



The Order of Saint Francis

General Rule of Life

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:6)

"You will love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

Our Way of Life

"We commit ourselves to the observance of this Way of Life according to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the example of St. Francis of Assisi." (njk)

As Brothers of the Order of Saint Francis (OSF), in humble recognition of the traditional vows of Obedience, Chastity, and Poverty, we give contemporary expression of these vows in our journey through life as Humility, Charity, and Simplicity.

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Article I: Reception into the Order

“Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:4)

As an Order that embraces many rich and diverse Anglican traditions, our Brothers are both visual and spiritual reminders of the many countries that are represented within the Anglican Communion. Reception into the Order requires that each Brother shall be baptized and a confirmed member, in good standing, of a church within the Anglican Communion, in communion with the See of Canterbury, being active in the Sacraments and life of the Church, and at least 18 years of age. Once received a Brother begins his formation in the Order which is a Lifelong process as it reflects and gives expression to our love of God. Formation requires continuous effort and active participation. Formation has a focus of living according to the Gospel which transforms our lives, whereas study, which Brothers are encouraged to do, has a focus of gaining knowledge to inform our lives.

Section A: Candidacy

A minimum required time of at least 3 months shall be spent by each candidate upon acceptance of his Application for Candidacy, unless dispensation is granted by the Minister General of the Order. Candidacy is a period of discernment for both the candidate and the Order; one of exploration and discovery to determine if the candidate has a true calling for a vocation with the Order, as well as a calling for religious life in general. During this time, he will be guided by the Director of Vocations in beginning his early formation assignments, ongoing discernment process, and the development of his "Statement of Faith" which will be presented during his Candidacy interview at Convocation. The Candidate must be physically present for the Candidate interview or in extremely rare cases present and with the Minister General's approval by electronic means. Candidates are not under vows and as such, are not members of the Order.

Section B: Postulancy

A required period of time of one (1) year shall be spent by each new Brother upon entry into the Order of Saint Francis beyond Candidacy, unless dispensation is granted by the Minister General of the Order. This period of time is to be spent in prayer, study, reflection, and further discernment. All new Brothers will participate fully in all formation activities under the guidance of a formation counselor. Postulants shall be invested only in the cross of the Order. Regular attendance at Eucharist and daily prayer in completion of a minimum of two offices in spiritual communion with our Brothers is a requisite for spiritual development. Postulants are not under vows and as such, are not members of the Order.

Section C: Novitiate

A required period of time of two (2) years shall be spent by each Brother entering the novitiate period unless dispensation is granted by the Minister General of the Order. This period of time is to be spent in further study of Franciscan theology and life, prayer and reflection of being immersed within religious life. Continued conversation between the novice, his counselor, and fellow Brothers shall seek to reflect the spiritual growth and increasing knowledge of the Franciscan life. The novice shall be invested in the brown Franciscan tunic, short capuche with hood, cincture, and the cross of the Order. Regular attendance at Eucharist and continued daily prayer in completion of all four daily offices in communion with the other Brothers adds to the richness and fullness of the religious life. Novices are members of the Order and as such, have voice and vote within the Order and may hold a position or office within the Order as defined in *Article V: Government and Offices* of this Way of Life.

Section D: Profession

After a required period of time within the Novitiate, not to exceed two (2) years in length unless dispensation is granted by the Minister General of the Order, a Brother shall make a request to his formation counselor to take professed vows within the Order. The formation counselor shall forward his recommendation along with the request to the Minister General for approval. The professed Brother shall reflect on his previous days within the Order giving thought to Franciscan ideals, theology, and what it means to live a “religious life” within the structure of professed vows. While continuing with his studies and spiritual growth, he shall be taking on a greater role within the Order as a mentor to those Brothers in need of spiritual guidance.

Serious consideration is given to further adherence to the vows of the Order and to living under the “Franciscan ideal” of life during this time. A Professed Brother engages himself in living the Way in every aspect of his Life: the four daily offices, participating actively in his parish with regular attendance at Eucharistic celebrations, and engaging in meaningful ministry to others by giving witness to the love Jesus Christ to everyone he encounters. While continuing with his formational studies and spiritual growth, he shall be taking on a greater role within the Order as a mentor to those Brothers in need of spiritual guidance. Professed Brothers are full members of the Order and as such, have voice and vote on Order business and may hold a position or office within the Order as defined in *Article V: Government and Offices* of this Way of Life.

