

**THE STATUTES  
OF THE  
BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS  
COVENANT COMMUNITY  
COVENANT OF COMMUNION**

**May 2009**



**Approved by**

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# **THE STATUTES OF THE BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS COVENANT COMMUNITY**

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## **THE STATUTES OF THE BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS COVENANT COMMUNITY**

### **ARTICLE 1. NATURE AND PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The “Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community” (also known as the “BLD Covenant Community”) is a private association of the lay faithful. As such, it professes communion with the Roman Catholic Church and submits to the authority of the Roman Pontiff and the Diocesan Bishop of the local Church.**
- 1.2 The BLD Covenant Community started in June 1985 in Manila, Philippines, which is now the center of its international organization.**
- 1.3 It is the purpose of the BLD Covenant Community to empower the lay faithful in the task of evangelization by promoting the values of the Kingdom of God among individuals, couples, and families through the various encounter and renewal programs.**

**It endeavors to form BLD Districts throughout the world, with organized structures and relationships to effectively advance the BLD Covenant Community’s purpose.**

### **ARTICLE 2. VISION AND MISSION**

- 2.1 The BLD Covenant Community throughout the world is of one heart, mind, and spirit in sharing a common vision and mission, based on Christian love and faith, service and worship.**
- 2.2 The BLD Covenant Community Vision -**

**We are a communion of individuals, couples, and families called together as one people through a moment of encounter and the process of renewal to a relationship of faith, hope, and love of God.**

**We are reconciled with the Father by our saving faith in Jesus Christ, our renewing trust in the Holy Spirit, and our uniting compassion with one another.**

**We are blessed with personal gifts - spiritual and natural, innate or acquired - which we yield to the Word and the Spirit. We give freely and fully of ourselves; love and serve one another as we seek and proclaim God’s Kingdom.**

**We commit, as disciples of Jesus, to speak the words and do the deeds of Christ among all peoples and nations to whom we are called by the Lord.**

### **2.3 The BLD Covenant Community Mission -**

**As a communion of encountered individuals, couples, and families, we are called by the Lord;**

**To build communities of disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, will renew and strengthen our Christian faithful;**

**Through programs of Christian Encounters (Marriage Encounters, Family Encounters, Singles Encounters, Solo Parents Encounters, Youth Encounters), and Life in the Spirit Seminars;**

**Through programs of Discipleship Formation, Spiritual Growth and Pastoral Care aimed at developing intercessors, worship leaders, shepherds, teachers, and witnesses;**

**And through programs promoting servant leadership and poverty alleviation in society.**

## **ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP**

**3.1 Membership in the BLD Covenant Community means committing to a covenant relationship which demands loving obedience to the will of God the Father, an undying commitment to the person of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and openness and availability to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.**

**3.2 The covenant also entails a commitment to enter into a relationship with members of the community and to participate in their lifestyle and mission. At the heart of such a commitment is the belief that the essence of salvation is to live the faith in Jesus Christ and the love for others.**

**3.3 It means upholding the nature and purpose, vision and mission of the BLD Covenant Community as outlined in the Statutes.**

**3.4 Formally, a BLD Covenant Community member may fall into three classifications of membership; namely: Regular Member, Committed Disciple or Covenanted Disciple.**

#### **3.4.1 Regular Membership.**

**The entry points to Regular Membership in the BLD Covenant Community are the Encounter Programs (namely: the Marriage Encounter, the Singles Encounter, the Solo Parents Encounter, the Family Encounter, and the Youth Encounter) or Life in the Spirit Seminar.**

**Any individual, couple, or family who desires to join the BLD Covenant Community must have been baptized and confirmed and must have complied with other requirements at entry point.**

### **3.4.2 Committed Disciple.**

**A Committed Disciple is a Regular Member who has completed the Life in the Spirit Seminar and an encounter program, and has freely signed the BLD Covenant Community Commitment. The BLD Covenant Community Commitment, which is sealed by the action of the Holy Spirit at the Consecration of the Gifts during the Eucharistic Celebration, is composed of a Preamble and Five (5) Pledges.**

