



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

## The Constitution ... of The World Community for Christian Meditation

of the John Main Seminar and the Guiding Board will at that meeting report to members in accordance with section E.7 (b). Members recognized by the Guiding Board will have voting rights at the meeting.

### L. AMENDING FORMULA

This Constitution can be amended by a yes vote of two-thirds of the voting members attending the Annual Meeting.

### M. PROCLAMATION

This Constitution was unanimously approved at the Community's Annual Meeting held in Cornwall, Ontario, Canada on August 23 2002 as amended on August 12, 2011, July 25, 2014, July 2, 2016 and September 15, 2023 and replaces the interim Constitution dated August 13, 1993 as amended on August 19, 1995.

Official Copy  
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### B. GOALS AND PURPOSE

The goals and purpose of the World Community for Christian Meditation (the Community) are:

1. To communicate and share the teaching and practice of Christian meditation throughout the world, which practice leads to an ever-deepening union with the living Christ and the practical caring for all members of the human family and an ever-increasing respect for the interdependence of all creation.
2. To support and sustain individual Christian meditators by making available to them whatever will encourage and nurture them in the living tradition of Christian meditation.
3. To develop a sense of community among Christian meditators by encouraging the formation of meditation groups at the local level and of regional and national 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.
4. 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.
5. To organize events such as the annual John Main Seminar to broaden and deepen the teaching of Christian meditation, to work for peace and to provide a forum for dialogue at the international, national, regional and local levels.

### C. OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The following principles will inform all the activities of the Community and its constituent bodies and components:

1. It will be inclusive of all those who practice Christian medi-

tation as taught by John Main.

2. It will operate in a democratic and consultative fashion and affirm the equality of all members and its governing structure will be accountable to the membership in the conduct of its affairs.

3. To the extent possible its decisions will be arrived at on a consensus basis rather than on a routine majority-voting basis.

4. Its governing structure will strive to be reflective of the geographic distribution of the Community's membership and of gender considerations in its composition.

5. It will encourage and respect the autonomy of individual groups, meditation centres, national councils and national coordinators in the conduct of their affairs. It is expected also that these persons and bodies will remain in communion with the spirit of the Community, will abide by its Constitution and will follow the guidance provided from time to time by the Community's Director and Guiding Board.

### D. THE COMMUNITY

The Community 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 his teaching.
2. Group is a number of persons who meet on a regular basis to practice Christian meditation together, within a defined geographic area usually at the local or regional levels.
3. Director is the person recognized as having a particular charism in communicating the vision of John Main and is empowered by the Community and its governing structure to guide and advance the teaching of Christian meditation.
4. Teachers are persons recognized by the Community as ha-

ving the knowledge and spiritual maturity to teach Christian meditation.

5. Trustees constitute the body established under the WCCM's Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) to pursue the mission of the Community and to oversee its legal, financial and administrative affairs as required by the laws of England and Wales. Three of the Trustees, including the Director, will be members of the Guiding Board.

6. Guiding Board (the Board) is the group of Christian meditation leaders composed in accordance with Section E.2 and charged by the Community with the responsibility of articulating a vision to sustain and share the development of Christian meditation around the world and to oversee the Community's life and growth.

7. Executive Committee is the body that oversees the operational activities of the International Office. It is appointed by the Guiding Board from among its membership and that of the Trustees and Advisory Council.

8. Advisory Council (the Council) is made up of Community members, appointed by the Guiding Board upon recommendation of the Director and Board Chair, who are prepared to lend their expertise and/or use their 'good offices' individually or jointly to advise and assist the Board and Executive Committee on various projects and initiatives as called upon from time to time to advance the mission and work of the Community.

9. School of Meditation 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 worldwide through its national governing bodies under the guidance of the International Coordinator of the



School, the Director and the Guiding Board.

10. Patrons are individuals in the Community or society at large who support and endorse the mission of the Community. Patrons are appointed by the Trustees upon recommendation of the Guiding Board and serve at pleasure.

11. International Office consists of paid or volunteer persons responsible for the ongoing affairs of the Community. It will be overseen by the Executive Committee.

## E. GUIDING BOARD

### 1. Mandate

The mandate of the Guiding Board is:

To maintain the integrity and to oversee the sharing of the teaching in all its dimensions;

To assist the Director in affirming and discerning the fulfillment of his/her role as spiritual guide of the Community;

To appoint the Director (if and when that becomes necessary and for whatever period or successive periods the Board considers appropriate);

To set the Community's priorities and to propose and develop plans and initiatives, including fund-raising ones, to help achieve them;

To advise and support those of its members who serve as Trustees on legal, operational and financial matters:

To make recommendations to the Trustees regarding the appointment of Trustees and Patrons of the Community; and

To provide an accountability and communications point to the general membership.

