



EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY

GROWING CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERS

Pastoral Plan for the Episcopal Cursillo® Ministry (ECM)

MISSION: To serve Christ and the Episcopal Church as stewards of the Cursillo Ministry.

The purpose of the Pastoral Plan is to state the vision of the Cursillo Ministry, to give direction, and establish responsibility. It is written as a covenant between the Presiding Bishop and the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. It should be reviewed, updated and revised periodically, as needed, by the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee.

IDENTIFICATION OF EPISCOPAL CURSILLO

Cursillo, known as a short course in Christian life, is a ministry of the Episcopal Church, under the authority of the Presiding Bishop and Diocesan Bishops. It is a ministry of clergy and laity within and governed by the Church. The goal of Cursillo is to bring the world to Christ by empowering adult Christian leaders through the use of a specific method that is taught as part of the Episcopal Cursillo Weekend. The method, an evangelistic tool, enables and encourages Christians to live out their Baptismal Covenant and to change environments for Christ. The real centerpiece of the Cursillo Ministry is the Fourth Day (the rest of one's life after having attended a Weekend). The weekend is merely a catalyst to inspire and empower Christians to be witnesses for Jesus Christ in the world.

The goal of the Cursillo Ministry is to change the world for Christ – to create “authentic disciples,” Christians empowered by a vision for apostolic action and strengthened through prayer, sacraments, study and community. This goal links directly to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's invitation to all Episcopalians to become more and more Christ-centered followers of Jesus – that is, disciples who are deeply in love with and changed by Jesus – and then to welcome others into loving, liberating and life-giving relationship with God, with each other and with creation.

Guided by the priorities set by the 2015 General Convention, Episcopalians everywhere are learning what it means to grow in loving, liberating and life-giving relationship ...

... **with God: EVANGELISM** - To embrace evangelism and the sharing of the good news of God's incredible, reconciling love that we know in Jesus.

... **with each other: RECONCILIATION** - To embrace the serious work of reconciliation between human beings across all the divides.

... **with creation: CREATION CARE** - To care for the whole of God's Creation... We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship.

This is the “Jesus Movement,” and we are the Episcopal branch of that Movement. To help our church to accomplish these goals and live into this Movement, Cursillo has identified four steps:

1. **Find Christians** who have the potential to influence their environments, which may be home, work, church, geographic, or social in nature;
2. **Encourage those Christians** – help them to see that God is calling them to do His work where they are and help them offer themselves to that work;
3. **Empower those Christians** with the means God offers through the Church to be effective apostles, help them identify their particular Christian vocation within their environments; and
4. **Link those Christians** with one another for the work of apostolic action through spiritual direction, regular small group reunions, and frequent gathering of the groups for encouragement—Ultreya!

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PASTORAL PLAN

Cursillo plays a crucial role in helping the whole Episcopal Church to live as the Jesus Movement. For decades, Cursillo has been one of the most powerful ways in which Episcopalians grow as passionate disciples of Jesus Christ who want their faith to manifest in their lives and relationships. Knowing this, the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee commits itself to do the following, with God's help:

1. Become a reconciling force in the Episcopal Church and in our communities - crossing lines of class, race, gender and age, and centering our work in our unity in Christ.
2. Facilitate communication with bishops and their clergy and between diocesan ministries.
3. Develop methods to revitalize and increase the significance of Cursillo as a tool used by the church to empower the leadership and grow new Christ-centered leaders.
4. Foster the development of Christ-centered leaders with the wider church community.
5. Encourage and empower intergenerational involvement in the Cursillo Ministry
6. Provide financial support to establish or revitalize Cursillo ministries in dioceses, both in the United States and in other parts of the world.
7. Update the Cursillo publications, which delineate the philosophy of Cursillo and the operational practices for diocesan ministries, and make them available in the languages of the people, including Spanish, French, Creole as well as English.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ECM

The General Council, made up of representatives from each affiliated and contributing diocese, governs the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. It is the body that sets policy and adopts budgets for the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. That body is divided into five geographic districts. Each district elects three representatives to the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee (ECMC). The General Council meets at the annual ECM Conference.

The Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee (ECMC)

The ECMC is the guiding body of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. It has the following subcommittees to develop and implement the policies, programs, and services of the General Council.

ECMC Officers – A president, president elect, vice president, and secretary are elected from the ECMC and commissioned at each annual Conference. A treasurer is appointed by the ECMC for an indefinite term. This Executive Committee meets on-line regularly with the Presiding Bishop's appointed liaison to the House of Bishops, to conduct the business of Cursillo and communicates with the subcommittee chairs and district representatives to support their endeavors. They also communicate with other Fourth Day ministries to maintain positive relationships with them.

Conference Committee – Annual Conferences are planned and coordinated by a Conference committee chair, appointed by the ECMC. Annual Conferences (seminars) have been held since 1975. These Conferences provide a forum for communicating the required information to the General Council and conduct educational sessions on Cursillo related topics. These Conferences are held in various locations around the country and are supported by a local host committee.

Cursillo Leaders Development – The CLD subcommittee coordinates programs and workshops, which include the Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop (ECLW) and the Cursillo Information Day for Clergy (CID/C). Each of these can be held on invitation from a diocesan Cursillo community. The CLD subcommittee offers a pre-Conference ECLW. In addition, the district representatives and the district Servant Community Coordinator plan and implement regional district meetings, which allow local Cursillo communities to share ideas. These regional meetings offer opportunities to discuss common problems and also to gather for worship and fellowship. From time to time the CLD subcommittee develops surveys to monitor the health and well-being of Cursillo communities.

Consultation for Renewal

A Consulting Servant Community (made up of ECM Veterans) is available at the request of local dioceses to evaluate and make recommendations for the renewal and/or restart of the Cursillo Ministry. This Servant Community is responsible to the Cursillo Leaders Development Subcommittee.

Publications -- The Publications subcommittee develops, revises and updates printed materials that provide a consistent source for implementing the Cursillo Ministry throughout the Church. These materials are currently available at no cost on the ECM website www.episcopalcursilloministry.org (www.nationalepiscopalcursillo.org).

Communication -- The Communications subcommittee is responsible for the website, regular online communication, and the ***Fourth Day Magazine***.

Finance/Fund Raising Servant Community -- This Servant Community takes care of the financial matters of the ECM and is responsible to the ECM Executive Committee.



Veronica Hinkson
President, Episcopal Cursillo Ministry

The Right Reverend Martin S. Field
Liaison to the House of Bishops

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop