

Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California

Disputes between Lutheran Denominations and Spiritual Director Policy 2014

Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California (LCSC) is a Lutheran “Fourth Day” movement associated with the Roman Catholic Cursillo® movement. LCSC is a volunteer lay-led movement and any baptized Lutheran in good standing may attend. We do not solicit any funding from any church body.

LCSC maintains that we do not, as a matter of policy, endorse, denounce or pass judgment on actions by any church body. This includes actions taken by the E.L.C.A. or any other Lutheran denomination pertaining to female Pastors, human sexuality and/or homosexuality. We strongly believe these are very personal beliefs/preferences and that taking any formal stance would be contrary to our purpose.

LCSC is based on the central tenets of Christianity and Lutheran doctrine, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The purpose of the movement is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches and communities. The focus is not on Cursillo itself but on developing leaders within the church. We emphasize a method of living the faith that people can use in daily life. All participants are encouraged to develop a vital relationship with their own pastor. As a “Fourth Day” movement, we strive to build up the one true church as described in Ephesians Chapter 4 and remain consistent with the historical Lutheran confessions.

Again, we do not take any official stances on the actions of any organized church body – we are not a church, a church within the church, nor a para-church organization. As a simple movement within the church, our priorities remain on teaching the gospel of grace, assisting participants to become Christian leaders influencing their environments with the gospel, and encouraging a renewed personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our prayers will continue for all of our brothers and sisters regardless of their affiliation. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the authentic love of God our Father, and the true fellowship that is provided by the Holy Spirit, embrace us all.

We welcome honest inquiries as to who we are and about the role and function of our movement. Further information is available at our website, www.lcsocal.org.

In the spirit of encouraging dialogue between members of different Lutheran denominations and organizations involved in Cursillo, with the goal of reaching better understanding and consensus about a broad range of issues on which the various participating denominations

agree and disagree, while committing itself to a process of dialogue, the Secretariat of LCSC adopted “Spiritual Director Guidelines” in June of 2013.

Having held a community forum, several open meetings for pastors, and two forums for Rectors and Rectoras, the Secretariat now adopts the following policy regarding Spiritual Directors, which supersedes in its entirety the Guidelines adopted in June of 2013.

1. Participation in LCSC is open to Lutheran pastors who are committed to the purpose of LCSC, the training of lay leaders for the church, and are willing to work with others committed to that purpose. An LCSC Spiritual Director must be an ordained Lutheran pastor in good standing (actively serving a call, eligible for call, or retired) within his/her respective denomination. Head Spiritual Directors must be rostered in their denomination, not just contract called.
2. Only pastors who have attended LCSC (or a comparable 3- or “fourth”- day movement) as a Pilgrim may serve as Spiritual Directors. Pastors shall be encouraged to serve as Rookie Cooks when serving on a team for the first time, as the Pilgrim and Rookie Cook experiences are, respectively, essential to an appreciation of the Pilgrim experience and helpful in providing a perspective on the flow and function of a Cursillo weekend.
3. The Head Spiritual Director of the Secretariat shall preside over communion at all Clausuras, subject to availability. If unable to attend, the Head Spiritual Director shall designate a Spiritual Director serving on the weekend to preside.
4. The Secretariat shall make good faith efforts to identify who will preside over communion at all Ultreyas and all Clausuras, and to publicize this information on the LCSC website or by other reasonable means. The Secretariat shall also make good faith efforts to identify the Spiritual Directors serving on a given weekend and make this information available on the LCSC website or by other reasonable means as soon as possible after the commissioning of the Rector and Rectora for the upcoming weekends.

Approved this 30th day of June, 2014.