#### **(a) The Preamble.**

**As Committed Disciples, we believe that membership in the BLD Covenant Community requires a total commitment of ourselves to the person of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. It means union of mind and heart and spirit with other Christian individuals, couples, and families, in obedience to God the Father and at the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is premised on the belief that living in Jesus Christ is the essence of salvation and that full Christian maturity develops only from true discipleship with Jesus Christ and love for others.**

**As Committed Disciples, we profess communion with the Roman Catholic Church, belief in the official Catholic doctrine, and observance of the official Catholic liturgy. We honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. And we acknowledge the authority of the Holy Father, the Pope, as the Vicar of Christ and the successor of Saint Peter and the Ecclesial authority of the Diocesan Bishop of the local church.**

#### **(b) The Five Pledges.**

**As Committed Disciples, we commit to the Lord and to the BLD Covenant Community to observe the following five (5) pledges of the BLD Covenant Community Commitment.**

- (1) We shall surrender ourselves totally to God the Father, to Jesus Christ the Son of God, and to the Holy Spirit of God. We believe that God is the Source of all authority. We humbly offer ourselves in submission and servanthood to God's authority as represented by the Catholic Church in the persons of the Holy Father and the Bishops of the Church. We submit to the ecclesiastical authority of the Bishop of the Diocese and to follow those to whom he has lawfully delegated his authority;**

**We commit ourselves to the guidance of the BLD Covenant Community Spiritual Director and to those who constitute or represent the BLD Covenant Community Council of Servant Leaders;**

- (2) We shall complete the Christian Discipleship Formation Program (“CDFP”) offered by the BLD Covenant Community;**
- (3) We shall regularly share our knowledge and experience in the Word with other members of the BLD Covenant Community at least once a week at our designated Word Sharing Circles (“WSC”);**
- (4) We shall nourish our spiritual lives by opening to God through individual, conjugal, and family daily prayers and we will up build the community through intercessory prayer. We shall faithfully pray and worship in unity and fellowship as one community at least once a week; and**
- (5) We shall remain reconciled and in solidarity with the other members in the BLD Covenant Community.**

### **3.4.3 Covenanted Disciple.**

**A Covenanted Disciple is a Committed Member who has freely signed the BLD Covenant Community Covenant. The Community Covenant, sealed by the action of the Holy Spirit at the Consecration of the Gifts during the Eucharistic Celebration, is composed of a Preamble and Eight (8) Pledges.**

#### **(a) The Preamble.**

**As Covenanted Disciples, individuals, couples, and families, we are summoned by the Lord to membership in the BLD Covenant Community and thus, to the holy work of evangelization and shepherding other individuals, couples, and families towards a personal relationship with God, through the encounter and the renewal apostolates, and through our own personal witnessing of authentic Christian love and faith, service and worship.**

**As Covenanted Disciples, we believe that membership in the BLD Covenant Community requires a total commitment of ourselves to the person of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. It means union of mind and heart and spirit with other Christian individuals, couples, and families, in obedience to God the Father and at the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is premised on the belief that living in Jesus Christ is the essence of salvation and that full Christian**

**maturity develops only from true discipleship with Jesus Christ and love for others.**

**As Covenanted Disciples, we profess communion with the Roman Catholic Church, belief in the official Catholic doctrine, and observance of the official Catholic liturgy. We honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. And we acknowledge the Holy Father, the Pope, as the Vicar of Christ and the successor of Saint Peter and the Ecclesial authority of the Diocesan Bishop of the local church.**

**(b) The Eight Pledges.**

**As Covenanted Disciples, we pledge to the Lord and to the BLD Covenant Community to observe the following eight (8) pledges of the Community Covenant.**

**(1) We shall surrender ourselves totally to God the Father, to Jesus Christ the Son of God, and to the Holy Spirit of God. We believe that God is the Source of all authority. We humbly offer ourselves in submission and servanthood to God's authority as represented by the Catholic Church in the persons of the Holy Father and the Bishops of the Church. We submit to the ecclesiastical authority of the Bishop of the Diocese and to follow those to whom he has lawfully delegated his authority;**

**We commit ourselves to the guidance of the BLD Covenant Community Spiritual Director and to those who constitute or represent the BLD Covenant Community Council of Servant Leaders;**

