



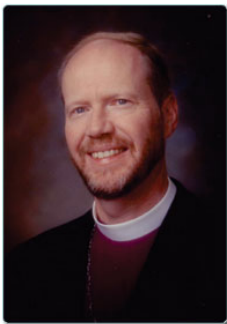
National Episcopal Cursillo Newsnotes

NECC Quarterly Meeting

April 25-29, 2007

Phoenix, Arizona

The National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC) gathered on Wednesday, April 25, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, in Phoenix, Arizona, for its second quarterly meeting in 2007, as guests of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Arizona. The Cursillo Movement there is engaging in an energetic Fourth Day with lots of group reunions and Ultreyas. It was quite active in the beginning days of the Episcopal Cursillo and is in the process of reorganizing after something of a dry spell. Three-day weekends will come again in time, but they are living out Fourth Day, which, of course, is the core of Cursillo, and things are looking up.



The Rt. Rev. Kirk Smith, who is the Bishop of the Diocese of Arizona, celebrated Eucharist with us on Thursday and then graciously spent more time with us that morning as we got acquainted with what's going on in Arizona's resurgence and as we continued discernment about the mission of the Episcopal Cursillo Movement. Janet Kaiser and Jim Graves from the governing body of the Episcopal Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Arizona and the Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson, Arizona's Canon to the Ordinary, joined us for Eucharist and for that post-communion discussion, as did the Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, who is our Liaison from the House of Bishops to the NEC. It was clear that Bishop Smith, although he has not yet made a three-day Cursillo weekend, has helped Cursillo and other ministries to thrive there.

The NECC completed, during this meeting, the round of brainstorming and visioning that it began in January, 2006, under the leadership of Sharon Neukam, who was then NEC President, with the able assistance of Gary Rose, the NECC Treasurer, and others. The Executive Committee worked through what should be done immediately with what the NECC has learned about itself in that process. The result of that work was reflected in some of the Executive Committee's motions at the closing plenary session on Saturday as well as in the work of the subcommittees on Thursday and Friday.

The Publications Subcommittee spent most of its time Thursday and Friday editing the coming revision of the NEC Library's booklet on Spiritual Direction. In the meantime, the Cursillo Leaders Development Subcommittee (CLD) compiled data from this year's survey of the health of the Cursillo Movement and formulated recommendations for redesigning the NEC website. Most of the work of the Seminar Subcommittee at this meeting was reflected in the motions that it presented at the closing plenary session on Saturday.

We took the following action at our closing plenary session on Saturday morning on motion of the Seminar Subcommittee: We approved negotiating a contract with the Hilton Hotel in Daytona Beach, Florida, for the NEC Seminar in October, 2008. We approved budgets for the NEC Seminar at Colorado Springs in October, 2007, and approved amendments to the schedule for the Seminar, including that the Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop (ECLW) will begin on Thursday and that there will be expanded free time on Friday afternoon and educational sessions on Saturday. Among the several educational sessions planned are ones with titles like "Amazing Grace was Once a New Song," "What Would Jesus Google?" and "A God's Eye View of Cursillo."



On motion of the Publications Subcommittee at our closing plenary session on Saturday morning, we approved the most recent revision of the Pastoral Plan booklet for the NEC Library.



At our closing plenary session on Saturday morning, we also passed the following two motions which the Cursillo Leaders Development Subcommittee presented. First, for any ECLW that gets scheduled after April 28, 2007, if the local community suffers an economic loss, the NECC will reimburse the local community the amount of that loss up to a maximum of \$500 upon submission of an itemized accounting of income and expenses for the ECLW. This changes the policy of simply making a \$500 grant for any ECLW upon request. This will not affect the ECLW that is to be held in conjunction with the NEC Seminar in Colorado Springs, for example, because that ECLW was scheduled before April 28, 2007. Second, the NECC agreed to a motion that it approve the most recent revision of the ECLW Manual in a vote to be conducted by e-mail by June 1, 2007. That vote was completed before June 1, and the revision of the ECLW Manual has been approved.

The Executive Committee presented six motions at the closing plenary session on Saturday morning, all of which the NECC approved. Those motions were as follows.

1. If a less convenient airport is no more than an hour away, and if the savings is at least \$80, NECC members will be asked to use the less convenient airport, all other things being equal. This was done so as to help us be better stewards when the NEC pays for airline tickets so that NECC members can attend quarterly meetings. Several members continue to arrange and pay for their own transportation.
2. In line with its desire to provide cultural diversity, the NECC is asking Bishop Scarfe to communicate with the Bishops in Province IX to discern their interest in participation in Cursillo with the NECC. If they're interested, we will explore the addition of a District to incorporate Province IX and the provision for its representation on the NECC. As things currently stand, Province IX is represented through the Southcentral District.
3. The NECC will provide, electronically, a packet of welcome documents which diocesan movements can distribute in connection with their three-day weekends. A sample packet will be prepared for approval at the July quarterly meeting. That sample packet is expected to contain [a] a welcome letter from the sitting President, [b] an information sheet explaining such things as ECLWs, Clergy Information Days and the NEC Seminar, [c] a subscription form for *The 4th Day Magazine*, [d] information about Friends of Cursillo. [e] an order form for NEC materials, and [f] a flyer or brochure about the NEC Seminar.
4. The NECC will create a standard consignment package consisting of NEC Libraries, brochures, grouping cards and other Cursillo materials. The NECC members will notify the dioceses they represent about the availability of this standard consignment package for use at NEC District Meetings, Days of Deeper Understanding, diocesan conventions and other gatherings where Cursillo should have a presence. The standard consignment package will be subject to customization upon request.
5. Effective October 29, 2007, responsibility for representing the Diocese of the Dominican Republic and the Diocese of Puerto Rico on the NECC will transfer to the Southcentral District. The bylaws have provided all along that the Southcentral District would have this responsibility, although representatives in the Southeast District had been bearing that responsibility, because Cursillo was exported to the Dominican Republic and to Puerto Rico from dioceses in the Southeast District. This eases somewhat the number of dioceses that NECC members in the Southeast District have to represent, in light of their having had more dioceses than any other district.
6. Effective October 29, 2007, the working groups of the NECC will be organized as follows. There will still be an Executive Committee. Changing that would have required a change in the bylaws. There will still be three subcommittees composed only of NECC members, as there are now, and one of those subcommittees will still be the Publications Subcommittee, but the other two subcommittees will be the Communications Subcommittee and a subcommittee, as yet unnamed, to deal with the Health of the Movement (which for now is abbreviated HOM). HOM is generally the successor to the Cursillo Leaders Development Subcommittee and will retain responsibility for leadership development. The Publications Subcommittee will continue to have responsibility for revising and maintaining the NEC Library and will

have editorial oversight on all manuals and educational materials, but the responsibility for *The 4th Day Magazine* will be transferred to the Communications Subcommittee, which will also be responsible for maintaining the NEC web site and for designing and implementing a marketing strategy to communicate what Cursillo is about. There will be at least four national servant communities. One will be the ECLW Servant Community, which has already been effectively serving as such under the guidance Nina-Jo Moore and her predecessor, Dede Lewis. The ECLW Servant Community will report to HOM. The second national servant community will be the Seminar Servant Community, which will do the work that the Seminar Subcommittee has been doing with the help of people like Sandi Rose and Lois Wiggins, in planning and coordinating NEC Seminars. The Seminar Servant Community will report to the sitting President-Elect. The third national servant community will be the Finance Servant Community, which will have responsibility for fund-raising, audits and other financial matters and will report to the Treasurer. The fourth national servant community will be the Servant Community of Triage & Consultants, which will report to HOM and which will help diocesan movements that are dormant or otherwise in need of extraordinary attention and care in order to grow.

The Executive Committee also presented options under consideration for NECC meetings, which might be the same number of days per meeting but only three meetings a year or might be quarterly for fewer days each meeting, so as to make it possible for some people to become NECC members who otherwise cannot afford the time away from employment or other responsibilities.



There were 50 people at the Ultreya on Saturday evening. Chris Miller gave the lay witness talk. It wasn't the talk she had intended to give. Her mother died Thursday morning, and her talk was about the apostolic action in which she had engaged over several years to bring her mother to Christ, action which had been frustrating but was ultimately successful. It was also about how her brothers and sisters on the NECC had supported her in that couple of days since her mother's death. Ted Ederer delivered the community response, and Fr. Wayne Sanders tied it all in to the Gospel.



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These NewsNotes are brought to you by the NECC, which takes this opportunity to remind you:

- [a] that you can download from www.episcopalcursillo.org – a pre-registration form for the National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar 2007 – October 25-28, in scenic Colorado Springs – and send in your non-refundable \$10 deposit (only \$10!) to hold your space; registration brochures will be available in July.
- [b] that an Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop (ECLW) is an excellent way to strengthen your movement, and that you can watch the website (www.episcopalcursillo.org) and *The 4th Day Magazine* for schedules or you can send requests for information to moorenjnc@yahoo.com;
- [c] that a subscription to *The 4th Day Magazine* is a wonderful way for sponsors to give to candidates added help in living the fourth day; and
- [d] that contributions to Friends of Cursillo provide for the mission and work of the NEC, and that those contributions can be made as often as you like, either as occasional gifts or as annual pledges or just about any other way you'd like to do it.

Ultreya!