



# Rooster Tales

## News from Across Canada



### Triennial General Meeting

On Saturday June 26, 2021, Cursillo did a very new thing and held its first ever Virtual General Meeting. With the onset of a worldwide pandemic, so many activities had to change, and most secretariats had already switched to an online meeting format, including CACS. In the fall of 2020, it became very apparent that an in-person Triennial Conference was not going to be possible in 2021 but it was still necessary to have a general meeting and with an increasing level of comfort with online platforms, plans were made for the meeting part to go on. All the diocesan secretariats were invited to sign up. Our zoom license is limited to 100 people but could have been expanded if required. Over 60 people logged on, mostly with video but some called in by phone. One hour 45 minutes was allocated for the meeting part and it proved a challenge to get it all done and allow for discussion.

In the meeting, several motions were passed, including the motion to adopt the shortened weekend as outlined on the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry website as an option for weekends. There is new wording around a couple of the financial articles to increase clarity and considering our current inability to have in-person CACS meetings and to be proactive to the future, a change in the wording around meetings. continued...

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The break time was shortened as the Primate, Linda Nicholls (out speaker) was on a strict timeline. The world for most clergy has not gotten any easier and if anything, their lives must be lived to a much stricter schedule in this time of virtual gatherings. Primate Linda spoke of the discoveries of unmarked graves as the sites of residential schools and on colonial responsibility. She spoke of dialogue and optimism from her indigenous colleagues and contacts, who do not turn away from the message of Christ's forgiveness for us all.

The newly acclaimed CACS team was invested by the Primate except for Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson who was occupied in the election of a new bishop for the Diocese of Edmonton.

It was a delight to see so many faces, and while it is not the same as in-person, there is no by-play of conversation and mixing and mingling, no chance to get caught up with old acquaintances and make new ones, and the encouragement and confirmation that we are all part of a bigger work whose importance is undimmed even in these most trying of times.

*Archbishop Linda Nicholls*



## Cursillo as a “Movement”

Rev. Canon Stephanie Pellow

Cursillo is known in many parts of the world as a movement within the church in a variety of its denominations. That title is part of our Letter of Agreement with the Roman Catholic Cursillo Movement in the U.S.A. through which we have the legal right to use the name, content and resource materials that are based on Cursillos de Cristiandad as they were first conceived in the late 1940's. However, a Cursillista recently expressed to me that in their diocese there is some discomfort in using the term “movement”. Some years back, I heard something similar in my own diocese when I held the position of Spiritual Director. I decided to do a little thinking on the possible reasons for this discomfort.

Webster's Dictionary lists several meanings for the word “movement” but the one that serves our purpose reads as follows; “the activities of a group toward the achievement of a goal”. The shoes fits, so to speak. One expression of our goal would be that we hope and plan to encourage Christians to be open to a closer relationship with our Creator through Jesus the Christ with the enabling of the Holy Spirit and as a community, to help them to find their calling to serve in their life's environments. This sounds very much like one of the goals of the church as a whole as well.

So, what could be the root of the discomfort with the term “movement”? I would suggest we look at the history of the great social movements of the last two hundred years; things like abolition of the slave trade, suffrage, especially suffrage for women, the Labour Movement and the Civil Rights Movement. All of these movements had laudable and ethically responsible goals. Many, many people benefitted in various ways from these social movements. But in each instance, there was resistance to change, societal disruption and often a physical manifestation in the form of demonstrations and in the extreme, violence. I would suggest that besides the obvious benefits achieved by those movements, they have also left an undesirable legacy, a negative perception of the nature of a movement. I would also suggest that this is an unconscious reaction to the idea of a “movement” in the minds of some.

How then can we overcome this unconscious reaction when we meet it in conjunction with Cursillo. Communication is our best tool. We can continually show how the goals of the Cursillo Movement are congruent with the goals of the church. Loving God and loving our neighbours as ourselves is the basis of what we are about. Any teaching we do points to Jesus as our teacher and any loving actions we perform are the outflowing of the love of God we experience for ourselves.

Programs may come and go, diocesan initiatives may come and go, but we can embrace the title of “Movement” because any organization that has persisted successfully for more than seventy-three years in diverse places has earned it.

