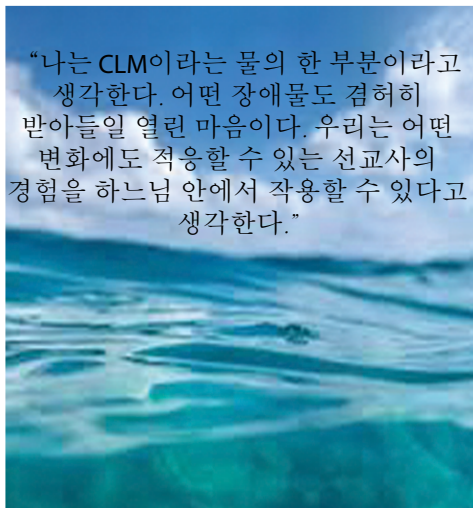
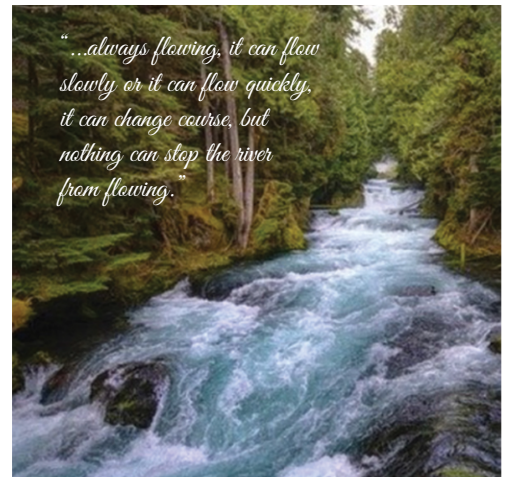
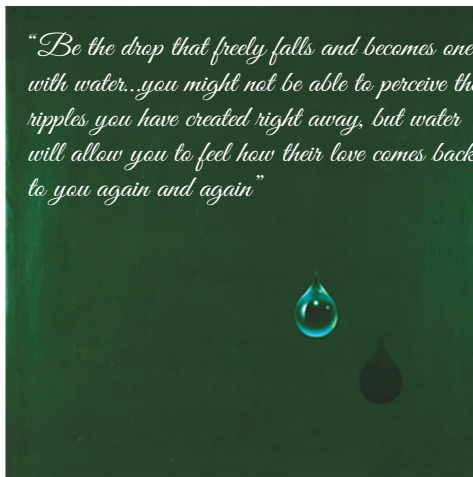
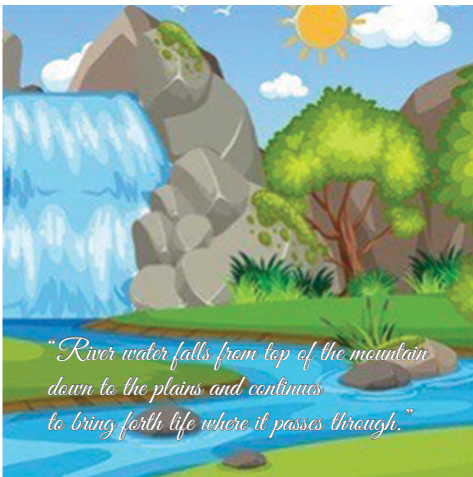


2024 CLM International Meeting

CLM ~ TMU Report



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HOW CLM WORKS WELL IN THE TMU

CLM works well in Taiwan due to good support structures and partnership with ordained members, a strong sense of community wherein everyone is encouraged to speak freely and each person has a voice, practice of good communication and support of leadership teams for members.

TMU members empower one another through mentoring, sharing of responsibilities, collaborative decision-making, and regular gatherings to share experiences. Additionally, the TMU members' openness, trust in one another, and commitment to personal and collective growth contribute to the overall positive dynamic within the unit. Members do not have issues or hang-ups related to labels (whether one is ordained or a lay person), but rather, we recognize the gifts and contribution of each member and the importance of shared accountability and leadership within the TMU. Both LMs and ordained members bring the same dynamic to the people they encounter beyond the TMU engaging in witnessing, encouraging and empowering.

Having an LM serve as the TMU Coordinator has been received with surprise and inquiries from other religious groups which prompts sharing of our experiences of working together in mission, decision-making process and shared responsibilities. LMs enable other lay individuals in our ministries to confidently express themselves in the presence of priests. Our partnership also extends to collaborative efforts between LMs and ordained Columbans across diverse ministries.

LMs engage in various key roles in their ministries, from working closely with migrant workers and immigrants, aborigines, and developmentally-challenged individuals, to engaging in HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns and promoting care for creation. The positive relationships fostered by LMs within these communities over the years have created an environment of trust and respect. This encourages people to comfortably confide in LMs, having felt welcomed and listened to, especially during times of need.

AREAS OF CLM IN THE TMU THAT NEED ATTENTION

In the TMU, several areas may need attention. We are now five Filipinos and one Korean LMs. This calls us to be mindful of the kind of support Sihyeon needs from us and our way of communication.

It would be good to come together not only for business matters but also for recreation. The decrease in the number of TMU members raises concerns about the existing administrative structures and the potential burden of multiple responsibilities on individual members. We need to seriously consider new possible leadership models that can address this concern and have sustainable structures. The efforts and support of the CC and LMLT has been helpful in ensuring members are facilitated well, especially when they face difficulties in their ministries, TMU responsibilities or personal concerns. Focusing on what is sustainable for mission and letting go of unhelpful elements in the structures that complicate and overburden, can ensure our continued growth for CLM.

We also need to recognize that the process is long and at times is a struggle. It has taken many years and much effort for the TMU to achieve what it has. We cannot assume that concepts like partnership will be greeted with joyful acceptance by everyone. There is still opposition in the external forum. There is a need to challenge and persist, even in the Society.

NEW POSSIBILITIES WITHIN CLM EMERGING IN THE TMU

The rich experience of LMs working with the ordained in leadership has led us to reflect on the possibility of simpler leadership structure i.e. one team wherein ordained and LMs are represented that facilitates all members. No need to have separate leadership teams i.e. CC/ Regional Council and LMLT.

Requirements for long-term LMs could be relaxed i.e. simpler support structures wherein annual reviews done in the TMU, can replace mid-term and end term reviews. This can lessen the number of administrative roles. (e.g. support structures).

New, sustainable structures that prioritize ministries and adapt to the changing reality of CLM and to respond to the current needs and issues in mission. This includes changes in how LMs are assigned, live/work together and facilitate sending and receiving programs.

The Society could be dissolved and restructured as an Association in which ordained and LMs are equal members allowing for full participation of all members in mission.

OTHER COMMENTS

- In the wider CLM, we need to recognize the fact that among the 25 LMs, there are LMs who are near retiring age, others whose Agreements are ending, etc. How many are we looking at when we talk about plans and possibilities for CLM?
- We need to know our identity as CLM without being restricted by old structures
- Next year, the personnel of the TMU can go either way i.e. fewer or more LMs. There is a possibility that LMs may be reassigned to respond to the needs of other RMUs.
- The results of the external review and the reports from CLM in various RMUs would be key references for the CLM International Meeting.
- The preparation that has begun is important in our discernment and preparation for the meeting
- CLM structures/policies were designed for more personnel in RMUs. How do structures work if there are one or two LMs in an RMU? Need to change structures or reassign LMs to RMU to address the need for personnel.
- There are too many support personnel for an individual LM when it may not be necessary. Need to discuss how to make structures more appropriate for 1st, 2nd and long-term LMs.
- LM Coordinators should be chosen from the RMU's LMs.