Section E: Life Profession

After a time of prayerful consideration and living as a professed member of the Order for no less than one year, a professed Brother may appeal to the Minister General to enter an additional period of formation leading to a profession a vow of “Life Profession”. If approved by the Minister General and designated members of the Executive Cabinet, the Brother shall enter a formation cohort and begin a formative journey with other Brothers under the guidance of a "Life Professed" Brother who shall serve as counselor to the cohort. The cohort shall last for a period of one (1) year with periodic review of each candidate's progress. Upon completion, the candidate shall then, upon approval of the Minister General, be granted the status of “Life Professed” within the Order. While recognizing that his life within the Order is not at an end...but rather just beginning, he will guide and influence the life of the Order with nurturing love and mentoring wisdom for all his fellow brothers. Life Profession is not an achievement, but rather a higher calling, a spiritual communion between

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brother and the Creator which signifies a life commitment to service and devotion and as such, truly embodying the vows of the Order and living them fully and faithfully. Life Professed Brothers are full members of the Order and as such, have voice and vote on Order business, and may hold any position/office within the Order as defined in *Article V: Government and Offices* of this Way of Life.

Section F: Emeritus Brothers

At some time, a Brother may discern that his health or life situations require him to have a less active role within the Order. After serious contemplation, a Brother may make a request to the Minister General to be granted an "emeritus status" within the Order. Upon consultation with the Brother, the Minister General shall determine the status of the Brother and inform the Executive Cabinet of his decision. Upon granting of emeritus status, the Brother is excused from any formation activities and released from the expectation of attendance at the annual Convocation. While always welcome at any activity or function of the Order, an emeritus Brother should continue his ministry as able, enjoin in prayer for his Brothers, and be a continually engaged and vital mentoring resource to the Order. Emeritus Brothers are members of the Order and have voice but no vote on Order business, and may not hold any position/office within the Order as defined in *Article V: Government and Offices* of this Way of Life. An Emeritus Brother may request sometime in the future to the Minister General to return to the Order into the Body of the Professed.

Article II: A Franciscan in the Order

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8)

"Remembering that each individual is our encounter with the image of Christ, brothers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in humility and with gentleness. Brothers are to use discretion when participating in conversations and dialogue with others. Brothers are not to be quarrelsome or judgmental, but shall be peaceable and thoughtful as is becoming to all. Likewise, brothers shall be gracious and give thanks for whatever the Holy Spirit makes available to them." (njk)

Though we are a dispersed community we are called to be actively engaged with our fellow Brothers. Francis was given Brothers and though he didn't always know what to do with them he knew that they were gifts from God. It is within the Order that we develop and deepen our lives of prayer, our commitment to Gospel living, our approach to God's people. It is from our fraternity that our ministry is discovered, challenged, and encouraged. It is from our ministry that our fraternity is deepened, strengthened, and brought to fullness.

Section A: Corporate and Personal Worship

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)

1) Holy Eucharist

Brothers of the Order will attend Eucharistic celebrations and communion regularly. In the Eucharist, Jesus Christ is truly present among His Brothers and the sharing of this Sacrament together as an Order is regarded as a special blessing for each of us.

2) Daily Prayer

Candidates and Postulants will develop the daily practice of Morning and Evening Prayer. Novices, Professed and Life Professed Brothers are to observe the praying of the four Daily Offices (i.e.: Morning Prayer, Noonday, Evening Prayer, and Compline), as each is able, using the Book of Common Prayer or other regionally recognized equivalent prayer book. Various electronic forms of prayer are also available to facilitate daily prayer activities and may be utilized. In addition, members are asked to spend time each day in contemplation, meditation, or personal prayer.

3) The Habits

The Formal Habit is a garment which reflects who and what we are as friars in the world and under a Vow and Way of Life of obligation and devotion to God. The Formal Habit consists of only the following items: a brown Franciscan tunic, short capuche with hood, and cincture. Other than a cross, Tau, or rosary, no other additional items or accessories should be worn with the Formal Habit. The Formal Habit should be worn with due reverence and diligence in that it also reflects the Order itself to others that we encounter. The Formal Habit should be worn at all official services of the Church, (i.e.: Holy Eucharist, funeral Mass, etc.) and possibly in the performance of the Brother's ministry (i.e.: performing ministry in homeless shelters, food banks, etc.). Great care should be exercised in the wearing of the garment outside of official services and dispensation granted only by the Minister General for any daily use and wearing of the Formal Habit.

