



Christian Life Community Kenya

Membership Catalogue Report

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2015

FOREWORD

The 2014 National Assembly mandated the Executive Council to develop catalogue of CLC members with accurate information about members at various stages of growth. To achieve this, EXCO appointed and commissioned a technical team of 4 members (Athanas Itebete, Lucina Koyio, Bernard Kithusi and Judith Onyango) to develop an accurate membership catalogue. The team's main objective was to establish true picture of CLC Kenya membership by focusing on the following key areas as indicator of growth for CLC members:-

- Commitment and Spiritual exercises
- Retreats and mission

The team carried out data collection using a structured questionnaires between March and May 2015 and then used scientific methods to analyze the data and prepare their report. The National Executive Council in a special meeting held in July, received the report of the technical team and after careful consideration approved the report including the recommendations therein.

I'm therefore pleased to present to you the CLC Kenya membership catalogue report showing the status of CLC members at various stages of growth and extent of compliance to General Norms and Principles.

The report provides valuable information about our membership. For example, the report shows that although majority (97 members) had been in CLC for over six years, only 25 had made permanent commitment. 54 (37.2%) members of the members who responded need to be assisted to make temporary commitment. This number could be higher considering that there were 86 non-respondents. 82 respondents (56.6%) Adult CLCers have not done the full Spiritual Exercises nor made any form of commitment to CLC. These need to be helped to do the full SPEXs. 63 members have either done full SPEXs or are in the process of completing them.

The National Executive Council will use this information to come up with formation programmes and activities to address the gaps that have been identified through this study. I invite each of you to read this report and support the EXCO in implementing the recommendations.

On behalf of EXCO, I wish to sincerely thank the technical team led by Lucina Koyio for dedication and professionalism in carrying out the study and preparing this report. Your selfless service will immensely contribute to the growth of CLC Kenya.

May the Holy Spirit guide us all as we embark on the implementation of the recommendations.



Daniel Odhiambo,
President, Christian Life community Kenya

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank the following:

The CLC Kenya Executive committee (EXCO); Fr. Eric Simiyu S.J.(Ecclesiastical Assistant), Dan Obonyo (President), Clotilda Kiriongi (Vice President), Bernard Kithusi (Executive Secretary), Dolly Sang (Treasurer), Francis Butazi Athanas Itebete, Henry Barongo, Lucina Koyio, Ludovico Getanda and Peninah Gichunge (Consulters) in consultation with Rehema CLC group Nairobi (the National Formation Team), for identifying the need for a catalogue.

Fr. Terry Charlton S.J. (Acting Ecclesiastical Assistant) and Fr. Eric Simiyu S.J. for their guidance and spiritual support.

CLC groups guides and all those who distributed the questionnaire and returned the filled questionnaires to the technical team.

All the CLCers who responded to the questionnaire.

The technical team comprising of Bernard Kithusi, Judy Onyango, Lucina Koyio and Athanas Itebete for their commitment in formulating the questionnaire, analyzing data and compiling the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Christian Life community Kenya (CLC) 2014 National Assembly Mandate was cognizant of the different levels of growth and commitment of Christian life community (CLC) members who need support and facilitation to grow in spirituality, community, commitment, leadership and mission; Executive committee (EXCO) was tasked with the role of identifying and keeping a comprehensive record of the members and their stages of growth and guiding them in their growth process. The exercise was intended to get to know the position of CLC members with the intention of supporting them to grow in CLC way of life.

The first EXCO meeting was held in January 2015. During this meeting five committees were formed: Formation, Mission, Finance/ fund raising, Staffing and administrative, and Development committees. The formation committee and the mission committees were tasked to do the assignments shown in table 1.

Table 1. Challenge areas and tasks given to mission and formation team

Formation team	Mission team
Increase members who have done full Spiritual Exercises/commitments	Increase members who have done full Spiritual Exercises /commitments
Design formation programs for youth and family	Enhance linkage between Zaidi and CLC
Formation of members in and outside Nairobi	Increase CLC participation in St. Aloysius Gonzaga Sec. School
Formation of CLC members	Encourage CLCers on individual and group mission
Strengthen collaboration with the Jesuits	
Formation programs of youth and family	
Increase the number of CLC members who are formators	

The formation team was assigned the task to collect information from members and groups to address the challenge areas listed in table 1 above.

