

# **Report of the Acting Lay Director to the Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

## **Ottawa Anglican Cursillo Movement (OACM)**

September 13, 2021

What a joyous and busy year this has been in the life of the OACM. That might seem a strange sentence in the context of the current pandemic; however, I hope that after you read the reports to the AGM, you will agree.

Exactly one year ago, the 2019-20 Secretariat sought and received your blessing to retain our positions for a second year to maintain continuity through what we hoped would be the rest of the COVID-19 crisis. David McCreery remained in the chair until early 2021 when ill health prompted him to relinquish it to me, the Assistant Lay Director, for the balance of the term.

Through the autumn, your Secretariat considered how best to use the unique 2020-21 year to serve the Cursillo Community. Knowing that holding weekends in the spring of 2021 was unlikely, we undertook three initiatives.

First, we continued with the examination of our documentation and procedures begun in 2019, primarily to make them both internally consistent and consistent with current practices and to clarify the writing throughout. The result is the motion, circulated electronically in August, that will come to the floor of the AGM asking you to approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws as well as some suggested changes to the Handbook. Sandra Clark (Communications Coordinator) has spent many hundreds of hours poring over our documentation to bring suggestions to Secretariat and to coordinate several iterations of edits. Our work will continue in 2021-22. Thank you also, Sandra, for getting the Rainbow out each season and for keeping the membership up to date with emails.

This review has also culminated in the revision of all the binders for both the men's and women's teams. Because of her many years' experience on Secretariat and on weekend teams, Wendy FitzPatrick (Advisor to the Lay Director) was the ideal person to accomplish this important task. Allied with this has been the streamlining of communications with candidates and sponsors undertaken by Andrew Gibb (Pre-Cursillo Director).

Second, in the expectation that the world health crisis would not be over as soon as the public hoped, and certainly not before spring 2021, the Secretariat decided to pilot a virtual Prayer and Praise/Ultreya to see if the community would respond positively. The January 27<sup>th</sup> Zoom event was so well received, and the community so enthusiastic to have another, that the team who put together the event organized another for March 24<sup>th</sup>. As you know this pattern repeated itself and we held two more Prayer and Praise events on May 26<sup>th</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup>. And here we are, anticipating another on September 29<sup>th</sup> concurrent with our AGM making this the fifth bi-monthly event. In every case, it has been exciting and heart-warming to see the smiling faces of those whom we love in Christ, to gather for worship, and to sing along to the music we have missed lately. We owe a debt of gratitude for the diligent and creative work of those who planned and executed these virtual events: Marni Crossley (Fourth Day Director), Andrew Gibb (in charge of registration and all things technical), and Tabea Silverthorne (Musica). They could not have done so without the support of our Spiritual Directors, the Reverend Jan Staniforth and the Reverend Anne Quick.

Third, we were pleased to have two meetings with the Right Reverend Shane Parker, Bishop of Ottawa, one in December and the other in June. How fortunate we Ottawa Anglican Cursillistas are, once again, to have a bishop who is a Cursillista of long standing. Bishop Shane has described OACM as an important ministry of the diocese, an educational resource to individuals, parishes, and the whole diocese. Given the constant challenge of raising up Christian parish leadership, Bishop Shane encourages us all to be transparent about Cursillo and to communicate with priests about this unique diocesan resource to enhance lay education and commitment to Christ.

I was honoured, along with Bev Hatt, to represent you this summer at the virtual Triennial Meeting of the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat (CACS). This body is hard at work fulfilling its mandate in a challenging pandemic environment and Bev played a significant role in doing so as our representative to CACS. I was delighted to note that our Primate, another long-time Cursillista, The Most Reverend Linda Nicholls, attended the whole meeting. [CACS' aim is to help Christians to discover and achieve their individual callings to change their environments (the places they live, work, worship, and socialize) for Christ.]

The success of the past year is due, in large part to the men and women who have served on the OACM Secretariat and to the community who supported our program. I wish to thank all my colleagues for their steadfast support as I took over from David as Acting Lay Director.

Gratitude goes to those who have served well and whose Secretariat terms have finished: Wendy FitzPatrick, Janet Connor (Secretary), Andrew Gibb, and Bev Hatt. We are all grateful to those who will continue in their offices: Murray Hatt (Treasurer), Karen Daley (Palanca), John Chapman (Weekend Coordinator), Marni Crossley (Post-Cursillo/Fourth Day Coordinator), Sandra Clark (Communications Coordinator), Tabea Silverthorne (Musica), the Reverend Jan Staniforth, the Reverend Anne Quick, and Scott Graham (Ad hoc Appointment). Welcome back to David McCreery, the incoming Advisor to the Lay Director.

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God willing, on September 29<sup>th</sup>, the AGM will elect some new Secretariat members and I will become your Lay Director. I look forward to another year of innovation and fellowship, virtual or otherwise. It is my fervent hope and prayer that we will be able to hold Cursillo weekends in 2022. Please keep your Secretariat and this wonderful diocesan ministry in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Mayo,  
A/Lay Director