

REPORT TO SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE NORTHWEST  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

ALBERTA PRESBYTERIAN CURSILLO 2016

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Janke, Steering Committee Chair. October 16, 2016

1. Background

**Cursillo is one method of Christian renewal that can serve as a valuable complement to the work currently being done within the Synod to re-vitalize the church (Acts 16:5 Initiative).**

The purpose of Cursillo is to awaken a desire for change and to help participants to grow into mature Christians who will in turn lead others to Christ. It includes a weekend retreat where participants study and fellowship together in prayer, worship, song and discussion. Discussions center on talks presented by clergy and laity that focus on discovering how to truly live what is fundamental to being a Christian. Once the weekend is complete, participants are invited to join in small groups where they continue building relationships that encourage and strengthen their faith on the Christian journey.

**Today, many Cursillo participants are currently serving in active roles (including eldership) within their own congregations.**

2. Report

The Alberta Presbyterian Cursillo weekend was held on May 27-29, 2016 at Camp Kannawin, Sylvan Lake. The theme for the weekend was *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” Proverbs 3:5*

Participants and Team members included men and women (13 in total) from Edmonton and Central Alberta. Unfortunately, some potential participants had to cancel at the last minute due to health issues and other circumstances but we are hopeful that they will be able to attend a weekend in the future. Even with a small number of participants, the weekend proved to be a time of renewal and encouragement for all involved. The team would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Heinrich Grosskopf who stepped in as spiritual director when Rev. Rodger McEachern became ill and to Rev. Calvin John Rhoad who backed up Heinrich on relatively short notice.

Note: In order to avoid conflicts with other Christian events, the Steering Committee has decided to move the Cursillo weekend to the fall. Thus the next Cursillo weekend is scheduled for September 2017.

Treasurer’s report: See attached.