2. METHODOLOGY

The initial task for the formation team was to develop a catalogue that would provide the needed information and would be easy to update. The information stored in an excel sheet was configured to generate responses aimed at identifying the needs of the members depending on the information that they provided.

To collect the information needed, a questionnaire that is shown in Figure 1 was formulated and sent to the groups.

<u>CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP CATALOGUE FOR 2015</u>										
1. Group name : _____										
2. Group mission : _____										
3. Name of: Guide _____ Coordinator: _____ Treasurer: _____										
4. How many meetings did this group have in 2014? _____										
5. How many members are in this group? _____. Please fill below the of each member in this group:										
Name	Personal mission	Telephone	E-mail	Year joined CLC	Year of first temporary commitment	Year(s) of renewal of temporary commitment	Year did spiritual exercises	Year of permanent commitment	No. of meetings attended in 2014	Attended retreat in 2014 year/no
Signed: Guide/Coordinator _____				Date: _____						

Figure 1: Questionnaire for collecting information

The tool had columns for telephone numbers and email to enable follow up of data sheets that had not been returned and for follow up for incomplete answers sheets.

The questionnaire was sent through email, post, hand delivery and courier agents.

The filled questionnaires were sent back to the national office through post, email, hand delivery and short message system (sms). The group was to fill the first five items the questionnaire. Afterwards, each CLC members was required to give information to complete the table in the catalogue. The filled form was then sent back to the national office for analysis.

3. DATA ANALYSIS

Data was entered into an excel sheet and checked for completeness by an experienced CLC secretary. For missing or incomplete data, and for information that was not clear, the secretary sent a short message on the CLCer respondent's phone to obtain a response or further explanation. When there was no response she made a telephone call to the CLCer respondent. This enabled filing of most of the data that was missing.

Groups and members that did not submit their responses were removed from analysis. Two distinct groups, CLC lay members and CLC University students, were identified and analysed separately due to their varying socio-economic and demographic factors such as age, family status and income status.

For both groups, additional columns were added to change the responses to 'yes' and 'no'. The 'yes' and 'no' responses were coded '1' and '0' respectively to enable analysis. The columns were further automated to give an action point. For instance if a member had not done Spiritual Exercises (SPEXs) the 'no' response was coded '0'. The automated action point was 'needs support to do temporary commitment.' There was no action point, coded as '0', if the member had done SPEXs. Similarly, if a member had done temporary commitment but had not done full SPEXs the 'no' response was coded '0'. The automated comment was 'needs support to do SPEXs'. Finally, if a member had done temporary commitment and full SPEXs but had not done permanent commitment the 'no' response was coded '0'. The automated comment was 'needs support to do permanent commitment'.

All the 'yes' answers were summed up to get totals in the respective columns. All the automated responses were also all summed up. Responses for personal mission were further content analysed into thematic areas for easy interpretation. The results are presented below.

4. RESULTS

4.1 CLC in general

The total number of respondents targeted in this exercises were 438 members (231 Adult CLCers and 207 University Students) belonging to a total of 32 groups.

233 members (86 Adult CLCers and 147 students) in 11 groups did not respond and were removed from analysis. We remained with 205 members comprising of 145 Adult CLCers in 21 groups and 60 university students in 3 groups. The response rate was 63% Adult CLCers and 29% for University students.

4.2 Adult CLC groups

Analysis of the 145 Adult CLCers respondents is shown below:

4.2.1 Years in CLC

In order to determine the number of years the Adult members have been in CLC, four categories were identified (Table 2):

Table 2. Length of time as a CLC member

Period	No. of Members
0 – 2 years	22
3 – 5 years	26
6 – 8 years	24
9 years and above	73

Majority of the members have been in CLC for 9 years and above

4.2.2 Commitments and spiritual exercises

Table 3. Status of commitments and spiritual exercises of Adult CLers (out of 145 respondents):

Status of commitments	No.
Have made temporary commitments	91
Have made temporary commitment but have not done full SPEXs	28
Have made temporary commitments and have done/are doing full SPEXs	63
Have neither done any commitment nor SPEXs	82
Have done full SPEXs but are not in permanent commitment	40
Have made permanent commitment	25

4.2.3 Group meetings

Number of meetings groups held in the year 2014 is categorized as indicated below:

Table 4: Frequency and total number of meetings attended by Adult CLCers

No. of Meetings in a year	No. of groups
Twice a month (at least 24 meetings)	7
Once a month (at least 12 meetings)	6
Occasional (irregular meetings)	8

4.2.4 Retreats and mission

48 members indicated they had attended a retreat in 2014, 117 members had personal mission and 16 groups had group mission

4.3 University CLC groups

As mentioned above, 60 members in 3 groups responded. However among the 3 groups, there is only full information for 33 students in two universities (University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University). The low response rate from the universities was because students were on holiday at the time the questionnaire was administered.

