

## Leave of Absence Norms

*First, read Section VIII.8 of the 2016 Statutes.*

### Leave of Absence (LOA)

Requesting and granting a Leave of Absence is a serious decision for **definitively professed** members who need time away from the community for an extended period, usually for a time for vocational discernment (a vocational crisis) or for serious personal reasons that require members to be excused from their vocational responsibilities.

**LOA status is not for members in First Promise.** Members who have made First Promise and want time away are simply released from the Promise and may be readmitted at a later date, at the discretion of the local Council.

LOA status is not for members who are becoming aged or are too infirm to attend meetings [cf. Statutes Section VIII.5]

LOA status is a break from the community and the vocation for a set period of time. If that does not seem right for a given individual, **Extended Excused Absence** might be a better choice. [cf. Statutes Section VIII.7]

Since this is a serious matter, a member on LOA status may not attend community meetings, retreats, or other members-only functions. (cf. Statutes Section VIII.8)

Members in LOA status may stay in touch with the local Council but are not required to do so. This is decided by the member and Council together.

Members in LOA status are not counted in the Provincial assessment (dues).

At the end of the LOA, the member may return to the community, request an extension of the LOA, or be released from the Promise. The LOA status cannot continue indefinitely.

*For further guidance, see “Readmissions norm.”*

**See the link below for a guide to member statuses.**

[Member Statuses](#)