The Working Habit is a functional brown shirt with an optional cross or Tau. The Working Habit maybe worn in places where the Formal Habit is impractical (ie: heavy labor, gardening/yard work, digging ditches, etc.), potentially dangerous situations (ie: social justice venues, marches, prison ministries, etc.) or where the habit will impede your ministry (ie: a place where people may be intimidated by it and closes them off to you as you try to minister to them).

4) Convocation/Chapter

The gathering of Brothers for common worship, fellowship, and the conduct of business affairs specific to the operations and wellbeing of the Order shall be accomplished thru Convocation and meeting of the Chapter on an annual basis. At the Convocation, a ceremony of Induction for Postulants, Novices, Professed and Life Professed Brothers shall be held with all present, either physically or by electronic means, with only those individual Brothers present advancing in profession unless dispensation is granted by the Minister General, and only under extraordinary or extreme circumstances. At the convening of the Chapter meeting all business matters of concern to the

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common good of the Order shall be discussed with official minutes taken and votes, if any, recorded. The agenda for the Chapter shall be determined by the Minister General.

a) Dispensation Process for Convocations:

Each year, all Novices, Professed, and Life Professed are EXPECTED TO ATTEND either the OSF Convocation OR other OSF Provincial meeting as authorized by the Minister General. If a Brother requests dispensation from attendance, he shall make his request in writing to his Formation Counselor including any reason(s) for the dispensation. The Formation Counselor will forward the request to the Director of Formation. If this request is the first time that the Brother is missing Convocation, then the Director of Formation shall make the determination if the request is approved or denied. Upon requesting dispensation for a second time, the Director of Formation will then forward his recommendation to the Minister General for his approval or denial. In all cases, the Formation Director shall notify both the Formation Counselor and the Brother of the decision. If the request is denied, then the Brother must attend the Convocation under the vow of Obedience. If the Brother does not attend, then he may be released by not following the vow of Obedience at the Minister General's discretion.

b) Progressions:

All Brothers seeking to progress from Postulant to Novice, Novice to Professed, Professed requesting Life Professed Cohort, or Professed to Life Professed must be physically present for the vows to be taken at an OSF Convocation or other official ceremony such as an OSF Province meeting authorized by the Minister General. In extreme circumstances, the Brother may progress via virtual means at Convocation.

Postulants shall not advance to the Novitiate until they attend Convocation or other official ceremony such as an OSF Province meeting authorized by the Minister General to be formally invested in the Habit.

While attendance of Candidates at Convocation is recommended, Candidates may progress to Postulant without attending Convocation or other official ceremony such as an OSF Province meeting at the discretion of the Minister General.

Section B: Study

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall have their fill." (Matthew 5:6)

"Our Brother and Savior Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and with all your mind." (Mark 12:30) Brothers are therefore urged to study often and to participate in dialogue in order to make educated decisions regarding their continuing spiritual journey and life in Christ Jesus. Whatever is studied, careful attention will be given to Holy Scripture, the writings of our Brother Francis and other Franciscans, along with the Book of Common Prayer. Other subjects such as church history, ethics, theology, music, and comparative religious studies will also be given attention to, so as to enrich and aid in the education of the greater Order." (njk)

Study has a focus of gaining knowledge to inform our lives, whereas formation has a focus of living according to the Gospel which transforms our lives.

Section C: Reconciliation

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." (Matthew 5:7)

"A great emphasis and a humble awareness of the social nature of sin, as well as the nature of forgiveness shall be stressed in the Franciscan manner. All Brothers will observe a daily examination of conscience and seek the benefits of reconciliation and absolution as their conscience requires."(njk)

It is the love of God that calls us to turn away from indifference and selfishness and turn toward hearts filled with generosity, kindness, gentleness, and love. The certain knowledge that we stand in need of God's mercy and love to change our lives also gives us the certain knowledge that others will also need this mercy and love. We do not judge one another. Reconciliation is continuous attitude that places our focus on God's love rather than on our failings. All Brothers will understand that our collective ministry is one of reconciliation. We are called to announce the joy and love of God to all people as our Brother Francis taught us. It is in this announcement of the Good News that people may be drawn more deeply into the love of God.

Section D: Retreats

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3)

"Our Brother Francis often sought after solitude and silence for periods of personal prayer and contemplation. Brothers will be asked to take a retreat period of silence, contemplation, and prayer at least once per year or, as directed by the Minister General of the Order, both for their own spiritual benefit as well as that of the Order." (njk)

Section E: Common Living Quarters and Possessions

*"Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
(Matthew 5:9)*

1) Common Living Quarters

a) Single Brothers living together communally in a friary or common house shall follow a vow of "chastity" in that relationships of a sexual nature between fellow Brothers is detrimental to the good order of the house and shall be forbidden.