4.3.1 Years in CLC

Table 5: Length of time in CLC by Adult CLCers

Years	No. of Members
0 – 2 years	31
3 – 5 years	2

4.3.2 Commitments and spiritual exercises

None of the 33 students has undertaken the Spiritual Exercises hence none has made any form of commitment to CLC membership.

4.3.3 Group meetings

Shown below is the number of meetings groups held in the year 2014

Table 6: Group meetings held by University CLC students

Name of University	No. of meetings in the year
University of Nairobi	54
Kenyatta University	18

4.3.4 Retreats and mission

7 respondents attended a retreat in 2014

Although 25 University CLCers indicated that they have personal mission. We felt that all have personal mission as students but they could be having additional mission activities. The filling of the columns was confusing. Only one university has a group mission

4.4 Thematic areas of personal mission (refer to Annex 1).

Personal mission was further content analysed into nine thematic areas as follows:

4.4.1 *Responding to the less fortunate and needy*

Orphans, the sick and the deaf, are visited or supported by 13 members, three members respond to financial needs of education and nine members care for the elderly and children, people living with disabilities/handicapped. Two members pray with the sick while three others visit and offer pastoral care to refugees. Twelve members support charity /are good Samaritans/ generous in giving, another two members are committed to encouraging the hopeless. One member assists students, and another offers home based care. There are two (2) members whose mission is community development.

4.4.2 *Family*

Family life as a mission had twenty members; two members were in children and women empowerment, four in children Empowerment, and two others in enhancing prayer life in their families. Conflict resolution in families, reconciling the community, family counselling, and good parenting, had at least a person each involved.

4.4.3 *Church leadership/activities*

Three members are Lectors, four sing in the Choir, one member offers services to Homa Bay and Kisumu Diocese, another serves St. Paul's BOM, two members are God parents and one member a vocation promoter while two members are Catechists.

4.4.4 *Spiritual guidance/direction*

At least one member is involved in Spiritual guiding and Evangelizing, Spiritual Direction, Spiritual growth and empowerment or development scaffoldings. Four members are active in promoting Spiritual growth and another four in Guidance and counselling.

4.4.5 *Workplace*

4 members had personal mission in this area with two involved at St. Al's and the other two in Zaidi Centre.

4.4.6 *Responding to Youth and Students*

Two members give motivational talks to youths in and out of school. Two other members do Youth Counselling while five others are involved in Youth formation. Two members help other students to develop Study

4.4.7 *CLC leadership*

CLC Secretariat has two members in this mission area and one person each in the following had; CLC leadership, Local church Leadership, World EXCO, National Formation Team, and National EXCO.

4.4.8 Commitment to CLC

One members aspires to increase in faith, another to become a better CLCer and two members hope to live a CLC way of life and be a role models. Three are committed to enhancing personal relationship with God

5. DISCUSSION

Adult CLCers

The response rate was low in Adult CLC groups and much lower for university students. This was attributed to the fact that some of the groups contacted were non-functional and others could not be reached through some of the methods used to administer the questionnaire (refer to Methodology section). Some of the groups that opted to respond by sending hard copies were late in submitting the information leading to gaps in some of the information needed to complete the survey.

Commitments and spiritual exercises

Members are expected to make temporary commitment after being active in CLC for a period of at least one year. The length of time between temporary and permanent commitment should not ordinarily be beyond eight years (but not less than two years). In order to make permanent commitment, the member is also expected to have done the full SPEXs in some directed form, be up to date in financial responsibility to CLC and be at least 25 years old. They must also embrace the CLC way of life including an orientation towards mission.

Our result showed that although majority (97 members) had been in CLC for over six years, only 25 had made permanent commitment. 54 (37.2%) members of the members who responded need to be assisted to make temporary commitment. This number could be higher considering that there were 86 non-respondents. 82 respondents (56.6%) Adult CLCers have not done the full Spiritual Exercises nor made any form of commitment to CLC. These need to be helped to do the full SPEX. 63 members have either done full SPEXs or are in the process of completing them.

