

Canadian Anglican Cursillo



Diocesan Secretariat

A Diocesan Cursillo Movement needs informed, devoted leaders to fulfill the purpose of Cursillo. The selection and training of such leaders should consider the need for both continuity and change. Diocesan Movements acknowledge that their existence is authorized and contingent upon the Letter of Agreement with the National Secretariat of the United States Catholic Cursillo Movement, dated May 15, 1989, and that they operate under the authority of the Diocesan Bishop and the Constitution, By-laws and Guidelines of Episcopal Cursillo Ministry (ECM) and the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat (CACS).

Diocesan Movements should establish and operate under individual Constitutions, By-laws and Guidelines developed in accordance with those of ECM. CACS and the Bishop's Pastoral Plan. This is necessary to operate as a Charitable Organization under Federal laws and regulations.

What is Secretariat?

The Diocesan Secretariat is the body of leaders under the authority of the Bishop(s) responsible for developing and guiding the Cursillo Movement. It seeks through Piety, Study and Action to develop an apostolic plan for ongoing transformations of environments for Christ.

It is the administrative arm of the Diocesan Movement and should be small enough to function as a Group Reunion. The Secretariat is part of the Servant Community and responsible to it.

The organizational demands of the Secretariat should be kept to a minimum. As a method, the Cursillo Movement demands only sufficient authority and organization to achieve its purpose. Its structure should be simple, flexible, and focused. Its purpose is not power but empowerment; its authority should be viewed as one of service to the world-wide Cursillo Movement.

Structure of Secretariat

While Secretariat members may be appointed by the Secretariat itself, with the approval of the Bishop, it is preferable to have a combination of appointed and elected positions. It is recommended that a General Meeting of the Servant Community be held, at least annually for the election and/or appointment of members, approval of budgets and care should be taken to ensure that Secretariat members be diverse and include people of

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varied ages from different parishes to maintain a reasonable balance. All members must be active in the Servant Community.

A suggested model is:

- A Spiritual Director appointed by the Bishop.
- A Lay Director appointed by the Bishop on the suggestion of the Secretariat.
- An elected Secretary.
- An elected Treasurer.
- Elected Chairs for the Working Groups that should include a Weekend Committee, a Pre-Cursillo Committee, a Post-Cursillo (Fourth Day) Committee, a Palanca Committee, a Music Committee, and a Communications Committee. Members of the Working Groups may be appointed by Secretariat but are responsible to it through the elected chair. This involves more people, eases the workload provides accountability, as well as training and equipping of new leaders.
- A method of selecting and preparing successors for the positions of Lay Director and Spiritual Director should be developed.

Qualifications and Expectations

Members of Secretariat should be representative of all areas of the diocese and should be from different parishes. All Secretariat members should:

- Be active members of a Group Reunion.
- Be active members of the Servant Community for at least one year and attended a CLW before or during their term of office.
- Have served on a Cursillo Weekend Team at least once before assuming office.
- Read and familiarize themselves with the CACS Guidelines, the ECM Library and Leaders Manual, the Diocesan Constitution, By-laws and Guidelines and other official literature as appropriate early in their term.
- Be committed to promoting the Authentic Cursillo.
- Work together to promote a spirit of love, unity, and trust.
- Uphold the movement and each other in prayer.
- Have a fixed term of office, suggested to be no longer than three years, staggered so that only two or three members change each year to ensure a mixture of experienced and new members.

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The Diocesan Bishop must approve the composition of the entire Secretariat. The Lay Director and Spiritual Director must be members of the Anglican Church of Canada. Members from other denominations may serve on Secretariat in other capacities to a maximum of 10% of the appointed/elected membership.

Responsibilities of Secretariat

The local Diocesan Secretariat is responsible to the Servant Community for:

- Establishing and maintaining ties with CACS through the semi-annual reports, and ensuring that financial support for CACS as per CACS Guidelines is provided annually from the Diocesan Movement
- Ensuring that their movement is authentic to the Method.
- Developing an apostolic plan for ongoing transformations of environments for Christ.
- Secretariat should engage in succession planning by engaging in CLW's, job shadowing and visioning for the future.