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- b) All Brothers residing in a friary or common house will join together in daily prayer, worship, meals, work, ministry, and the general operations of the household whenever possible.
- c) Those Brothers whom are living apostolically or alone shall join each other for activities and retreats whenever possible in order to share in the joys of brotherhood within the Order.

2) Possessions

- a) The Order, itself, shall not hold nor possess any real property or asset other than liturgical items used in official liturgical services. Any real property and or assets may be held in trust for the use of the Order by the Board of Advisors, its members selected to serve from various entities within the Anglican Communion and/or the community at large.
- b) Whatever items may be given to the Order shall be used according to need, for the common good of everyone in the Order, and for all to share in what is received.

Section F: Communication

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." (Colossians 4:6)

As Brothers who live in a dispersed community, it is vital that regular means of communication exist. Modern technology affords us many modes of communication. Each Brother is to provide the Minister General and his delegate(s) current and accurate contact information and provide updates as necessary. This information should include a physical mailing address, a land, mobile or cellular telephone number, and an electronic means of communication. Each Brother is to frequently and regularly check for communications from his Brothers.

Section G: Fraternal Activities

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor." (Romans 12:10)

The primary fraternal activity of the Order is the Annual Convocation. As has been stated, attendance at the Convocation is expected. Other activities might include: days of prayer, potluck suppers, common retreats, common ministries, electronic communication groups, regional gatherings, common times of prayer, and other activities that encourage interaction between the Brothers. Brothers are encouraged to develop other fraternal activities as suits their needs.

Article III: A Franciscan in the World

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

"Remembering that each individual is our encounter with the image of Christ, Brothers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in humility and with gentleness. Brothers are to use discretion when participating in conversations and dialogue with others. Brothers are not to be quarrelsome or judgmental, but shall be peaceable and thoughtful as is becoming to all. Likewise, Brothers shall be gracious and give thanks for whatever the Holy Spirit makes available to them." (njc)

"As it has been said best in the Epistle of St. James (2:17): "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." Each Brother shall perform some ministry of active service to the benefit of the church or community (i.e.: lay reader, Eucharistic Minister, ministries to the elderly, the sick, the poor, children, disenfranchised, and/or those in prison, etc.). Such works bring great peace and a fulfillment of the true Franciscan spirit. All works and ministries for which Brothers are responsible shall be productive and shall be carried out joyfully as guided by the Minister General and the Director of Ministry. Brothers are strongly encouraged to tithe or donate any monies, gratuities, or honorariums given in relation to any labors performed in the name of service to others, except for the meeting the needs and/or costs of their individual ministries." (njc)

Article IV: Release from the Order

"Turn away from evil and do what is good; seek peace and pursue it." (Psalm 34:13)

It is a reality that some of our Brothers will discern a different path away from the Order. Though our community is diverse in personalities, ministries, and vocations we also acknowledge a common expression of living the Gospel as found in our Way of Life and Vows. There are Brothers who through active discernment may leave the Order by request, pursue actions that are not consistent with our Way and will be dismissed, or by disengagement from all fraternal activities will be dismissed passively from the Order. We must continue to pray for our Brothers that their paths away from the Order continue to lead them closer to God. We also must hold ourselves to the Life of the Gospel and remain compassionate to all.

Section A: By Request

A Brother may request to be released from his vows and if granted, the Minister General shall release the Brother from the Order. The Minister General shall notify the Brother of his release from the Order, remaining Brothers in the Order, and others as necessary. A Brother that has been released voluntarily, may petition to the Minister General to be reinstated in the Order. The Brother will be interviewed at the next Convocation by the Executive Cabinet for consideration. The Brother will attend only the interview portion of the

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Convocation at his own expense. If the Executive Cabinet decides to move forward, prior to his reinstatement, he will then be assigned to the Secretary General for a minimum of one year of discernment. At its completion, the Secretary General will provide his recommendation to the Executive Cabinet. The Executive Cabinet, with the Minister General's consent, will finalize the decision on reinstatement. The Brother will be notified of the decision and what formation status to be reinstated in. If the Executive Cabinet decides not to move forward prior to reinstatement or decides not to reinstate the Brother, the process ends there.

