

Bylaw Proposal Change

Submitted by: The Membership Committee

CURRENT BYLAW

CHAPTER II

Membership

Article 1 - Applicants for Regular Membership are eligible at age 15 (See Chapter III for Family Membership). Applicants must be Roman Catholics in good standing as determined by the Roman Catholic Church (except the non-Catholic spouse of a Roman Catholic member).

PROPOSED CHANGE

Article 1 - Applicants for Regular Membership are eligible at age 15 (See Chapter III for Family Membership). Applicants must be Roman Catholics in good standing as determined by the Roman Catholic Church (except the non-Catholic spouse of a Roman Catholic member; ***and, for family memberships, non-Catholic children and grandchildren***).

RATIONALE

Welcoming non-Catholic children and grandchildren on family memberships respects the many types of families within our branch communities. With blended marriages, grandparents helping care for grandchildren and other scenarios, some families are not eligible to be part of our family membership. This by-law addition supports our mission statement which begins, "Through families and fellowship..+

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CURRENT BYLAW

CHAPTER III

Family Membership

Article 1 - Applicants for a Family Membership consist of parent(s) or grandparent(s) and all related children or grandchildren under the age of 18. Additionally, unmarried children or grandchildren of the age 18 to 23 who are enrolled in a properly accredited institution of learning, financially dependent upon their parent(s) or grandparent(s) and qualify as a dependent for federal income tax purposes qualify for Family Membership. The eligible applicants are non-voting members of the Branch until their 15th birthday. Only applicants paying Full Membership will be included in the Branch membership total when determining the election of Convention delegates. All family applicants are subject to conditions outlined in Chapter II, Article 1. At the age of 18, the children/grandchildren applicants under the Family Membership must join the Regular Membership to continue in the Federation, excluding those enrolled in an accredited institution of learning.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Article 1 - Applicants for a Family Membership consist of parent(s) or grandparent(s) and all related, **unmarried** children or grandchildren under the age of ~~18~~ **21**. ~~Additionally, unmarried children or grandchildren of the age 18 to 23 who are enrolled in a properly accredited institution of learning, financially dependent upon their parent(s) or grandparent(s) and qualify as a dependent for federal income tax purposes qualify for Family Membership.~~ The eligible applicants are non-voting members of the Branch until their 15th birthday. Only applicants paying Full Membership will be included in the Branch membership total when determining the election of Convention delegates. All family applicants are subject to conditions outlined in Chapter II, Article 1. ~~At the age of 18, the children/grandchildren applicants under the Family Membership must join the Regular Membership to continue in the Federation, excluding those enrolled in an accredited institution of learning.~~

RATIONALE

The financial dependency and school enrolment requirements related to family memberships reduces the opportunity to involve some membersqchildren and grandchildren, especially if they are taking a temporary leave from school or join the military at 18.

Concluding the family membership at age 21 recognizes the member being at full adult age. The member may then obtain a full ICF membership.