

Canadian Anglican Cursillo

Re-starting a Closed Cursillo Movement



Cursillo has a single purpose, which is to convert Christians to a deeper relationship with God and to help them to understand their individual calling to be Christian leaders. In some dioceses, Cursillo Movements have been forced to close for a variety of reasons, often because leadership has become burned out, numbers are dwindling at Fourth Day events, and Cursillo weekends have ceased. However, this does not mean that Cursillo cannot become re-started. Many Cursillistas continue to be active in Group Reunions, and there may come a time when a diocese wishes to have an active Cursillo Movement once more.

In order to re-start a closed Cursillo Movement in a diocese the following steps are recommended:

1. Cursillistas who are in a diocese where Cursillo has ceased to operate need to begin to group together regularly and pray about whether it is God's will to re-start a Cursillo movement in the diocese. Discernment is a necessary part of the process.
2. A small working group of Cursillistas need to meet with the Diocesan Bishop and make sure that he/she understands what Cursillo is, and that the Bishop desires to have Cursillo as part of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. At this meeting:
 - Discuss with the Bishop what needs to be done to re-start the Movement in the Diocese.
 - Provide the Bishop with a copy of the NEC (National Episcopal Cursillo) Library and CACS (Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat) Library so that he/she becomes familiar with the information provided in these resources.
 - Ask the Bishop to appoint an interim-working Secretariat consisting of members who have had considerable Cursillo experience, i.e. served on CACS, Diocesan Cursillo Secretariat, weekend teams, etc. These members are charged with whatever mandate the Bishop gives them. It is recommended that this Secretariat be kept reasonably small with no more than four people, one of which should be Clergy.
3. The mandate of the appointed Secretariat should be a renewed focus on the basics of the Cursillo Movement especially utilizing the abundance of official publications available. Time needs to be spent at first by studying the purpose of the Movement and the application of its methods.

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4. The Secretariat then needs to set out specific goals for the local Cursillo community.

The Cursillo community should encourage the continuation and growth of local Ultreyas which are open to all, and not just members of Cursillo and Group Reunions. It is important that there be **no** weekends during this interim period.

Group Reunions should be encouraged to continue and grow.

Role of the Interim Secretariat

Here are some suggestions for a smooth evaluation period during the re-starting of the Cursillo Movement:

1. Evaluate the local Cursillo Movement in the light of the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat (CACS) Guidelines and NEC Library.
2. Review and revise Diocesan Cursillo Guidelines so that the vision and program may be renewed. If Diocesan Cursillo guidelines need revision, use the CACS and NEC Libraries to make the new diocesan guidelines consistent with the Cursillo method.
3. Hold several meetings with the Diocesan Bishop to ensure his/her mandate for renewal is clear.
4. Recommend additional appointments to the Interim Secretariat.
5. Hold meetings of the Interim Secretariat on a monthly or every six week basis.
6. Invite the Bishop to attend the Interim Secretariat meetings and always keep him/her informed with the progress and process.
7. Follow the Bishop's mandate.
8. If the Bishop makes specific requests (e.g. composition of Secretariat) make sure to follow them.
9. Facilitate the nomination of a new permanent Diocesan Secretariat, the members of which would be appointed by the Bishop and/or elected by a Grand Ultreya as required by Cursillo guidelines. Once the new Diocesan Secretariat has been formed, the interim Secretariat would be dismissed by the Bishop since their mandate would be complete.
10. Prepare and sponsor a Diocesan service of rededication for the Cursillo community with a speaker from the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat (CACS) and include a time of refreshment and fellowship following the service.
11. Organize a weekend Cursillo Learners' Workshop, led by a team from CACS, for all potential/future Diocesan Secretariat members, weekend team members, Ultreya, and Group Reunion members.
12. Encourage local Ultreyas and Group Reunions as soon as possible.

Re-starting a closed Cursillo Movement is not something that will happen overnight. It is a process which needs to be taken carefully in a planned manner. Expect it to take one to two years before Cursillo weekends begin again. The Diocesan Secretariat and all other Fourth Day activities need to be firmly in place before the start-up of Cursillo weekends.

Support is available to your Movement from the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat representative for your area.