Section B: Release of Postulants and Novices

A Brother within the Postulancy and/or the Novitiate may be released from the Order "at will" as determined by a recommendation from the Brother's formation counselor, a vote of the Executive Cabinet and as approved by the Minister General. The Brother, upon release, shall be notified of the decision in writing and information regarding such release will be forwarded to the Brothers of the Order, and others as necessary. The Minister General also retains the authority to remove a Brother at any time that he deems necessary to preserve and protect the good of the Order.

Section C: Release of Professed, Life Professed, and Emeritus

A Brother who is of the Professed, Life Professed, or Emeritus may be released from the Order for just cause, by "clear and convincing" evidence in violation of *Article VI: Section A, Standards of Conduct*, by a vote of the Body of the Professed and with approval of the Minister General. The Body of the Professed consists of all Professed, Life Professed, and Emeritus Brothers; however, Emeritus Brothers have voice but no vote as stated in *Article I: Section F Emeritus Brothers*). The Brother, upon release, shall be notified of the decision in writing and information regarding such release will be forwarded to the Brothers of the Order, and others as necessary. The decision rendered by the voting body shall be final as approved by the Minister General without appeal. The Minister General also retains the authority to remove a Brother at any time that he deems necessary to preserve and protect the good of the Order.

Section D: Release, Death, or Retirement of the Minister General

1) Release of the Minister General:

Any member of the Body of the Professed may bring to the Secretary General's attention a charge against the Minister General for just cause, by "clear and convincing" evidence as stated under *Article VI: Section A Standards of Conduct*, or for other reasons of serious mental or physical infirmity. The Secretary General will then schedule and conduct a special meeting of the Body of the Professed to hear, debate, and to consider a motion for determination if enough evidence has been brought forward against the Minister General to place him on immediate Administrative Leave.

If the motion to proceed is approved by a majority vote of the responding voting members of the Body of the Professed, then the Minister General will be immediately placed on Administrative Leave status until next regularly scheduled Convocation is held and the charge brought forth shall be heard by the Body of the Professed. The Secretary General will assume day to day operations of the Order along with the Executive Cabinet until a final decision is reached for removal or acquittal. After those present in the Body of the Professed hears any and all charges and sufficient rebuttal from the accused, a vote of the voting members of the Body of the Professed shall then take place which shall require a three-fourths (3/4ths) majority of the present for removal of the Minister General. If motion for removal is approved, the Secretary General will maintain the day to day operations of the Order along with the Executive Cabinet and shall coordinate all activities of the Order for the common good until the election of a successor has been conducted according to *Article V: Section A, Minister General*.

2) Death of the Minister General

Upon the death of the Minister General, the Secretary General shall notify the Executive Cabinet, the Board of Advisors, Bishop Visitor, and the Brothers at large. The Secretary General will maintain the day to day operations of the Order along with the Executive Cabinet and shall coordinate all activities of the Order for the common good until the next regularly scheduled Convocation of the Order. He shall schedule and arrange the upcoming Convocation, ensuring as many Brothers as possible be in attendance in order to elect a new Minister General according to *Article V: Section A, Minister General*.

3) Retirement of the Office of Minister General:

Upon the decision of the Minister General to retire from the office, he shall notify in writing notice to the Order, the Bishop Visitor, and the Advisory Council the date of retirement. The Minister General will retain his office until midnight the day of his retirement at which time he will be in mandatory Emeritus status. The following day, the Secretary General will maintain the day to day operations of the Order along with the Executive Cabinet and shall coordinate all activities of the Order for the common good until the election of a successor has been conducted according to *Article V: Section A, Minister General*.

Section E: Passive Dismissal

A Brother who has:

- a) not consistently attended convocation, and/or
- b) not written the Minister General for permission to be excused from attendance at the convocation, and/or
- c) not engaged in the formation process, and/or
- d) not responded to communication, and/or
- e) not attend fraternal activities, and/or

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f) basically withdrawn from any association with the Brothers in the Order,

shall be regarded as inactive and in the process of Passive Dismissal. Emeritus brothers are exempt for items a, b, c, and e above; however, they must comply with items d and f. The inactive Brother will be contacted by the Secretary General of the Order and given thirty days to reply and address his inactivity and disengagement. If the inactive Brother responds to the Secretary General's inquiry and seeks to continue his association, he shall develop a plan and submit it to the Secretary General that will clearly identify specific steps that will demonstrate reengagement and fraternal activity. The Secretary General shall submit the plan to the Minister General for approval. Should the inactive Brother not contact the Secretary General or develop a plan of rehabilitation he will be dismissed from the Order by Passive Dismissal after the thirty-day period has passed.

