

Members of disbanded Communities and Study Groups

Cf. 2016 Statutes – Community Life-Isolates VIII.6, and Transfers XVII and XVIII. Also, please read the provincial procedures for transfers.

In no case is an OCDS to be “free-floating” without accountability to the Order.

Professed OCDS members whose Community or Study Group has disbanded must attempt, in good faith, to transfer to another Community or Study Group.

The Provincial Council or the Provincial Delegate will help these professed members connect with another Community.

A nearby Community is the first choice, so that the member can attend the monthly meetings. If there is no nearby Community, the member may apply to another Community for acceptance as an Isolate. Closer is preferable, so that the member can attend meetings at least occasionally.

While the Statutes call for attending six meetings before a transfer is accepted, attending the Community’s meetings is usually not practical for Isolates. Councils and Isolates may choose to communicate via email, video conferencing such as Zoom, or by telephone while proceeding with the transfer.

Definitively professed members

In the case that a definitively professed member is unable to complete a transfer to another Community, the Provincial Delegate will determine whether to:

- Personally request a Community to accept the member as an Isolate, or
- Assign the member to Provincial Council (PC) care.

A definitively professed member who is placed under PC care will:

- Be supported in their vocation by the PC or a designated member of the Province.
- Maintain communication with the PC (or designated support person) on a regular basis. The frequency is determined by the current PC and may be adjusted.
- Stay informed of Provincial news and events and participate in the activities of the Order as able.

This statement supersedes all previous statements on OCDS Members of disbanded Communities and Study Groups.

The online document is the only one to be considered official.
December 2022

- Pay the Provincial assessment each year by March 31.

Members in Formation II (have made the First Promise)

- Must belong to a Community or Study Group to continue formation and make the Definitive Promise.
- May continue formation as Isolates only as members of a canonical Community (not a Study Group).
- If they are unable to join another Community, they will be released from the Promise. (The Provincial Delegate may make an exception for just cause in appropriate circumstances.)

Aspirants and candidates in Formation I (have entered the formal formation program, but have not made First Promise)

- May decide to discontinue formation and membership in the Order.
- May apply for acceptance to another Community or Study Group if they are able to attend the meetings in-person. The local council discerns whether to accept the person into formation.
- If accepted, the local Council determines the appropriate formation level.
- If not accepted, the policy on readmissions applies.

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