### 2. Composition

The Guiding Board will be composed of the Director and up to seventeen (17) other Community members as follows:

a) The Trustees – at least three (3) Trustees, including the Director.

b) Fifteen (15) other Community members, mindful of the intent of section C.4. Four (4) of these members will be National Coordinators selected to foster communications and cooperation among the national communities in four geographic regions, i.e., Asia/Pacific, Europe/Africa, North America and South America. These four positions will be known as Global Regional Coordinators.

### 3. Nominating and Appointing Authority

a) The members referred to in section E.2(a) will be the Trustees, who are appointed to their position following consultation with the Guiding Board.

b) The members referred to in section E.2 (b) will be appointed by the Guiding Board. Consultation with the National Coordinators within the four geographic regions will take place prior to appointments to the four (4) positions designated for National Coordinators.

### 4. Term

The term of members will vary as follows:

a) For those appointed under section E.2 (a) it will be determined by the Trustees.

b) For those appointed under section E.2 (b) it will be for a period of three years, renewable once.

c) National Coordinators appointed under section E.2(b) will serve a full term regardless of their status as National Coordinators in their home communities.

### 5. Meetings and Quorum

a) The Board will meet at least once a year for a three or four day meeting which all members will be expected to attend.

b) The quorum for meetings of the Board will be seven (7) members.

### 6. Chair & Vice-Chair

a) The chair and vice-chair of the Board will be selected by the Board and will serve for a period of two years, renewable once. Their status as members of the Board per section E.4(b) will be extended if necessary to allow them to serve a full-term as chair or vice-chair.

b) The chair and vice-chair will be members other than the Director.

### 7. Accountability

a) The Board will keep minutes of its meetings, the original copy of which will be kept at the International Office.

b) The Board will report on its decisions and activities including a financial report at the Community's Annual Meeting and to all Community members at least on an annual basis at such times and ways as circumstances permit.

### 8. Delegation of Authority

The Board will delegate to the Executive Committee whatever authority and powers deemed necessary for it to see to the overall functioning and well being of the Community.

## F. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### 1. Composition

The Committee will be composed of up to seven (7) members drawn from the Guiding Board, including the Director, the Trustees or Advisory Council. The Director and

Chair of the Guiding Board, in consultation with the Executive Committee, will nominate the other members.

### 2. Term

The term for members will be as follows

a) For the Director for as long as he/she occupies this position.

b) For the other members for as long as they are members of the Guiding Board, Trustees, or Advisory Council.

### 3. Chair

The Chair of the Committee will be the Director.

### 4. Meetings and Accountability

a) The Committee will meet in person whenever practicable and the members will consult with each other regularly by whatever means are deemed most convenient and appropriate.

b) The Committee will keep minutes of all its formal meetings and a copy of the minutes will be sent to the Chair and Vice-chair of the Guiding Board and to the Trustees.

## G. NATIONAL COORDINATORS AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES

In the spirit of Section C.5, National Coordinators and National Governing bodies are expected to remain in contact with the Guiding Board through the Community's International Team. They will thus participate in the governance of the international Community through their involvement in this ongoing dialogue, their participation in the meetings of National Coordinators held at the International level ideally every four (4) years and at the region level two (2) years after each International meeting and through the membership on the Board of the four National Coordinators appointed under section E.2(b). Accordingly the selection and appointment of the National Coordinator, by whatever process is decided by the national community, will involve consultation with the WCCM Director and the Director of National Coordinators Liaison.

They are also encouraged to share ideas and experiences with each other and with the Guiding Board. While the Community as a whole is alive with a spirit of mutuality of support between the centre and its constituent parts, each level is encouraged to maintain a modest reserve.

## H. BONNEVAUX

Bonnevaux is the international centre of the community, ser-

ving as a unifying presence of witnessing to the teaching and facilitating the formation of new teachers, and as a place of dialogue in which both Inreach and Outreach aspects of the community are supported. The soul of Bonnevaux is the regular life, lived in the spirit of St Benedict, of a core community.

## I. INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

The Community itself has been established as a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) under the laws of England and Wales (Charity registration number: 1182213) and will be served by an International Team coordinated from London, England, unless otherwise decided by the Guiding Board.

### 1. Purposes

Under the direction of the Executive Committee and/or such person(s) it designates, the purposes of the International Office are:

a) To co-operate and liaise with the national, regional and local groups, whether incorporated or otherwise, in pursuing the Community's worldwide mission and activities.

b) To assist the Director in all his activities.

c) To provide administrative support to the Guiding Board and its Executive Committee, the Trustees and the Advisory Council.

d) To provide administrative and financial support services to the Community, including media relations, communications, production of resource materials and such other activities as determined by the Executive Committee from time to time.

### 2. Staffing

Staff will be employed on either a paid or volunteer basis as determined by the Trustees. Various functions may be carried out from different points from around our worldwide Community.

## J. OTHER ENTITIES

The Community will have the right to establish or encourage the formation of other dependent or independent corporate entities, such as Medio Media International, the Community's publishing company, for the financial benefit of the Community and to further its mission.

## K. ANNUAL MEETING

The Community will hold an annual meeting in the context