



29-11-14

Covenant of Christian Meditation Ireland (CMI)

A. Purpose of the Covenant

To establish an operating framework and governance structure to ensure that the living tradition of Christian Meditation as developed by John Main OSB and the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) continues to be shared as broadly as possible throughout Ireland.

B. CMI's Mission Statement

To communicate and nurture meditation as passed on through WCCM following the teaching of John Main OSB in the Christian tradition and in the spirit of serving the unity of all.

C. The Community of CMI (the Community)

The Community of CMI currently comprises a number of elements as follows:

1. CMI is the not for profit company (CRO no. 530525, Revenue CHY no. 20936) responsible for the financial, legal and strategic affairs of Christian Meditation in Ireland. It is charged with the responsibility of articulating a vision to sustain and share the development of Christian Meditation throughout Ireland and to oversee CMI's life and growth.
2. Christian Meditation in Schools is an outreach programme of CMI which focusses on the transmission of the teaching of Christian Meditation to future generations. It serves the Community through CMI under the guidance of the Director and Guiding Board of WCCM.
3. Christian Meditation in Healthcare is an outreach programme of CMI which focusses on the application of Christian Meditation to healthcare professionals leveraging contemporary medicine. It serves the Community through CMI under the guidance of the Director and Guiding Board of WCCM.
4. Group is a number of persons who meet on a regular basis, within a defined geographical area at local or regional levels, to practise Christian Meditation.
5. Meditator is a person who practises Christian Meditation and is recognized by CMI as following the faithful expression of this teaching. A Meditator usually, but not necessarily, belongs to a Group, and may be a Benedictine Oblate of WCCM.
6. Member of CMI is a subscriber to the Memorandum of Association of CMI and such other persons, for example Regional Coordinators, as the Directors shall admit to membership.

7. National Coordinator is a Meditator and will also be Chairperson of CMI so as to ensure its proper functioning and see to the wellbeing of the Community as a whole. The national community selects the National Coordinator usually in consultation with the Director of WCCM and the International Team and the appointment is ratified by the Director of WCCM.

8. Regional Coordinator is a Meditator who agrees to coordinate all Christian Meditation activities within a defined region of Ireland.

9. Oblate Coordinator is a Meditator appointed by the Director of WCCM who agrees to coordinate all Christian Meditation and related activities of the Benedictine Oblates of WCCM in Ireland.

D. CMI

1. Mandate of CMI

First and foremost, the mandate of CMI is spiritual, and this underpins all its aims and activities. Towards that end, its overarching mandate is to articulate a vision to sustain and promote the practice and development of Christian Meditation in Ireland and to oversee CMI's life and growth.

To oversee the implementation of promoting the practice and development of Christian Meditation in Ireland, CMI will coordinate national activities such as:

- CMI website design, development and maintenance
- Development of a sense of community among Meditators by encouraging and supporting the formation of Groups at local level and of regional Groups 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 and supported
- Identification and up-to-date maintenance of a register of Groups of Christian Meditation in Ireland
- Timely communication and information to Meditators and Groups about events at national and WCCM levels
- Development of regional co-ordination
- Organization of Christian Meditation outreach programmes
- Organization of Annual Retreats, National Conferences, Annual General Meetings, and
- Financing the production and distribution of a Newsletter as and when circumstances and resources permit.

To oversee CMI's life and growth, CMI will:

- Ensure that appropriate governance structures are in place to carry out its mandate and to address necessary issues of succession and continuity, and
- 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.

2. Responsibilities of CMI

CMI exists to serve in the spirit of the Gospel the individual Meditator in his/her personal spiritual journey and to support and encourage Groups, the Oblate Coordinator and the Regional Coordinators.

In the conduct of its affairs CMI will be inclusive, democratic, broadly consultative and transparently accountable in its finances and otherwise to the Irish and WCCM Communities and the Board of CMI will report thereon on an annual basis.

CMI will make an effort to ensure that Christian Meditation activities are well coordinated in all areas of Ireland and will maintain close links with WCCM, its Guiding Board and International Centre.

3. Composition of the Board of CMI

The Board of CMI will comprise up to fifteen Directors, as follows:

- Two *ex officio* Directors, namely:
 - The National Coordinator, who will also be the Chairperson, and
 - The Oblate Coordinator

and, on a rotating basis:

- One Regional Coordinator
- One representative of CMI's outreach programmes
- Directors, ideally Meditators, in the selection of whom due regard will be had to experience and expertise to support the effective functioning of CMI in carrying out its mandate and discharging its responsibilities, including in the areas of Information Technology and Communications, Governance, Administration, Law, and Finance.

The Board will appoint one of the Directors to be Deputy Chairperson.

The Finance Director ideally will also be the Company Secretary.

Where there is an Irish representative on the Guiding Board of WCCM, that person if not already on the Board of CMI will be an *ex officio* Director.

Ex officio Directors will have the same rights as other Directors including the right to vote. Each *ex officio* Director will serve as long as, and only as long as, the person occupies the office in question.

Efforts will be made to maintain an appropriate gender balance in membership of the Board.

4. Responsibilities of the Board of CMI

The Board is responsible for strategic direction, financial and risk management, monitoring and reviewing impact, good Governance and legal and regulatory compliance.

5. Appointment of the Board of CMI

Following agreement on this Covenant, an Interim Board will be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Covenant.

At the first Annual General Meeting of the company held subsequent to the appointment of the Interim Board, members of the first Board of CMI to be set up pursuant to this Covenant shall be appointed and retire in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of CMI.

6. Term of Office, Meetings of Board, and Quorum of the Board of CMI

All such matters shall be dealt with in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of CMI.

7. Accountability of the Board of CMI

The Board will report on its decisions and activities and the original of minutes in their regard shall be kept in the offices of the Company Secretary.

The Board will provide a detailed Directors' Report and Accounts at the company's Annual General Meeting which will be published on the website of CMI.

Pursuant to its responsibilities for legal and regulatory compliance, the Board will provide an Annual Return to the Companies Registration Office and an Annual Activity Report to the Charities Regulatory Authority.

E. Review and Amendment

This Covenant may be reviewed and amended by vote of a two-thirds majority of the Board of CMI.

F. Proclamation

This Covenant was agreed by the Interim Board of CMI on

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MARY REDDARD
SOLICITOR