Article V: Government and Offices

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." (Romans 13:1)

Governance of the Order:

The Minister General has authority of Obedience over each and every brother, regardless of Province. He shall exercise it alone or in conjunction with his Executive Cabinet in accordance with this Way of Life as necessary. The Minister General and the Secretary General are Corporate Officers in the Order and as such are the only positions within the Order that may act "on behalf of the Order" from a financial, public, or legal perspective.

The Executive Cabinet functions in an advisory capacity to the Minister General and as such, the Minister General may depart from the Executive Cabinet's advice if he does not agree with it. In addition, the role of Executive Cabinet appointees is to administer and lead important duties and functions that assist in the ongoing operations of the Order. Unless specifically forbidden by this Way of Life, the Minister General holds final authority over all decisions of the Order.

The Executive Cabinet shall consist of the following cabinet offices: Secretary General, Director of Formation, Director of Vocations, Director of Ministry, and Director of Education, and any Provincial Guardians. Other cabinet positions may be appointed by the Minister General as he deems necessary depending on the needs of the Order and each cabinet member serves at the Minister General's pleasure. The Minister General reserves the right to meet with an individual cabinet member, subset of cabinet members, or the entire Executive Cabinet as he deems necessary to make an informed decision for a particular issue or situation at his pleasure.

Types of Meetings:

1) Chapter Meetings:

At any General Chapter meeting held during Convocation or other special Chapter called by the Minister General, in keeping with the Franciscan tradition, for items unrelated to OSF Governance will be determined in a democratic fashion by ALL in attendance, with final approval of the Minister General. All items related to OSF Governance will be determined in democratic fashion by all Professed and Life Professed Brothers present, with the final approval of the Minister General, unless specified otherwise in this Article of the Way of Life.

2) Executive Cabinet Meetings:

Members of the Executive Cabinet present at a meeting shall have a voice and vote regardless of position within the Order on any matter brought before it. The Executive Cabinet will then advise the Minister General of their recommendation and present it for consideration. The final decision rests with the Minister General, unless specified otherwise in this Article of the Way of Life.

3) Province Meetings:

At any meeting called by the Guardian of a Province, in keeping with the Franciscan tradition, for items unrelated to Governance of the Province will be determined in a democratic fashion by ALL in attendance, with final approval of the Guardian of that Province. All items related to Governance of the Province will be determined in democratic fashion by all Professed and Life Professed Brothers present, with the final approval of the Guardian. Provinces can only vote on items that are within the authority of the Guardian as provided to him by the Minister General and the OSF Way of Life. All decisions made by the Province shall comply with the OSF Way of Life, all OSF Policies, and any Minister General directives. The recording of minutes of all meetings shall be performed and specifically account for any voting that occurs. These minutes should be sent to the Secretary General to record. Any decision made determined by the OSF Executive Cabinet or the Minister General to violate the OSF Way of Life, any OSF Policies, or any Minister General directives will be overturned.

Meeting Process and Procedures:

1) Meetings, in general, should follow Robert's Rule of Order; however, may be modified or relaxed in formality for less formal or casual situations if deemed necessary.

2) Meeting minutes must be captured for any of the above mentioned meetings. These minutes should include the date, time, and location of the meeting and who was in attendance with any offices held noted and vow of the Brother. It should present a general summary of topics discussed and record all decisions made and the results of the votes.

3) In instances where voting occurs, a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority of the Professed and Life Professed Brothers shall be required, unless specified otherwise in this Article of the Way of Life.

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Offices:

Section A: Minister General

The Minister General is a Corporate Officer of the Order and shall be a brother of the Life Professed elected by three-fourths (3/4ths) vote taken by the Professed and Life Professed brothers. He shall serve until his death unless he elects to retire from office or is removed from office for just cause. These conditions are explained in *Article IV, Section E, Release, Death, or Retirement of the Minister General*. The "blessing" of the newly elected Minister General may be accomplished through the Bishop Visitor or another member of the clergy as prescribed within the liturgy of Installation of a Minister General and in conjunction with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist as soon as possible or at the next scheduled Convocation of the Order. After election and installation, the new Minister General may either retain or appoint individuals for the Executive Cabinet as he sees fit. The Minister General (and/or his designates) shall represent the Order before official matters of the Church, other religious orders, the general public, and the Advisory Council.

