
Guide for CFO Council Rings

*exerpts from a booklet published
in the early days of CFO International*



SO YOU'VE BEEN ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL RING ...

Good! Praise the Lord that He has chosen you and then trust Him for the strength and inspiration to carry out the job! You are probably looking forward to your role with wonder, timidity or great joy. Every Ring member experiences these feelings at some time. But don't forget that in the mathematics of the Spirit, you plus God equals ONE, and in that ONE there is divine power.

This leaflet is designed to be an aid to you, and is planned to acquaint you with your responsibilities and with the organism of CFO. It is not a detailed book of either instructions or suggestions. Your Camp Secretary and/or Camp Chairman are in possession of a copy of the CFOI Training Guidelines which spell out more specifically what is briefly stated here. Rather, this is a collection of information which you need to know in order to adequately fulfill your role as a member of any CFO Camp Council Ring.

Perhaps the word "organism" strikes you as an unusual term to associate with CFO. However, it has been rightly said by Glenn Clark that CFO is a part of that living, vital organism called the Kingdom of God. An organism has life within it, and CFO is very much alive! The camps were founded to help men and women to go beyond their first commitment to God and to experiencing a daily walk with Jesus. The term "*Farthest Out*" means to help all campers to move farthest out with the Lord. In trust and obedience, CFOers open themselves wider and wider to the inflow of God's grace, and thus grow in spiritual maturity. Campers come to a CFO camp to strengthen their daily walk in Kingdom Living.

You have undoubtedly heard the name of Glenn Clark connected with CFO. This is entirely proper, for it was to him that God gave the dream and the commission to found the Camps Farthest Out. He was a man who knew God and the power of prayer through personal experience. He sought to transmit to others this dynamic faith in God through which the

power of prayer can operate. For thirty years he was a professor of literature and an athletic coach at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota before resigning from these positions to give full time to the Camps Farthest Out.

CFO is a place where individuals can be just who they are without any mask or artificiality. Their race, color, creed, status in the social or business world, or church affiliation do not matter. Here one's faith and doubts can be expressed without condemnation. CFO has no creed or orthodoxy, but it does have a statement called OUR BOND OF FAITH which was given to the camps by Glenn Clark. This bond unites all in Jesus Christ, yet leaves freedom in the Spirit. The camps operate under the guidance and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Prayer is a golden thread that is woven throughout the tapestry of the CFO program.

PRINCIPLES FOR GUIDING THE PROGRAM OF A CAMP

Council Ring members are responsible for keeping the camp centered in Jesus Christ. Therefore, they guard the campers and the program from the intrusion of other ideas, programs and issues (such as political matters, social issues, fund raising, controversial theologies, etc.) These matters are important, but they are disassociated from the name Camp Farthest Out.

The Council Ring guards against expressing any denominational preferences. After the close of camp, campers and leaders return to their

own particular church family as better church members and workers than before they went to camp. Actions speak louder than words!

THE CAMPS STAND FOR WHOLENESS

The days at camp are a time for cultivating the wholeness of the spiritual life –soul, mind and body. Talks are important, but filling out and giving body to these talks in a very vital way are the creatives and rhythms (also known as Devotion in Motion. No person derives the full value of a Camp Farthest Out who omits these creative adventures in self-discovery. This is impressed on the campers from the start of the camp by the example of the attendance of all Council Ring members at the creatives and the rhythms, and all other parts of the program.

PROTECT THE QUIET SPACES

The morning meditation time, the afternoon rest period (horizontal hour), the prayer group time are intended as quiet spaces. Glenn Clark received a God-given vision for the program for CFO, and time has proved the wisdom of it.

The program is a simple one – morning meditation, singing, one or two talks by speaking leaders, rhythms, the creatives, a rest period, prayer groups. Any additions detract from its simplicity and reduce its power. When the program, as Glenn Clark has given it, is adhered to faithfully, the Holy Spirit is given

freedom to meet all the needs of the hungry souls, without sending them home to rest up after frantic attempts to take in everything and miss nothing.