## Message from the Chair



### Chair – Anne Gould

Anne made her Cursillo weekend in the spring of 2014 at Mount Mary's Ancaster. She has served on weekend team in many roles and was on the Niagara Huron Secretariat for 6 years.

Anne Worships at St. Paul's Shelburne and is the treasurer and Children's Ministry leader. She is involved in the worship service wherever needed as greeter, reader, prayers, singing and on occasion, preacher. 2020 was her first year as lay delegate to Synod. Cursillo has had a strong influence on how she conducts her life at church, home and work.

My son and I adopted a 'covid' dog last fall. If you have not heard of this term, it refers to the timing of the adoption, not illness of the dog. With the increase of personal time, pet adopting has soared as people have more free time to devote to a pet and has fulfilled the need for social contact during a pandemic. Pets have kept us sane!

We have been lucky, in a household of three adults (currently 5 as my daughter and her significant other moved in this spring) we have not suffered from isolation and loneliness or unemployment. The desire to adopt a dog had been on my son's mind for quite a while and the timing seemed right.

Based only on a short video clip, I emailed adoption papers and went to our local SPCA. We came home with Jasper, a 3 ½ year old, 60 lb tricoloured mutt. His ability to play fetch for as long as you are willing and fixation on food, cats, squirrels, food, rabbits, birds, other dogs, food, people with food has made us believe there is a fair bit of lab in him.

Jasper has brought a great deal of laughter and joy into our lives and my day now begins with a ½ hour to 45 minute walk every morning. We are blessed with a park and trails near by that afford a place to throw a ball, poop off the trail and walk. Mostly we have the trails to ourselves so early in the morning and the blessing of watching the horizon grow brighter with the first rays of sun on a winter morning has been the fuel to get me through the short days of winter. Now when we go, he chases the ball over and over again. Then we walk the trail at a fair clip to keep ahead of the mosquitos!

I am a back yard gardener of sorts and am happy to plant perennials and see how they do but have never planted with much on a garden plan. I have become this summer, very aware of nature's natural plan, of successions of plants coming up and blooming, being followed by other plants, the scene ever changing from predominantly one type of flowering plant to the next; the colour pallet blending and changing as the season progresses. I think back, and it is hard to believe that the first bloomers were ever there, so overgrown with different plants now. Soon the asters and goldenrod will take over from the Queen Anne's lace and milkweed and the colours will change again, through a different part of the colour wheel.

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Life is seasonal, life is cyclical. There is no straight line, no sharp beginning or ending. The pandemic may never truly be over, as the virus becomes part of the plethora of viruses humans endure. But already it is less deadly as vaccine rates rise. There will come an end to the isolation and mask protocols, restrictions and occupancy limits and life will move on. We will and are adjusting our ways and practices and some are for the better. Working from home and online meeting options free us from traveling constantly in a country where distances have been a barrier to many. Zoom and other platforms like it will continue and improve. Our diocesan Bishop is asking that churches that embraced an online service presence, not give that up once we are back in our buildings but continue to offer it as an alternative. 'Shut in' need not have the connotation of 'left out'. Staying away because you are sick doesn't mean you will have to miss out.



What ways has Cursillo changed and what are the benefits of those changes. People have engaged in Ultreyas who haven't been to one in years. People from across the country are joining in on Ultreyas out of their province. Can we imagine a future Ultreya as a combination of live and online? What about meetings? Must they return to in-person only? Is there room for a blended meeting allowing people to chose to not travel especially when the weather interferes. What about weekends and trainings? What new ideas will we embrace coming out of this time of upheaval and change. When so many groups are feeling that people do not want to commit to being involved, is this an opportunity to change what that involvement looks like? What new thing is God calling us to do?



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Round Table Discussion

This was well received. The total attendance was 22 (8 clergy 14 laity) including CACS members, some of whom are active members of their Diocesan Secretariat. CACS will host this annually.

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## News from Across the Country

**British Columbia –** The last year has been very quiet, with Covid restrictions in place. Our AGM in March 2021 was held over Zoom, as were the Secretariat meetings, post-Cursillo event (after the Cursillo weekend in March 2020) and 2 Ultreyas.