Section B: Executive Cabinet

The Executive Cabinet shall comprise the offices identified in Governance of the Order in Article V above. The Cabinet shall be responsible in assisting the Minister General in the administration, day to day operations, formation and vocation programs, promotion of the Order, and all other duties to promote the common good of the Order. In the event of the retirement, removal, or death of the Minister General, the Cabinet, as chaired by the Secretary General, shall continue to serve until the installation of the new Minister General is completed and then shall offer their individual resignations.

1) Secretary General

The Secretary General is a Corporate Officer and shall be appointed by the Minister General from the body of the Life Professed and shall serve at his direction. His position is to assist brothers in adherence of the Way of Life and Vows of the Order and to assist the Minister General in the general welfare of the Order. In the event of the retirement, removal, or death of the Minister General, the Secretary General shall continue to serve and oversee the daily operations of the Order and the election and installation of a new Minister General at the next Convocation as called for under *Article V, Section A, Minister General*. The Secretary General shall continue to serve until the installation of the new Minister General is completed and then shall offer his resignation. In addition, the Secretary General is to act as a "shepherd" or guide to those Brothers who are placed under special advisement outside of the normal formation process or are currently under a "Leave of Absence" status under the direction of the Minister General. He shall endeavour to assist the Brother(s) with their enhanced discernment of the Vows, Way of Life, and policies of what it means to be a Franciscan within the OSF and determine if the Brother has a true calling for a Franciscan vocation within the Order. He shall also be a point of contact, along with the Minister General, for those Brothers who are under a Leave of Absence for extenuating circumstances for a specific period of time.

2) Director of Formation

The Director of Formation shall be appointed by the Minister General from the body of the Life Professed and shall serve at his direction. His position is to assist Brothers in developing a sense of Franciscan ideals and bringing their life skills to bear in a religious life of service and ministry to others. He shall direct activities to further educate and enlighten the Brothers on our beloved Francis, his life and ideals, aspects of the Anglican faith, and our calling as Franciscans walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. He shall direct the activities of additional brothers as counselors who will assist him in organization and activities related to the Postulancy, Novitiate, Professed, and Life Professed Brothers. In the event of the retirement, removal, or death of the Minister General, the Director shall continue to serve until the installation of the new Minister General is completed and then shall offer his resignation.

3) Director of Ministry

The Director of Ministry shall be appointed by the Minister General from the body of the Order and shall serve at his direction. His position is to supervise, coordinate, direct, and instill meaningful forms of active ministry within the brothers and the Order. He shall be responsible for monitoring the ministry activities of the Brothers and providing information to the Cabinet regarding specific ministries, beneficiaries, and the overall effectiveness of the activity. In the event of the retirement, removal, or death of the Minister General, the Director shall continue to serve until the installation of the new Minister General is completed and then shall offer his resignation.

4) Director of Education

The Director of Education shall be appointed by the Minister General from the body of the Order and shall serve at his discretion. His position is two-fold in that he serves to facilitate the development of the scope and sequence plan of the formation program. He shall also aid and assist the Director of Formation and counselors in its full implementation for the benefit of the other Brothers in developing their expanding knowledge of Franciscan theology. In the event of the retirement, removal, or death of the Minister General, the Director shall continue to serve until the installation of the new Minister General is completed and then shall offer his resignation.

5) Director of Vocations

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The Director of Vocations shall be appointed by the Minister General from the body of the Order and shall serve at his discretion. He has a dual role between working with Applicants and Candidates. His function is to serve as the representative of the Order when working with Applicants in gathering their required application and documents, presenting them to the Cabinet, and be the "face" of OSF to them. If the Applicant is accepted as a Candidate in the Order, his function is to serve as a mentor and guide, assist them in their discernment as needed, and have them develop their Statement of Faith. As such, he shall coordinate the activities of those Brothers under his care and report periodically to the Minister General. In the event of the retirement, removal, or death of the Minister General, the Director of Vocations shall continue to serve until the installation of the new Minister General is completed and then shall offer his resignation.

6) Guardian(s)

The Guardian of a specific province shall be appointed by the Minister General from the body of the Order and shall serve at his discretion. His function is to serve as the representative of the Minister General presiding over a specific geographical region. As such, he shall coordinate the activities of those Brothers under his care and report periodically to the Minister General. He shall also coordinate any regional retreats for the province and facilitate the induction of Postulants, Novices, and Professed within the area.

