

CONSTITUTION of COLORADO VIA DE CRISTO

PREAMBLE

The purpose of Colorado Via de Cristo (CVdC) is to foster and encourage renewal in the Christian faith through the power and work of the Holy Spirit within the Lutheran Church and the world community by presenting the fullness of Christ's ministry by both laity and clergy. CVdC strives to bring baptized Christians to a fuller personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, deepening their level of commitment to sharing the Word of God.

CVdC provides a method that develops Christian leaders. This method uses meetings and groups of Christians who share their common life in Christ and their efforts to bring others to Him in order to make the world more Christ-like.

Via de Cristo grew out of the Cursillo® movement. CVdC accepts as its norm the content and method of the Cursillo® movement as developed by Bishop Juan Jervas, Eduardo Bonnin and their friends. These developers provided a method by which Christians transform the world for Christ. This method calls Christians to live their lives in union with Christ supported by regular reunion with other Christians.

CVdC accepts the call to be Christ's witnesses in the world, the three-day weekend of fifteen talks, and the method of group reunion and ultreya. National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS), as the governing body for Via de Cristo in the United States, is the means by which the many Via de Cristo communities, including CVdC, may be represented on Via de Cristo matters of national and international interest.

CVdC also accepts as its norm the content and structure of the following references.

1. The Essentials of the Via de Cristo
2. Constitution and Bylaws of National Lutheran Secretariat

CVdC declares its affiliation with the National and International Via de Cristo and Cursillo® movements through its agreement and compliance with the above documents.

Constitution Article 1–Name and Organizational Structure

1. The name of this organization shall be Colorado Via de Cristo (CVdC).
2. Colorado Via de Cristo shall be incorporated in Colorado.
3. The Secretariat shall appoint a registered agent and may change the registered agent as appropriate.
4. The Secretariat will be made up of, as a minimum, the officers of the corporation (i.e., Lay Director, Assistant Lay Director, Secretary, Treasurer) and the Spiritual Director. Additional Secretariat positions may be established in the Bylaws.
5. The Secretariat may establish an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers and the Spiritual Director. The roles, responsibilities, and authorities of the Executive Committee shall be defined in this constitution and approved by the Secretariat.

Constitution Article 2–Purpose

CVdC is organized for the following purposes:

1. To strengthen and renew the faith of individuals through the power and work of the Holy Spirit of God.
2. To empower individuals to become servant leaders within their faith communities thereby strengthening and renewing their families, congregations, and communities.
3. To provide a process to promote and encourage growth in piety, study, and action in the participants' 4th Day life.
4. To change the world through the power of the Holy Spirit, prayer and the teachings of Jesus Christ as the Ideal.
5. To be organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding sections of any future Federal Tax Code.
6. To do all things that a Colorado Not for Profit corporation may otherwise legally do.
7. The Corporation considers itself to be united by a common faith in God, in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and in the Holy Spirit, and by a common love for all people. The Corporation shall receive and maintain a fund or funds of real or personal property, or both, subject to the restrictions hereinafter set forth, to use and apply the whole or any part of the income there from, and the principal thereof, exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding sections of any future Federal Tax Code. Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code, or shall be distributed to the Federal Government, or to the State or local Government, for a public purpose.

Constitution Article 3–Meetings

1. CVdC shall have one Annual Meeting, the date being set according to the Bylaws.
2. Special meetings may be set according to the Bylaws of CVdC.
3. A quorum of the members shall be as stated in the Bylaws.
4. All members shall be notified of the Annual Meeting at least 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting.
5. Physical presence at Annual and Special meetings will be required for voting.
6. Secretariat and Executive Committee meetings may be accomplished by electronic means.

Constitution Article 4–Membership

1. Membership in CVdC shall be open to any baptized Christian that has completed a Cursillo® method weekend retreat, e.g., Via De Cristo or Walk to Emmaus, as recognized by the NLS.
2. Records of membership shall be maintained.
3. Active membership shall be defined as contributing time, talent, or funds; or active participation in organized reunion groups and ultreyas within the last two years. In addition, members who, due to illness or age, are not able to participate otherwise may submit a written request to be maintained on the active membership list.
4. Individuals who have attended a CVdC weekend, but who do not maintain an active membership shall be retained on a list of weekend participants but shall be removed from the list of active members and placed on an Inactive Participants list.
5. Inactive Participants are not eligible to vote on any topic presented at an Annual or Special meeting. Inactive Participants shall not be considered in establishing a quorum. Inactive Participant can become an Active member as outlined by Article 4, item 3.

Constitution Article 6–Committees

Standing or special committees may be designated by the Lay Director as necessary to assist the corporation to further its purposes. Their organization and purpose of the committee shall be stated in the appointment.

Constitution Article 7–Records

The corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of any and all meetings of its Secretariat, Executive Committee or committees. Such records shall be kept at the principal office of the corporation or place designated by the Executive Committee and shall be available for inspection by any person. A yearly reconciliation of the financial records shall be conducted and submitted at the annual meeting. Additional guidelines may be stated in the Bylaws.

Constitution Article 8–Bylaws

CVdC shall adopt such Bylaws as may from time to time be necessary. Bylaws shall be reviewed annually. No Bylaw may conflict with this Constitution.

Constitution Article 9–Amendments

1. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Constitution of CVdC may be amended by the active membership of CVdC at an appropriately called meeting.
 2. A proposed amendment of this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at least 60 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting or any other legally called meeting to ensure time for review by the Secretariat and ratification by the membership of CVdC active membership present at an appropriately called meeting.
 3. Any such amendment must be passed by two-thirds of the active membership present at a legally constituted meeting. The Bylaws shall define the required quorum.
 4. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Bylaws of CVdC may be amended or adopted at any legally called and conducted meeting of CVdC by a two-thirds majority of the active membership present.
-