**(2) We shall nourish our spiritual lives by opening to God through individual, conjugal, and family daily prayers, and we will build the community through intercessory prayer;**

**(3) We shall read, study, and live the Word of God in Holy Scriptures and in other spiritual readings, and we shall regularly share our knowledge and experience in the Word with other members of the community at least once a week at our designated Word Sharing Circles ("WSC"); and shall attend continuing formation programs;**

**(4) We shall regularly receive the Sacraments of our Faith, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and bear witness to the power of God's grace in our lives;**

- (5) **We shall faithfully pray and worship in unity and fellowship as one BLD Covenant Community at least once a week;**
- (6) **We shall serve in at least one BLD Covenant Community Mission or Ministry, guided by the direction of the BLD District Council of Stewards;**
- (7) **We shall actively assist in ministering to the spiritual, personal, and material needs of other members of the BLD Covenant Community, and to the other members of the Body of Christ in a spirit of self-giving love; and**
- (8) **We shall support the BLD Covenant Community Missions and Ministries with regular tithes and love offerings given according to our true means and out of the fullness of our hearts.**

#### **ARTICLE 4. LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

##### **4.1 Legitimate Exercise of Authority**

**In the BLD Covenant Community, no member possesses authority in his or her personal capacity. Authority is legitimately exercised only when it is used to implement the statutes and policies and guidelines of the BLD Covenant Community, and the decisions of the governing body of the BLD Covenant Community.**

**Ecclesiastical authority is exercised by the Diocesan Bishop and by the District Spiritual Director, to whom he has lawfully delegated his authority.**

**The BLD Covenant Community Spiritual Director, BLD Community Council of Servant Leaders and the District Council of Stewards exercise pastoral care in accordance with the norms, values, culture and provisions of the BLD Covenant Community Statutes.**

##### **4.2 Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocesan Bishop**

**Since BLD Districts serve in and BLD Community members live within the Archdiocese, Diocese and/or Parish, they are therefore under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Diocesan Bishop and/or Parish Priest.**

**As the head of the local Church, the Diocesan Bishop has authority over matters that affect the local Church. As such, the Diocesan Bishop has the final decision on the role of the BLD Covenant Community and the BLD District in the life and mission of the local Church. The BLD Covenant Community recognizes therefore that the primary and ultimate ecclesiastical authority over the BLD District and Community members rests with the Diocesan Bishop.**

**The BLD District shall support the mission of the Archdiocese/Diocese by regular tithes/love offerings. When required by the Archdiocese/Diocese, the Districts will submit annual audited financial reports. In case of financial or legal problems of the District or its members, the Archdiocese/Diocese will not be involved in any legal litigation. And in the event of legal dissolution of or disaffiliation from BLD Covenant Community, all assets net of obligations shall revert to the Archdiocese/Diocese in which the District is accredited.**

#### **4.2.1 District Spiritual Director (DSD)**

**The BLD District Spiritual Director is a priest within the Archdiocese or Diocese duly appointed by the Diocesan Bishop upon the request of the BLD Community Spiritual Director. It is preferable that the BLD District Spiritual Director is already in the charismatic renewal movement and/or is willing to join the encounter and renewal programs of the BLD Covenant Community.**

#### **4.2.2 General Functions of the BLD District Spiritual Director (DSD)**

**The substantive functions of the BLD District Spiritual Director are:**

- (a) To assist the BLD District in integrating into the life and mission of the local Church;**
- (b) To provide spiritual guidance and direction to the BLD District in its affairs and activities in the Archdiocese or Diocese where he is serving;**
- (c) To represent the Diocesan Bishop in providing pastoral oversight to the BLD District and pastoral care to the BLD District Council of Stewards in coordination with the District Servant Leader;**
- (d) To represent the Diocesan Bishop in coordinating and relating with the BLD Covenant Community Spiritual Director;**
- (e) To minister to specific BLD Covenant Community members requiring spiritual guidance and special counseling, upon the request of the BLD District Council of Stewards; and**
- (f) To modify BLD Covenant Community culture, values and norms, when necessary, in consultation with the BLD District Council of Stewards, the BLD Covenant Community Council of Servant Leaders, and the BLD Covenant Community Spiritual Director.**