Section C: Provinces

Provinces may be created by the Minister General when a sufficient number of Brothers are resident within a specific geographical area and will be placed under the authority of the Cabinet with an appointed Guardian to represent those Brothers under his care. The formation activities and overall governance of the Province shall rest with the Executive Cabinet. Brothers within a Province shall have flexibility in making various professions by participating in Annual Convocation in one of two ways: 1) either by being physically present or 2) remotely via electronic means. Brothers shall be required to be physically present for the Life Professed cohort preliminary interview with the Cabinet and for induction into Life Profession.

Article VI: Standards of Conduct

"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." (John 7:24)

Section A: Codification

In exercising his ministry and vocation as a brother of the Order, he shall:

- (1) respect and preserve confidences of others except that pastoral, legal or moral obligations may require disclosure of those confidences;
- (2) conform to the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer or applicable Book of Prayer;
- (3) abide by the promises, Way of Life and Vows made when inducted into the Order;
- (4) safeguard the property and funds of the Order, Church and Community;
- (5) exercise his ministry and vocation in accordance with applicable provisions of the Order, Constitution and Canons of the Church and of the Diocese, ecclesiastical licensure or commission and Community Way or bylaws;
- (6) refrain from:
 - (a) commission of any act of Sexual Misconduct;
 - (b) holding and teaching publicly or privately, and advisedly, any Doctrine contrary to that held by the Church;
 - (c) any civil or criminal act that reflects adversely on the brother's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a brother of the Order;
 - (d) any conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation;
 - (e) habitual neglect of public worship, and of the Holy Communion, according to the order and use of the Church; and
 - (f) any Conduct Unbecoming a Brother of the Order.

Section B: Definitions

"Clear and convincing" shall mean proof sufficient to convince ordinarily prudent people that there is a high probability that what is claimed actually happened. More than a preponderance of the evidence is required but not proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

"Community" shall mean that part of the Church in which a brother of the Order performs his or her ministry, such as a Diocese, Parish, Mission, school, seminary, hospital, camp or any similar institution.

"Conduct Unbecoming a Brother" shall mean any disorder or neglect that prejudices the reputation, good order and discipline of the Church, or any conduct of a nature to bring material discredit upon the Church or the Holy Orders conferred by the Church.

"Doctrine" shall mean the basic and essential teachings of the Church and is to be found in the Canon of Holy Scripture as understood in the Apostles and Nicene Creeds and in the sacramental rites, the Ordinal and Catechism of the Book of Common Prayer.

"Sexual Abuse" shall mean any Sexual Behavior at the request of, acquiesced to or by a person eighteen years of age or older and a person under eighteen years of age, in high school or legally incompetent.

"Sexual Behavior" shall mean any physical contact, bodily movement, speech, communication or other activity sexual in nature or that is intended to arouse or gratify erotic interest or sexual desires.

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"*Sexual Misconduct*" shall mean (a) Sexual Abuse or (b) Sexual Behavior at the request of, acquiesced to or by a brother of the Order with another brother of the Order, or any other person that the brother has a Pastoral or Fraternal Relationship outside of the Order where Sexual Behavior could cause harm, distress, or embarrassment.

Signatories

Brothers in Christ:

By the authority given to me, this General Rule of Life and Profession of Vows, as set forth by our Order of Saint Francis, is hereby given my approval and appeal to our Bishop Visitor for his Blessing on this

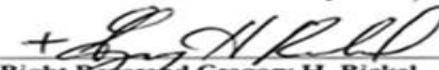
26th day of June, in the year of our Lord 2012.


Br. Zane Young, OSF
Minister General

Brothers in Christ:

By the Authority given to me, this General Rule of Life and Profession of Vows, as set forth by the Order of Saint Francis, is hereby given my Episcopal Blessing on this

20th day of July, in the year of our Lord 2012.

+ 
Right Reverend Gregory H. Rickel
Bishop Visitor

Revised 26 June 2012

Brothers in Christ:

By the authority given to me, this revised and updated General Rule of Life and Profession of Vows, as set forth by our Order of Saint Francis, is hereby given my approval on this

20th day of July, in the year of our Lord 2015.

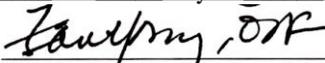

Br. Zane Young, OSF
Minister General

Revised 20 July 2015

Brothers in Christ:

By the authority given to me, this revised and updated Way of Life and Profession of Vows, as set forth by our Order of Saint Francis, is hereby given my approval on this

30st day of September in the year of our Lord 2016.


Br. Zane Young, OSF
Minister General

Revised 21 September 2016