

Missionary Families of Christ EUROPEAN BODY OF COUNSELORS (EBC)

In general

- (1) Functions under the authority of the Servant General (SG) and/or his designate (International Mission Coordinator and/or European Mission Coordinator).
- (2) Exercises general supervision over the MFC communities in Europe.¹
- (3) Is composed of seven seniors² (men or women)³ from anywhere in Europe, appointed by the SG, with a term of two years.⁴

Functions

- (1) To help ensure the living out of the community vision, mission and culture.
- (2) To push the evangelization work in Europe, including the establishment of MFC in all nations in Europe.
- (3) To ensure the carrying out of the vision, directions and instructions of the SG.
- (4) To help share and disseminate best practices.
- (5) To facilitate pastoral collaboration and sharing of resources (people and money) among the MFC communities as needed.
- (6) To plan and implement the annual European Conference.
- (7) To propose and implement regional conferences as needed.
- (8) To help develop a mission mindset among the brethren and help missions with its manpower and financial resources.⁵
- (9) To establish a European Mission Fund with contributions from the different MFC communities in Europe, to be disbursed to further mission in Europe and elsewhere.
- (10) To establish and support mission teams for work outside Europe.
- (11) To work at financial assistance for social projects internationally (including calamity relief and rehabilitation), especially for the No One in Need (NONE) movement.

Criteria for choosing EC members⁶

- (1) Has a clear grasp of the vision and mission of MFC.
- (2) Is spiritually mature.
- (3) Lives out the covenant to a high degree.
- (4) Is well accepted by his/her peers and subordinates.
- (5) Has a good record of helping build up the life and mission of MFC in his/her country.⁷

¹ Does not directly govern MFC in the different countries, as this is the task of the national Servant Council or Country Servant (if there is no SC as yet).

² The SG has the option of appointing more or less than the 7, if circumstances warrant.

³ The majority should be men.

⁴ The term is subject to renewal without limit as to number of terms.

⁵ For example, Europe is in closest proximity with Africa and the Middle East.

⁶ The SG decides on membership, with recommendations from the Country Servants, Country Coordinators and the EMC.

⁷ A bigger membership is a favorable factor.

EBC Chair

- (1) Is a man appointed by the SG.⁸ He functions as first-among-equals.
- (2) Chairs the meetings of the EBC and prepares its agenda.⁹
- (3) Takes primary responsibility for carrying out the functions of the EBC.
- (4) Arranges for pastoral visitations by seniors of MFC communities in the different countries.
- (5) Coordinates with and updates the SG on a regular basis.¹⁰

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⁸ His term, like the EBC, is two years and is co-terminus with the EBC. He can be re-appointed for successive terms.

⁹ The EBC members can agree on the frequency and venue of meetings, including e-meetings. The EBC members can also suggest items to be included in the agenda.

¹⁰ It is suggested that this be done at least quarterly, together with submission of minutes of EBC meetings.