### **4.3 Pastoral Care in the BLD Covenant Community**

**Every BLD Covenant Community member is under the pastoral care of those who exercise leadership and governance in the BLD Covenant Community;**

#### **4.3.1 BLD Covenant Community Spiritual Director (CSD) and the BLD Covenant Community Council of Servant Leaders (CCSL)**

**The BLD Covenant Community Spiritual Director exercises pastoral care over the members of the community throughout the world. He is also the pastoral head of the BLD Covenant Community Council of Servant Leaders.**

**The BLD Executive Council of Servant Leaders exercises pastoral care over all BLD District Council of Stewards, while the BLD District Spiritual Director and District Servant Leaders exercise pastoral care over the BLD District Council of Stewards under their assigned Districts.**

#### **4.3.2 Pastoral Care in the BLD District**

**In the BLD District, leadership is exercised by the BLD District Spiritual Director, the District Servant Leader and the BLD District Council of Stewards.**

**A Pastoral Head is a covenanted disciple who has been given the responsibility of guiding and caring for the BLD District, Apostolate, Ministry or Homestead.**

**A BLD District Servant Leader is the pastoral head of the District Council of Stewards. He has responsibility over his assigned District Cluster, with the assistance of the District Spiritual Director.**

**A BLD District Steward is the Pastoral Head of an Apostolate composed of a group of Ministry Coordinators and Homestead Shepherds he has responsibility over. The Ministry Coordinator or Homestead Shepherd is the Pastoral Head of all Circle Shepherds belonging to the Ministry or Homestead he has responsibility over. The Circle Shepherd is the Pastoral Head of all members belonging to the circle that he has responsibility over.**

## **ARTICLE 5. BLD COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS**

### **5.1 Seat of the BLD Covenant Community**

**The BLD Covenant Community is composed of BLD Districts located in the Archdioceses/ Dioceses in any part of the world. A BLD District is a group of BLD Covenant Community members residing within an Archdiocese or**

**Diocese, and whose establishment and authority to serve and function in the Diocese has been approved in writing by the Diocesan Bishop.**

**The Seat of the BLD Covenant Community is in the Archdiocese of Manila, Suffragan Dioceses of Antipolo, Calocan, Cubao, Novaliches, Pasig, Paranaque, Dioceses of Malolos and San Pablo and the AFP-PNP Military Ordinariate in Manila where the BLD Executive Council of Servant Leaders resides, who as a body has governance over all BLD District globally.**

#### **5.1.1 The BLD Community Council of Servant Leaders (CCSL)**

**The BLD Community Council of Servant Leaders is composed of an Executive Council of Servant Leaders and a BLD District Servant Leader from each Full-term BLD District. The CCSL shall serve and fulfill their functions as a couple.**

**The Executive Council of Servant Leaders is composed of five (5) Servant Leaders, each of whom shall be responsible for Pastoral, Evangelization, Formation, Mission, and Management Apostolates.**

#### **5.1.2 Resolutions of the BLD Community Council of Servant Leaders (CCSL)**

**The resolution of the BLD Community Council of Servant Leaders is required for the following:**

- (a) Decisions on matters pertaining to the BLD Community Statutes, Policies and Guidelines;**
- (b) Formulation and implementation of new BLD Community Policies and Guidelines;**
- (c) Decisions on operational issues raised by BLD District Council of Stewards that affect the BLD Covenant Community globally; and**
- (d) Decisions on pastoral matters elevated to the ECSL.**

### **5.2 BLD Executive Council of Servant Leaders (ECSL)**

#### **5.2.1 General Functions of the Executive Council as a Body**

- (a) To discern God's Word and its actualization in the BLD Covenant Community;**
- (b) To exercise governance over the global BLD Covenant Community in the implementation of these Statutes and in the promotion of its vision and mission;**
- (c) To oversee programs that support the pastoral care of the BLD Covenant Community globally and its members;**

- (d) To review formation programs of the BLD Covenant Community and BLD Districts; and
- (e) To discern and appoint the BLD District Council of Stewards (DCS) and confirm the appointment of the members of the BLD District Leaders Conference (DLC) and District in Process (DIP) Shepherds as recommended by the DCS and endorsed by the DSL.

