



Canadian Anglican Cursillo

Two Cursillo Movements – One Secretariat

Restarting a closed Cursillo Movement can be a herculean task. Strong movements can lose momentum and weak movements can gain strength, from time to time. This is dependant on different reasons. The ideal is for The Cursillo Method to be followed, using all the resources provided, so that Movements will remain strong and grow. This, however, is not a perfect world. We have seen a model of parish churches merging to become one healthier parish, for a variety of reasons. In a perfect world, this would not be necessary either.

The Guideline Resource: Re-starting a Closed Cursillo Movement states that: "*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.*"

Once a small working group of Cursillistas has discerned that it is God's will to re-start a Cursillo movement in their diocese and have met with their Diocesan Bishop as noted in the Guideline Resource: Re-starting a Closed Cursillo Movement, they should:

- Discuss with the Bishop what needs to be done to revive the Movement in the Diocese and the possibility of working together with another Diocese with an active Movement and established Secretariat.
- Provide the Bishop with the Website links to the ECM (Episcopal Cursillo Ministry) Library and CACS (Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat) Library so that he/she becomes familiar with the information provided in these resources.
- The Bishops of both Dioceses should discuss this suggestion. Joint approval is necessary before anything can move forward. If both Diocesans agree to working as one Movement, then ask the Bishop of the Restarting Movement to appoint Observers to the Host 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

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mandate the Bishop gives them. It is recommended that this Interim Secretariat be kept reasonably small with no more than four people, one of whom should be Clergy.

**It is important that the current, active Secretariat (Lay Director and Spiritual Director) should be involved in the discussions with the Observers and the Bishops. It is important that it is a joint decision to move forward with all parties in agreement, right from the start. Transparency is integral.

- Meet with the Bishop of the Host Secretariat and discuss the working plan. The current, active Secretariat, Lay Director and Spiritual Director should be involved in a discussion with both Bishops, and it should be a joint decision to move forward.
- The Observers should attend the Host Diocesan Secretariat meetings. They have no vote at this point and hold no chair, however, are encouraged to be active in the Servant Community, growing relationships with prayer and discernment.

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. In addition, they need to seek names of Cursillistas in their diocese who were active. Call each name and ask them if they would be willing to recommit to Group Reunion and Ultreya under the new leadership. It is advisable to attend any event with a script and a story board (i.e. Synod, Annual Meetings, Cursillo Talks at churches – wherever possible) to let your Diocese know this is happening. The Host Secretariat should also make their membership aware of the relationship with the other Diocese.

Both Cursillo communities should encourage the continuation and growth of Host Ultreyas which are open to all, and not just members of Cursillo and Group Reunions. It is important to sponsor new Cursillistas to the Host Movement's weekends and to encourage group reunion and attendance at Ultreyas organized by the Host Secretariat. Ultreyas should be held in both Dioceses, as well as Days of Deeper Understanding, using a mixture of talent from both Dioceses.

The appointed Secretariat should meet regularly (at least annually) with both Diocesan Bishops to ensure his/her mandate for renewal is clear. Follow the Bishop's mandate. If the Bishop makes specific requests (e.g. composition of Secretariat) make sure to follow them. A timeline for this process should be no less than 2 years.

After the (two year) trial period, the two dioceses should facilitate the nomination of a new permanent Diocesan Secretariat, with members from both Dioceses, 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, a position for a 'Liaison' for the

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restarting Diocese should be established, to encourage growth and communication. It would be helpful, now that they have experience, for their term to be renewed, once, by their Bishop, according to their pleasure.

If possible, 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. Encourage local Ultreyas and Group Reunions as soon as possible.

Bringing two Diocesan Movements together to work with one Secretariat 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 three to five years before this will be accepted as normal. The Diocesan Secretariat and all other Fourth Day activities need to be shared with happy hearts and prayer.

Support is available to your Movements from the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat representative for your areas.