

CURSILLO

IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SPONSORED BY THE BISHOP OF PITTSBURGH

CURSILLO (kur-see-yo) is a Spanish word that means “a little course.” A Cursillo begins with a weekend experience during which participants “live what is fundamental to being a Christian” in a Christian community where prayer support, love, and joy are emphasized. A Cursillo weekend enlivens people to the reality of Christ’s love and presence in a way that leads to greater action in witness to Christ, both within the Church and in the world at large. A Cursillo weekend is a blend of seriousness and light-heartedness. It is made up of spiritual experiences and talks by laypersons and clergy, intended to equip one with the basics needed to do Christ’s work in the world. Cursillo is for adult Christians and is meant to be a shared learning and growing experience attained through worship, study, reflection, and fellowship. One “makes” a Cursillo only once, but it will be built upon throughout life.

WHAT IS CURSILLO FOR?

Cursillo is a movement within the church. Its purpose is to help those in the Episcopal Church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders. It helps to renew and deepen their Christian commitment and ministry, and encourages them to bring others to Christ.

WHO SHOULD GO TO CURSILLO?

Episcopalians in good standing who are leading an active Christian life and are living witness to their love for Christ. Cursillo presumes that those who attend are already well grounded in the faith. It is not intended to be a conversion experience, but an enriching and deepening of what is already there.

WHO SHOULD NOT GO TO CURSILLO?

Individuals whose lives are in turmoil are recommended to wait until things have stabilized before going to Cursillo. For instance, those in the midst of marital disputes or other personal crises should usually defer Cursillo until the difficulties are resolved. Cursillo is not for those uncertain about their faith; it is for Christians who are already committed.

WHAT ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS?

Furnishings at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg are simple and functional, and may not be exactly like home, but the spirit of fellowship makes that unimportant. There is ample good food.

HOW LONG IS THE COURSE?

Cursillo lasts for three days, from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon. After the first evening and until the following morning, a time of silence is observed. This is a means of moving from the busy world of work and family into the spirit of the weekend. Thereafter, the basic teachings of Christ are discussed and shared in an atmosphere of joy, music, and laughter. Spiritual and liturgical experiences are those that are traditional in the full Christian experience.

Cursillistas from all walks of life grow closer to one another during Cursillo. They pray, listen, discuss, sleep, eat, sing, and relax in a jovial, family atmosphere.

WHAT IS THE FOURTH DAY?

A Cursillo weekend is a preparation for the “Fourth Day,” a term applied to the spiritual journey each person will experience during the remainder of this life, to begin on Sunday. Without an active, committed Fourth Day, the Cursillo experience is not complete.

WHAT IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ATTEND A WEEKEND?

- The applicant should be an active Episcopalian in good standing.
- Every applicant must have two sponsors: your parish priest and a lay sponsor who has already attended a weekend. Both must sign the application form.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Applications are available to sponsors through the Cursillo website—www.pgh-epis-cursillo.org. A married couple’s applications should be submitted at the same time so that they may attend weekends as closely as possible to each other. There is usually one men’s weekend per year, one women’s weekend, and one coed.

Sponsors are responsible for getting the application completed, signed, and mailed to the Pre-Cursillo Coordinator with a check for the deposit of \$50, or total amount of \$150.

WHAT IS THE COST?

The cost of the weekend is \$150. If this will present a problem, please discuss it openly with your sponsor. Scholarships and other financial help are available.

Note: Younger adults (age 28 or younger) are encouraged to experience the Cursillo weekend. For them, the Pittsburgh Episcopal Cursillo asks a \$25 minimum contribution only. No further fee is required.

Thank you for your interest in Cursillo. Your application is due 30 days prior to the weekend. As your weekend approaches, you will receive more information. Meanwhile, your sponsor will be happy to answer any questions you have.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

PILGRIM CANDIDATE APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Nickname _____
Last First MI for name tag
Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____ (cell) _____ email _____

___ Male ___ Female ___ Single ___ Married Age _____ Occupation _____

Spouse's name _____ Has he/she made Cursillo previously? yes / no Or is currently applying? yes / no

Why do you wish to make a Cursillo weekend? _____

How do you participate in the life of your church? _____

What physical needs do you have that will need to be provided for on a weekend? (for example, special diet)

Are you an Episcopalian in good standing? _____ Have Group Reunion & Ultreya! been explained? _____

I have read and understand everything contained in this application. I have answered all the questions honestly and completely.

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

PASTORAL / CLERGY SUPPORT

Is this person an Episcopalian in good standing? ___ Yes ___ No . If no, explain. How would you describe this candidate's personality? (outgoing or reserved, leader, follower, etc.) _____

Priest's Name (print) _____ Parish _____ Home Phone _____

Priest's Signature _____ Date _____

SPONSOR SUPPORT

A Sponsor should be actively participating in a Group Reunion and know that the purpose of Cursillo is to help those in the Episcopal Church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders, and to encourage them to bring others to Christ. Please make sure that all questions are answered. Applications must be mailed at least **30 days** before the weekend that this Pilgrim will be attending in order to reserve lodging. After the deadline, applications may be accepted on a space available basis.

Sponsor's Name _____ Home Parish _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____ (cell) _____ email _____

Why did you select this candidate? _____

How long have you known this candidate? _____ Does the candidate have a group to go to? _____

Sponsor's signature _____ Date _____

Return this form with deposit of \$50, or \$150 full amount to: Jane Flaherty, 4302 Summervale Dr., Murrysville, PA 15668
Make check payable to: Pittsburgh Episcopal Cursillo

FOR OFFICE USE: Ck # _____ \$ _____ Date Rec'd ___ / ___ / ___ Acceptance: ___ Weekend # _____