### **5.2.2 Functions of the Presiding Servant Leader**

The Executive Council is headed by a Presiding Servant Leader on a rotation basis. The functions of the Presiding Servant Leader of the Executive Council are as follows:

- (a) To preside over the meetings of the Executive Council of Servant Leaders;
- (b) To coordinate and support the various plans and activities of the Executive Council;
- (c) To ensure that concerns of the BLD Covenant Community globally are addressed and resolved; and
- (d) When situations warrant, to decide on matters requiring immediate resolution and to report this to the Executive Council on its next meeting.

## **5.3 BLD District Servant Leaders (DSL)**

**5.3.1 Each BLD Full-Term District is represented by a District Servant Leader in the BLD Community Council of Servant Leaders.**

### **5.3.2 General Functions of the BLD District Servant Leader**

- (a) To represent his assigned BLD Full-Term District, including its BLD Full-Fledged Districts and BLD Districts-in-Process, in the BLD Community Council of Servant Leaders;
- (b) To represent the BLD Community Council of Servant Leaders in his assigned BLD Full-Term District, including its BLD Full-Fledged Districts and BLD Districts-in Process;
- (c) To ensure harmonious working relationships between the BLD Community Council of Servant Leaders and the BLD District Council of Stewards and Core Groups of his assigned BLD Full-Term District, including its BLD Full-Fledged Districts and BLD Districts-in-Process; and

- (d) To exercise pastoral care over the District Council of Stewards and Core Groups of his assigned BLD Full-Term District, including its BLD Full-Fledged Districts and BLD Districts-in-Process, with the assistance of the BLD District Spiritual Director;
- (e) To coordinate with the Executive Council of Servant Leaders on functional matters of any Apostolate requiring inter-district or trans-district participation; and
- (f) To represent the BLD Community together with any Executive Council Servant Leader in the establishment of new BLD Districts.

#### **5.4 BLD Covenant Community Apostolates and General Functions**

The BLD Community has five (5) Apostolates, whose general functions are:

- 5.4.1 The Pastoral Apostolate oversees the Pastoral Care Program for all BLD Covenant Community members globally.
- 5.4.2 The Evangelization Apostolate ensures that the conduct of Encounter Programs, Life in the Spirit Seminars (“LSS”), Post Life in the Spirit Growth (“PLSG”), Praise and Liturgy Ministries, and Corporate Worships in all BLD Districts are according to the standards of the BLD Covenant Community.
- 5.4.3 The Formation Apostolate oversees the Christian Discipleship Formation Program to ensure the spiritual growth of community members for service in the BLD Covenant Community and in the larger Church.
- 5.4.4 The Mission Apostolate, as the BLD Covenant Community’s apostolate for social action, strengthens the Parish in building basic ecclesiastical communities and assists in breaking the yoke of poverty and oppression.
- 5.4.5 The Management Apostolate ensures the proper administration and enhancement of personnel, material, financial and logistical resources and capabilities of the BLD Covenant Community, including those of foundations, non-stock, non-profit corporations/ organizations, cooperatives, and other institutions organized by the BLD Community and by the BLD Districts, in accordance with existing BLD Policies and Guidelines.

### **ARTICLE 6. BLD DISTRICT ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS**

#### **6.1 BLD District Apostolates, Ministries and Homesteads.**

**Each BLD District is organized into Apostolates, Ministries and Homesteads.**

**6.1.1 The BLD District Apostolates and Ministries are:**

- (a) Under the Pastoral Apostolate – Pastoral Services, Youth Ministry, Singles Ministry, Solo or Single Parent Ministry, Mark 10 Ministry and Counseling and Healing Services.**
- (b) Under the Evangelization Apostolate – Marriage Encounter Ministry, Family Encounter Ministry, Life in the Spirit Ministry, Praise Ministry, Liturgy Ministry, and Post-LSS Ministry.**
- (c) Under the Formation Apostolate – Teaching Ministry, Intercessory Ministry, Discipling Ministry, Word Ministry, Witness Development Ministry, and Coach Development Ministry.**
- (d) Under the Management Apostolate – Service Ministry, Treasury Ministry, Secretariat Office, District Foundation, Management Service and Technical Group.**
- (e) Under the Mission Apostolate – Parish Services Ministry, Institutional Services Ministry, Poverty Alleviation Services Ministry, Mission Homesteads and Shepherds of Districts-in-Process.**

