



Clarification of Essentials as related to Clergy in Leadership

There is an apparent misunderstanding or misinterpretation in some communities of the Essentials as they relate to clergy in leadership. Therefore, Tres Dias International is issuing this position paper. Relevant areas of the Essentials and Glossary are at the end of this document. The Essential involved says that Tres Dias is a lay-led organization. We highly value the contributions that our faithful clergy make to Tres Dias. Tres Dias and especially the weekends could not function without their participation in Spiritual Director Rollos, serving communion, counseling and spiritual advice. This document does not alter the current Essentials it merely clarifies this aspect.

Each of us, Laity and Clergy have a role to play in Tres Dias. The founders of Tres Dias specifically defined the Essentials to recognize the difference. Clergy (pastors, missionaries, et. al) are called to play a critical role on the Tres Dias weekends. Being a Spiritual Director is a calling. Spiritual Directors are called to serve in special and unique ways on the Tres Dias encounter with Christ that a Lay Leader should not and could not fill. Lay Directors of Communities, Rectors, Lay Rollistas and those serving in other positions of Lay Leadership on a Secretariat or weekend are called to serve in separate and distinct ways. Ephesians 4:11 & 12 states that our Lord gave us differing gifts: "some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists and some as pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ". One who has been called and accepted the call to be a Spiritual Director has accepted an anointed divine appointment and as such has stepped out of the Laity and its Tres Dias positions of lay leadership as defined in the Essentials of Tres Dias. Once an individual has served in the role of Spiritual Director, he or she may not serve in the future in a lay leadership role.

As specified in the attached extract of the Essentials, a Spiritual Director on a weekend must be qualified to teach and council on spiritual matters. This implies some specific education in these areas and some method of determining an individual's qualifications. Tres Dias defers to the church or denomination to which the person belongs to provide the qualifications. If the denomination or church utilizes the individual to perform teaching or counseling as part of the ministry of the church, then that individual qualifies as a Spiritual Director. Note, however, that at least one of the Spiritual Directors on a weekend must meet a higher qualification; that of being a fully ordained minister and able to celebrate Holy Communion in his or her church.

While a member of the clergy cannot be a Rector, his or her deputy, a section leader, a table leader or give a lay talk, there is no restriction to them serving as a non-leadership cha or auxiliary on a team. As a general rule, however, ordained ministers would be expected to serve as Spiritual Directors. At the local community level, the leadership roles of officers on the Secretariat and leaders on standing committees must be lay members.

Essentials

2.3 TRES DIAS is a lay led movement.

TRES DIAS is a lay led movement; however, the active participation of the clergy is both essential and to be encouraged.

3.2.2 That the Spiritual Directors be qualified to teach and counsel in spiritual matters.

3.2.3 That at least one of the Spiritual Directors on the Weekend be ordained and be authorized to regularly celebrate Holy Communion by his/her denomination.

For the purpose of these Essentials, "clergy" is intended to refer to those persons qualified to serve as Spiritual Directors.

3.2.4 That men and women attend separate weekends. The Spiritual Directors are exempted.

3.2.I.11 That lay-talks not be given by clergy, and Spiritual Director talks not be given by a lay person.

Glossary

The following are terms taken from the Glossary of Tres Dias that relate to this discussion:

clergy/pastor A person ordained by his/her church or denomination. See spiritual director.

lay-led movement A movement led by the laity vs. by ordained clergy/pastors. Tres Dias is primarily governed by God through the laity (laymen) with pastoral counsel.

ordained Commissioned by a denomination/local church and given the responsibility and authority to perform certain religious duties.

spiritual director A person who is qualified to teach and preach on spiritual matters and who serves on the weekend as a spiritual counselor. At least one of the spiritual directors must be ordained and authorized to regularly celebrate Holy Communion by his or her denomination.