KEEP PRAYER CENTRAL

An early morning meditation period starts the day with prayer. This meditation period is not another lecture, but a guided meditation, allowing the camper to wait before the Lord in silence and listen for His 'still small voice'. We go to CFO to learn to pray, and to pray. Nothing interferes with the prayer hour. Before the camp closes the prayer groups to unite for a special prayer laboratory, a *'world prayer broadcast'*. In the individual prayer groups the major interest has been focused on praying for the needs, projects and interests of the group members. The intent of the World Prayer Broadcast is to expand the accumulated interest, love and faith of the individual campers, to focus the whole camp, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, on the problems of the nation and the world.

COUNCIL RING STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

A Camp Council Ring is composed of at least seven praying Christians who have attended at least one full-time camp and who have been inspired by and are committed to the purposes of CFO. The Council Ring is the 'regulation' body of the camp. It makes all arrangements for the camp and is responsible for keeping

the camp centered in Christ. It fulfills its responsibilities by much prayer together – praising and thanking God and listening for and obeying guidance.

Rotation of membership is a 'must' for every Camp Council Ring – electing a new third of the Ring each year to take the place of the third whose years are finished. This constant inflow of new faces, new spirits on fire for the Lord, helps to keep the contagion of the camps glowing and expanding.

LEADERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Recognizing that each person has much to learn and attain, the principal leadership qualifications which the Council Ring looks for in a program leader are:

- Being centered in love, prayer and the living Presence of Jesus Christ.
- Being truly ecumenical and nondogmatic.
- Ability to lead others into finding and following the way of Jesus, thus developing and maintaining wholeness.
- Familiarity with the writings of Glenn Clark and the purpose and principles of CFO.
- It is essential that a leader has had at least one full camp experience.

It is important for you to understand the structure of the Camps Farthest Out and how each camp relates to the other. This knowledge

is basic to your position of leadership and will help you understand what is happening and why. Your camp is not an isolated retreat, but rather is one of a family of camps (102 at this writing). Your camp has a responsibility to function as a member of that family. Make sure that your Council Ring actions benefit the whole rather than your own camp only.

Your Camp is a member of CFO International and you have received a Charter from the CFO International Office. As your Council Ring officers signed a Certification of Agreement prior to receiving your Charter, you have agreed to abide by the By-Laws of CFO International. Your Charter is renewable each year as the conditions of your National Ring are complied with.

*When the charge or care of anything
rests upon you, God ceases to be a God of Peace.
Bear not a single care thyself,
One is too much for thee.
The work is mine, and mine alone,
And thine is ...
Trust in Me.*

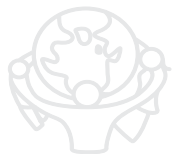
WHAT IS A CAMP FARTHEST OUT?

The CAMP FARTHEST OUT is a movement, an organism of earnest seekers in search of a vital experience with God. It emphasizes the naturalness and the power of prayer and is an experience of living in the 'Kingdom of Love'. The Camp Farthest Out is an adventure of finding the wholeness of the spiritual life – the Christian Life.

The name Camp Farthest Out was chosen because Dr. Glenn Clark, the founder, had his dream of such a fellowship while on Monhegan, the island farthest out off the coast of Maine. It seemed to him that *'farthest out'* was symbolic of going *'all the way'* in seeking God and His Kingdom Laws. We sometimes say it means going *'farthest in'* also, for Jesus said, 'The Kingdom of God is within'.

Glenn envisioned a group of people brought together away from everyday life. These people could be trained to fall into balance, physically, mentally, and spiritually so completely that they would stay in balance all year. The camp activities are aimed to inspire and integrate these three areas into a normal, healthy, joyous and effective personality. The heart of our camp is complete belief in Jesus Christ, and the practice of prayer as He taught it. To learn how to pray is to learn how to live.

The camp program has been developed around the total personality of the camper. There are periods of active participation and there are periods of creative rest. The campers have time to meditate and digest the great truths and make them a part of their daily living.



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