**6.1.2 In response to a specific need in a BLD District, Ministries may be merged, realigned, integrated, or created through a formal resolution by the BLD District Council of Stewards, with prior approval of the BLD Executive Council of Servant Leaders.**

**6.2 BLD District Council of Stewards (DCS)**

**The BLD District Council of Stewards (“DCS”) is the local governing body of a BLD District. It is composed of three (3) to five (5) resident Couple Stewards. The number of DCS members is determined by the BLD Executive Council of Servant Leaders, in coordination with the District Servant Leader, according to the stage of growth of the BLD District.**

**General Functions of the BLD District Council of Stewards are:**

**6.2.1 Pastoral Steward Couple – To oversee the Coordinators of the Mark 10, Youth, Single, Solo or Single Parents, Counseling and Healing and Pastoral Services Ministries.**

- 6.2.2 Evangelization Steward Couple – To oversee the Coordinators of the Marriage Encounter, Family Encounter, Life in the Spirit, Post Life in the Spirit, Praise, and Liturgy Ministries.**
  - 6.2.3 Formation Steward Couple – To oversee the Coordinators of the Intercessory, Teaching, Discipling, Word, Witness Development, and Coach Development Ministries.**
  - 6.2.4 Management Steward Couple – To oversee the Coordinators of the Service and Treasury Ministries and the Management of the Secretariat Office, BLD District Foundation/ non-stock non-profit organization, Management Services, and BLD Cooperative, if any.**
  - 6.2.5 Mission Steward Couple – To oversee the Coordinators of the Parish Services, Institutional Service Ministries, Poverty Alleviation Services, and Shepherds of Mission Homesteads and Districts-in-Process.**
- 6.3 BLD District Leaders' Conference (DLC)**

Ministries and Homesteads in all BLD District, including its District-in-Process, are headed by Coordinators or Shepherds, who must be Covenanted Disciples. The Coordinators or Shepherds are appointed by the BLD District Council of Stewards in consultation and endorsement of the DSL or SDC, in accordance with the established criteria. They shall serve until the end of the term of the incumbent DCS and may be re-appointed. The District Council of Stewards shall recommend and notify the BLD Executive Council of Servant Leaders, through the District Servant Leader, of any appointments made to the positions of Coordinator or Shepherd for their confirmation.

The BLD District Leaders' Conference is composed of all Ministry Coordinators and Homestead Shepherds, including District-in-Process Shepherds.

**6.4 Types of BLD Districts**

There are three (3) types of BLD Districts; namely, District-in-Process, Full-Fledged District, and Full-Term District.

**6.4.1 BLD District-in-Process**

A BLD District-in-Process (“DIP”) is a prayer group, which has obtained a formal written approval from the Diocesan Bishop to conduct Encounter Programs, Life in the Spirit Seminars, and Christian Discipleship Formation Programs for its members and to establish a District in the Archdiocese/ Diocese.

Upon receipt of the Diocesan Bishop's approval, the ECSL assigns a BLD Full-Term District to be the Administering District to provide the needs of the BLD Prayer Group, now referred to as the BLD District-in-Process. On special circumstances, the ECSL may assign a BLD Full-Fledged District to serve as the Administering District to a District-in-Process.

The Administering District assigns a DIP Shepherd to oversee the growth of the District in Process.

#### **6.4.2 BLD Full-Fledged District**

The BLD Full-Fledged District is a BLD District-in-Process that has obtained sufficient number of Covenanted Disciples, sharers, shepherds, teachers, and worship leaders for the continuous conduct of evangelization, formation, and pastoral care programs in the District.

The BLD Full-Fledged District is directly under the guidance of the BLD Executive Council of Servant Leaders through the District Servant Leader ("DSL") assigned to the District.