Retreats and mission

The profile of a CLCer and one in permanent commitment for that matter is the expectation that one makes at least a yearly retreat. However, only a third, (48) of the members made a retreat in 2014. Surprisingly members in permanent commitment comprise the category of those who did not make the yearly retreat.

As concerns mission, each member is expected to define their mission and personal mission is encouraged so that each member fully lives their CLC charism. Each group is expected to help members attain awareness for personal vocation and affirming their identity in the community. Groups are encouraged to have missions as a way of collaborating with others especially the

Ignatian family. The process of identifying missions that are particular to groups is arrived at through a communal process of discernment that is enlightened, nourished and empowered by the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

Thematic areas of personal mission

It was encouraging to see that CLCers are involved in a wide variety of mission activities. Majority of members are committed to family as an area for mission as are those who reach out to the needy and handicapped in the society. However, a smaller number is involved in with working with the youth, church leadership and spiritual direction and guidance. These are areas of mission where it is relatively easy to have more members involved especially at parish level. Of great concern is the few numbers of lay guides and retreat directors who are key for continued growth and the health of CLC especially outside Nairobi.

University Students

Due to the university calendar, the timing of the questionnaire led to many not responding to the survey and only two university campuses participated. None of the students, who responded, have made any form of commitment or Spiritual Exercises.

However, a small number of students made an effort to attend a retreat in 2014, although quite a good number indicated that they do not have personal mission or group mission.

6. CONCLUSION

The exercise was largely successful and although the response rate was low, adequate information was derived for future planning of CLC activities. Gaps existed in members who have not made temporary commitment, those who have not done spiritual exercise and those who have not done permanent commitment. Several disparities were also noted regarding personal and group mission. Although CLCers are involved in a wide variety of mission activities, areas like youth, spiritual guidance and church leadership were least mentioned.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Commitment and Spiritual exercises

Through group guides ask all members who have been in CLC for at least 2 years to start preparing for temporary commitment during the next World CLC Day in 2016 or opt out of CLC.

- a. Identify all who have made at least 2 temporary commitments or have been in CLC for more than six years to seriously consider making permanent commitment. This can be

through special formation programs that target such members, retreats or through asking guides or CLC members in permanent commitment to accompany them.

- b. Prepare all those who have opted for the CLC way of life for the full spiritual exercises and have them complete them within one year. This to be done by linking members who need to make the full spiritual exercises with guides and offer them as much flexibility as needed for them to make the exercises.

Retreats and mission

- a. Guides and the national secretariat to help and ensure members make yearly retreats so as to nurture spiritual growth and be prepared for mission in an on-going manner
- b. Members need to be supported to identify personal and group mission by thinking beyond CLC meetings and living the CLC charism as contained in our norms. This can be achieved in part through letting the membership explore the mandate of the last national assembly and discerning what they can be involved in as mission.

Annex 1: Thematic areas of personal mission for 233 CLCers in Kenya

Thematic areas	No.	Activities
Responding to the less fortunate and needy	38	Visiting/ supporting orphans, the sick and the deaf (13), responding to financial needs of education (3), caring for the elderly, children, people living with disabilities/handicapped (9), praying with the sick (2) visiting and offering pastoral care to refugee (3), supporting charity /are good Samaritans/ generous in giving (2), encouraging the hopeless (2), assisting students(1), offering home based care (1), community development (2).
Family	32	Family life (20), children and women empowerment (2), children Empowerment (4), enhancing prayer life in their families (2), conflict resolution in families (1), reconciling the community (1), family counselling (1), good parenting (1)
Church leadership/activities	14	Lectors(3) singing in the Choir(4), services to Homa Bay and Kisumu Diocese(1) St. Paul's BOM(1), God parents (2) vocation promoter(1), Catechists(2)
Spiritual guidance/direction	12	Spiritual guiding and Evangelizing (1), Spiritual Direction (1), Spiritual growth (1) empowerment or development scaffoldings (1), promoting spiritual growth (4) Guidance and counselling (4)
Responding to Youth and Students	11	Motivational talks to youths in and out of school (2); youth counselling (2), youth formation(5) helping other students to develop study (2)
CLC leadership	7	CLC secretariat(2); CLC leadership (1), local church leadership(1), World EXCO (1), National Formation Team (1), National EXCO (1)
Commitment to CLC	7	Increase in faith(1), to become a better CLCer (1) to live a CLC way of life and be a role models (2), enhancing personal relationship with God (3)
Workplace	4	St. Al's (2), Zaidi Centre(2)