**Niagara Huron -** We are still working on our new model of ten parishes to introduce Cursillo to the priests and congregation. By implementing a servant community, we hope to draw Cursillistas into a more active role of sharing the Good News and conversation of everyone's role before, during, and after a Cursillo Weekend, giving support where needed.

We have updated our By-Laws and will present them at the AM.

**NS/PEI –** Secretariat completed a strategic review of various aspects of our Cursillo movement. A document was created from that review and is attached here. We had a number of action items from that session and have begun the work to respond to the action items. We will be having a session with the larger Cursillo movement to develop a vision document and plan.

**Qu'Appelle –** In the last few months the Secretariat has been focused on regular meetings, grouping and planning for our AGM on June 5, 2021. At the AGM a motion will be put forward to prayerfully work towards holding a weekend in spring 2022 with the understanding if we cannot make that happen it may be time to wind Cursillo down in the Diocese.

**Edmonton—** After a year of dormancy, we regrouped and held a very successful Zoom Ultreya on February 19, 2021. In my opinion, it helped me see that everything needed to change. Our in-person Ultreyas were sparsely attended, we had no new energy coming in to volunteer for Weekend leadership. I think those who come back to our online activities will be those who can be approached for future roles within our movement.

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2021-2024 CACS

### REPRESENTING THE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCES:

#### CHAIR

Anne Gould,  
(Diocese of Niagara)

#### PAST CHAIR

Marion Bailey,  
(Huron Diocese)

Rev. Yvonne Thistle,  
(Diocese of Central Nfld)

#### CANADA

Rev. Canon Stephanie Pellow,  
(Niagara Diocese)

#### ONTARIO

Shelley Brushett  
(Diocese of NS & PEI)  
CANADA

Margaret (Marni) Crossley  
(Ottawa Diocese)  
ONTARIO

Jennifer Jacobs  
(Diocese of Qu'Appelle)  
RUPERT'S LAND

Dave Baker  
(Calgary Diocese)  
RUPERTS LAND

Dianne Mains  
(Diocese of British Columbia)  
BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON

Check out the website:

[www.anglicancursillo.com](http://www.anglicancursillo.com)

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Our online Zoom showed that people can attend from anywhere across our diocese and country without driving hazardous roads and meeting in a church basement.

Algoma—We have not been meeting either as Secretariat or having Ultreyas. Everything has stopped since the beginning of the pandemic. As with so many areas, our Secretariat is filled by people who already have so many responsibilities that Cursillo ended up on the back burner. We had been planning a weekend, which was delayed then delayed again. There was such a hope this would have been over quicker, but every time there is a break, we go back into a total lockdown again. As time has moved on, it was just not a job that was re-upped. These meetings have brought it back to the fore and as I mentioned, we will be holding a Secretariat meeting within the next two months.

RESOURCES

[www.anglicancursiil.com](http://www.anglicancursiil.com)

Canadian Anglican Cursillo

Like us on



**CACS Guidelines and Helpful Hints** documents can be found on this website under the dropdown menu “Guidelines/Helpful Hints”

The CACS publication “**To Be a Pilgrim**” – A Fourth Day handbook for new Cursillistas is also available to download as an [Adobe Reader pdf](#) (200KB) file or a [Word doc](#) (33KB) file

**ECM Library** can now be downloaded “free” from the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry website at <http://www.episcopalcursilloministry.org/>

**Heartbeat of the Church** From the Anglican Church of Canada. This is a “free” resource to download that is designed to stimulate dialogue, prayer, and reflection.

<https://www.anglican.ca/heartbeat/>

## Prayer Requests:

Diocese of British Columbia: We are needing a rector/rectora for the next Cursillo weekend, which will not be until 2022 at the earliest.

Diocese of Niagara Huron: We wish to ask for prayers for our "Introduction to Cursillo" Workshop being planned for this November. That it will prove to be instrumental in "demystifying" and better informing new Cursillistas and those interested in learning more about Cursillo. We also ask for prayers as we seek out new Secretariat members that will bring a fresh commitment to the movement and give a continued spirit of unity and Christian servanthood.

Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI: Please pray for a successful recruitment for a Communications and Post Cursillo Director for the Nova Scotia/PEI movement. Please pray that our Ultreyas will continue to be successful.

Diocese of Qu'Appelle: Pray for wisdom to act as our Lord is directing.