

By-laws for the Diocese of Upper South Carolina Cursillo Movement

Purpose

The Cursillo Movement of Upper South Carolina shall identify, equip, and sustain Episcopalians through the use of Cursillo techniques in order that they might effectively evangelize their environments. The movement will constantly strive to serve as a vehicle through which Christ may direct His servants toward seeking discernment of and acting upon His apostolic plan.

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Episcopalian is defined as any baptized Christian and member in good standing, as defined by the parish priest, of any parish in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

Article I. Approach

The Diocese of Upper South Carolina Cursillo Movement accepts the basic tenet that a truly spirit-filled Christian walk requires an equal effort to produce results in three areas: spiritual piety, Biblical study, and apostolic action. Through the use of Group Reunion, Ultreya, Spiritual Direction, ~~Servant Community~~, Day of Deeper Understanding, and Cursillo Weekends, the movement will prepare, instill confidence, and sustain its participants in their quest to evangelize their environments.

Article II. Participants

Recognizing that all Christians are part of the Body of Christ and that the Cursillo Movement is just one evangelical approach for Episcopalians to use, and implies no exclusivity, it is the intent of the movement that Cursillo participants turn their hearts, souls and minds towards Christ and His work with renewed commitment, strength and courage. The Cursillo method (i.e., Group Reunion, Ultreya) is offered in support of these goals. Participation in these activities is available to all Episcopalians at large and is encouraged.

Article III. National Relationship

The Diocese of Upper South Carolina Cursillo Movement respectfully acknowledges that its existence is authorized and contingent upon its faithful adherence to the tenets and directions of both our Bishop and the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry (ECM) Movement by-laws and associated regulations.

Article IV. Cursillo Council

The Cursillo Council, also known as the Secretariat, will provide the direction for the movement as received from our Bishop and the ECM (Episcopal Cursillo Ministry). The Council will consist of at least nine (9) lay representatives and three (3) spiritual directors at large from within the diocese. The election of lay representatives will be staggered in such a way as to have no more than one third of the Council turn over at any one time.

Staggered Vacancies. In December of each year, the existing Council will elect Council members to replace those members rotating off the Council. Additional Council members may be elected as deemed necessary.

The terms of the lay representatives will be for a period of three (3) years with one intervening year between another serving term. However, only for the purpose of willing officer positions of President, Treasurer, or Secretary, a lay representative may serve a fourth year on Council. See Article V.

Other Vacancies. Should a lay representative find himself or herself unable to complete his or her term, the Council will elect a replacement from the recommended list used for the previous elections, if possible.

An individual who fulfills a partial term is eligible for re-election the Council for a full term if his or her total service will not exceed four (4) years.

Council members are to be active in Group Reunion, Ultreya, Day of Deeper Understanding.

Council Spiritual Directors. Spiritual Directors for the Council will be elected on an annual basis for a one (1) year term. Incomplete or partial terms will be filled as soon as possible.

Article V. Council Officers

The lay offices of the Council will include President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each officer will serve a term that is a period of one (1) year. Election of the President will take place at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the calendar year. If more than one nominee is made for an office, election will be held by written ballot.

The President may serve a fourth (4th) year on Council as President, even if his or her term is completed at the end of the third (3rd) year. An individual can serve as many as two (2) successive terms in a single leadership position. Only current Council members can vote in the election. The office of President-Elect will receive nominations from Council at the last meeting of the year.

Article VI. Council President

The Council President will act as:

The EDUSC representative to the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry (ECM) Committee.

The presiding officer at all official Cursillo functions (i.e., Council meetings, ~~Servant Community~~, and Cursillo closings).

Lay representative to the Bishop concerning all Cursillo nominations, policies, schedules and pastoral plan(s). In addition, he or she will prepare an annual written report to be submitted to the diocesan convention.

Article VII. Council Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Coordinator

There shall be a Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications Coordinator annually appointed by the President from Council membership or at large from the Cursillo Community and confirmed by the Council, who shall carry out the customary duties of such offices. At large appointments shall act as ex-officio and non-voting members.

Article VIII. Council Meetings

There shall be a minimum of four (4) meetings per year, one each quarter, at which a quorum must be present. Additional meetings may be scheduled as recommended by the President, with or without a quorum being present.

The business of any meeting without a quorum being present may be subsequently ratified electronically by a quorum of all voting Council members, ensuring that Council members have received the appropriate electronic communication. This voting shall be certified by the President and Secretary and minutes published.

At the first regularly scheduled Council meeting of the calendar year, the newly formed Council will establish a schedule for the next meeting, or by electronic or telephonic communication within one week of meeting date, and a tentative schedule for the remainder of the Council year.

Each regularly scheduled meeting would be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order except as amended by the Council. In order for any binding policy or resolution to pass, a quorum must have voted. A quorum will be defined as one half plus one of the total number of voting positions.

Lay members are encouraged to declare Cursillo their primary apostolate, as their active attendance and participation at Council meetings is essential. It is incumbent on each member to recognize his or her vital role.

Article IX. By-Law Distribution

The Secretary of the Council will maintain the original of the by-laws. In addition, he or she will provide a copy to each member of the Council and make copies upon request for any Episcopalian both within or outside the diocese.

Article X. Guidelines/Policies

Guidelines/Policies for conducting the activities of the Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina in any or all areas of its life and work, consistent with these bylaws may be established by a majority vote of the Council.

The Council will publish and review annually the Guidelines/Policies so established.

Article XIII. Amendments

Following their adoption by a majority vote of those Council members present, these bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the council, provided that the proposed amendment will have been submitted in writing to the Council at the previous month's meeting. The amendment must receive a majority vote for adoption.

Article XIV. Effective Date

These By-Laws shall take effect this 14th day of March, 1989.

- Amended October 29, 1996.
- Amended July 21, 2001.
- Amended November 10, 2001.
- Amended December 9, 2006.
- Amended September 9, 2007.
- Amended January 16, 2010.
- Amended May 16, 2014.
- Amended April 21, 2015.
- Amended December 19, 2015.
- Amended February 15, 2020
- Amended November 5, 2022
- Amended September 21, 2023