#### **6.4.3 BLD Full-Term District.**

The BLD Full-Term District is a BLD Full-Fledged District that is ready for mission work. It possesses the required resources and capabilities to carry out the responsibility of administering the needs of the BLD Districts-in-Process and Parishes within and outside its Archdiocese/ Diocese with prior approval of the BLD Executive Council of Servant Leaders.

The BLD Full-Term District is also directly under the guidance of the BLD Executive Council of Servant Leaders through the District Servant Leader ("DSL") assigned to the District.

### **ARTICLE 7. BLD PASTORAL CARE PROGRAM**

#### **7.1 Pastoral Care Definition**

Pastoral Care is the program by which, as members of the BLD Community, we express our response to God's covenant love by nurturing and caring for one another, and bring to full maturity in Christ all those whom the Holy Spirit has entrusted to us in the BLD Covenant Community.

#### **7.2 Pastoral Care Objective**

**The objective of BLD Pastoral Care Program is to empower BLD Disciples in the life of the Spirit by:**

- 7.2.1 Shepherding them to maturity in Christ through the exercise of their natural and spiritual gifts;**
- 7.2.2 Enabling them to overcome problems and afflictions in their personal, family, vocational, and community life;**
- 7.2.3 Training them to minister to one another's material, psychological, and spiritual needs;**
- 7.2.4 Cultivating Christian stewardship in their personal, family, vocational, and community life; and**
- 7.2.5 Developing sound personal relationships based on sacrificial love born of the fruit of the Spirit.**

**7.3 Pastoral Care Forum – Word Sharing Circle**

**The Word Sharing Circle is the primary forum for the BLD Pastoral Care Program. Since the spirit of intimacy is best promoted among people who have learned to regard each other with openness and respect, it is necessary for the Word Sharing Circle to have a semblance of permanence with regards to its membership. Moreover, the Word Sharing Circle with regular members is a practical and easy way for the leadership to monitor the members' spiritual growth and development.**

**The members of the Word Sharing Circle with their Circle Shepherd, who presides and facilitates the sessions, shall gather together every week for the following purpose:**

- 7.3.1 To deepen their knowledge on the Word of God and live it out in their day to day personal, family, vocational, and Community life;**
- 7.3.2 To understand the policies and guidelines, norms, values and culture of the BLD Community and the significant teachings of the Church;**
- 7.3.3 To minister to each other's needs and burdens;**
- 7.3.4 To encourage each other in the exercise of spiritual and natural gifts; and**
- 7.3.5 To build sound interpersonal relationships in the Lord.**

**ARTICLE 8. AMENDMENTS**

The Statutes of the Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Statutes may be adopted by the action of the BLD Community Spiritual Director, upon the recommendation of the BLD Covenant Community Council of Servant Leaders, and supported by the affirmative endorsement of the majority of the Full-Term and Full-Fledged Districts of the BLD Covenant Community throughout the world.

The alterations, amendments, and repeals of the BLD Statutes shall take effect upon the written approval by the BLD Covenant Community Spiritual Director to all the Districts of the BLD Global Community.

#### ARTICLE 9. EFFECTIVITY

The Statutes of the Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community shall take into effect upon the written approval by the BLD Covenant Community Spiritual Director to all the BLD Districts of the BLD Global Community.

This supersedes the November 2005 version as approved by Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo “*Ad Modum Experimenti*” on July 13, 2006 and issued to the BLD global Community by the ECSL on July 31, 2006.

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Recommended by:

The Executive Council of Servant Leaders –



**Bogie & Margie Lorenzo**  
Evangelization



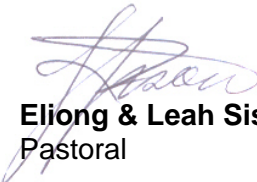
**Jun & Baby Delarmente**  
Formation



**Lito & Jasmin Abastillas**  
Management

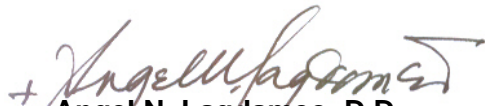


**Danny & Ludy Andres**  
Mission



**Eliiong & Leah Sison**  
Pastoral

Approved by:



**Angel N. Lagdameo, D.D.**  
Archbishop of Jaro  
BLD Community Spiritual Director

**May 9, 2009**