklets, *Guidelines for the First Year.* Educate yourself from the documents, and attend a gathering of an established group.

**3***.* **Invite people to a first meeting** - Follow *Guidelines for the First Year.* Continue meeting monthly, about one and a half to two hours each time. Use the steps suggested in “Planning a Faith and Light Meeting”

**4.** **Inform the Provincial Vice Coordinator** - Let the Provincial Vice Coordinator know that your Community is meeting. As the meetings begin, ask the Vice Coordinator assigned to accompany your community to come and visit.

**5***.* **The Process of becoming a fully recognized Faith and Light Community** –. After regular meetings are established, inform the Vice Coordinator that your community is ready for probation as a Faith and Light Community. Typically, after a year’s probation, your community can apply to the Provincial Council for formal recognition as a Faith and Light community. Once recognized, your community can participate fully in the international Faith and Light community. These include local, provincial and international retreats, pilgrimages and conferences, access to all Faith and Light documents and media, and continued accompaniment by provincial leaders. Once recognized, your community members will pay annual dues to Faith and Light to help cover the costs of the above benefits.

**6**. **Affiliate with a local church** - This connection could be made from the beginning or after you see that the concept has been well received by twenty or so faithful members and they have been meeting long enough that you are quite sure it will continue. Depending on the structure of the church, the affiliation could be just the proximity and contacts with church members or the church might list Faith & Light as a ministry of the parish, so that all new members will be aware of it.