



## Frequently Asked Questions about Community Membership of NACAR North American Conference of Associates and Religious

### What is NACAR?

The North American Conference of Associates and Religious is a membership organization that acts as a catalyst to serve, empower and promote the Associate-Religious relationship. **NACAR remains the only professional organization to support and serve associates and vowed members as associates proclaim their call to live the charism of their religious communities.**

### What is the purpose of NACAR?

In the early 1970's, God's Spirit began moving lay men and women to find ways to embrace and live the charisms of many religious communities in Canada and the United States of America. Groups of like-minded people, commonly known as associates, began forming, and the increase in their numbers was quite rapid. A new movement was born, one based on the mystery of call and response to the particular charism of each community's founder/foundress.

By the 1980's, leaders of many associate groups reached out to associate groups of other religious communities, both to share how the Spirit was moving with them, and to begin addressing mutual concerns. Eventually, the need to have an even wider forum developed and thus, the first North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR) was created.

### Who is eligible for Community Membership in NACAR?

Community membership is the backbone of NACAR. This level of membership is meant to serve the needs of Associate and Community Leadership. Membership at this level offers comprehensive services. Our membership fees are set on a sliding scale depending on the number of vowed members and associates in the Community—defined as congregation/province/region/governing unit or monastery. An Associate Community incorporated as a 501(c)3 and/or the Kenedy Directory **and** operating independently of a canonical governing unit, also qualify for *Community Membership* status.

### What are the benefits of a Community Membership in NACAR?

Most importantly, it provides you with the opportunity to be part of the larger Associate-Religious movement across North America.

## **Benefits:**

1. Opportunity to be part of the larger Associate-Religious movement across North America.
2. Opportunity to give witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in our world today.
3. Discounted Individual Membership for any Vowed Member or Associate in your Community - governing unit/province/congregation/region/monastery.
4. Unlimited discounted fees for workshops and conferences.
5. Access to Member section of NACAR website including the consultant directory.
6. Reception of monthly e-newsletter from the Board of Directors
7. Reception of *The Associate* e-magazine three times a year to share with your Community.
8. Access to the Leadership Manual; Rookies Rock; and CARA study at a discounted rate for each listed member.
9. Access to surveys, research and articles pertaining to the associate movement.
10. Assistance in connecting with regional associate groups throughout North America.
11. A listing of the Community on our online Membership Directory.
12. A link to the Community's website from the NACAR website.
13. Access to postings on the NACAR website for jobs free of charge.
14. Available resources regarding issues, concerns and trends in Associate-Religious relationship.
15. Opportunities to address issues that impact associate-religious life, such as online forums like Creative Conversations.
16. Opportunities for continuing education, leadership development and professional growth.
17. Access to resources to address specific Community's needs, such as retreat and workshop facilitators.

## What are the yearly fees for Community Membership?

Community Membership fees are on a sliding scale based on the **total number of Vowed Members and Associates in the Community.**

If the Total Number equals:	Fees are:	Number of Listed Members
125 or less	\$150	5
126 – 249	\$250	8
250 – 499	\$350	12
500 or more	\$450	15

## What does Listed Members Mean?

Listed Members are designed for associate directors, community leadership, associates, communication directors or anyone in your community who has a desire to keep informed of trends, information, and resources regarding the Associate Movement in North America and also desires to support the efforts of NACAR and the Associate-Religious movement.

You receive memberships based on your sliding scale fees. Listed Members **must have an email address** in order to receive communications. **A primary contact must be listed for the community. The primary contact is the first person NACAR will contact for the community regarding membership benefits, renewal or other issues.**

## How do I become a Community Member of NACAR?

**Complete the membership form online** or email or mail your membership form along with your listed membership forms to the NACAR address below. To pay your annual dues, postal mail (US currency only please) to the address below or go to our website and pay by credit card or PayPal (<http://nacar.org/community-member-dues.html>).

NACAR  
Associate Office  
5900 Delhi Road  
Mt. St. Joseph, OH 45051-1500

Email: [info@nacar.org](mailto:info@nacar.org)  
Website: [www.nacar.org](http://www.nacar.org)  
Phone: 253-256-2227

## How do I access the Member Only section of the website?

Each listed member has access to the members only section of the website. To register on the Website: Go to [www.nacar.org](http://www.nacar.org) Click on Register in the top right corner and follow the prompts. If you need assistance, contact [webadmin@nacar.org](mailto:webadmin@nacar.org)

**Please note:** To register for the NACAR website you must be either an individual member or one of the listed members for your Community. Registration for the website is a separate process from becoming a member.