

Send this form, along with Candidate Application to:
Candidate Coordinator, Koinonia of Erie County, PA
P.O. Box 9575
Erie, PA 16505-8575

Koinonia of Erie County, Pennsylvania

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION FORM

Koinonia is a course in Christianity that teaches people to become effective lay leaders in the world. Due to the intensity of the weekend, the candidate should be physically and emotionally healthy and be at least 18 years of age. These are the minimum requirements for recommending someone for Koinonia. Please read the additional suggestions on the reverse side of this form.

The information on this form is CONFIDENTIAL.

Name of candidate _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____ Sex (*circle one*): M F

Marital status (*circle one*): Single Married Separated Divorced Widowed Number of children _____

If married is spouse also applying? (*circle one*): NO YES If no, please explain – # 10 on reverse may apply:

Please explain your relationship to, length of time you have known and how well you know the candidate. _____

Do you think this candidate has leadership potential? (*circle one*): NO YES

To your knowledge, is the candidate in good physical and mental health? (*circle one*): NO YES If no, please explain: _____

Are there any facets of the weekend that you feel the candidate may have difficulty accepting? (*communion, talks, meals, sleeping arrangements, etc.*) _____

Please note any other important information the team should know about this candidate: _____

Being a sponsor is a serious responsibility. Therefore, prudence dictates that prayerful consideration be made before you submit this form. One Sponsor Recommendation Form must accompany each candidate Application Form. You will be notified when your candidate is accepted for a weekend.

Your signature(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

Phone (_____) _____ K/C # _____ Is this information new? (*circle one*): NO YES

SUGGESTIONS FOR RECRUITING CANDIDATES

Koinonia is an intensive interdenominational spiritual renewal experience. It involves lay and clergy witnesses and a time of Christian fellowship. It is designed to lead people to a deeper Christian commitment and a more meaningful and active involvement in church and community.

In view of the above Koinonia purpose these suggestions are offered for the selection and recruitment of Koinonia candidates:

1. Invite people who are willing to help others.
2. **Do not** invite people who are extremely nervous or have a history or indication of mental disorders.
3. **Do not** invite someone who, because of physical problems could not handle the long days of a weekend. If a person has a physical disability that might affect participation, contact the Candidate Coordinator to discuss the problem **before** approaching the candidate. Stay informed of any physical problems your candidate might experience between the time of application and the time of being called for a weekend, so that their needs can be met by the team. **Please inform the Candidate Coordinator of such problems.**
4. Remember that this is a spiritual renewal weekend and not the place to solve personal problems.
5. The minimum age for a candidate is 18. There is no upper age limit as long as the candidate is in good physical and mental condition.
6. **Do not** let anyone avoid coming because of a financial problem. The blank envelope method of giving makes financial contributions a private matter.
7. Our approach should be to explain that Koinonia is a worthwhile endeavor. Never imply that a person must attend a Koinonia weekend to be a real Christian. Simply relate your own appreciation of the experience and offer to share it with them.
8. When recruiting ministers for a Koinonia weekend tell them what it was worth to you personally. Please do not oversell it or insist that they must attend. Tell them how much it meant to have clergy candidates on your weekend. **Do not** “bug” them about attending; just show how you have been influenced by your willingness to serve the Church.
9. While there are many surprises during the weekend (about which you hope your candidate will not ask), there is much that you can say that will not give them away. Discuss freely and honestly the fact that there are talks, discussions, worship, communion, prayer, lots of singing and fun, and answer any questions as best you can. **It is important to be honest with them and not be secretive, or imply that Koinonia is a secret society** (because it is not).
10. **For married couples:** A husband must attend a Koinonia/Cursillo weekend first and then his wife will be scheduled to attend the next weekend. Exceptions may be granted by the Core Board for married or separated persons whose spouse will not or cannot attend. To apply for an exception a sponsor must submit a separate written explanation to the Core Board (attn: Lay Leader) prior to giving the application to the candidate. The explanation must include the circumstances making it impossible for the spouse to attend, including mental, physical or medical reasons. The Core Board may request additional attempts be made to encourage the spouse's participation. However, when the Core Board is satisfied that he or she will not or cannot attend – and it is in the best interest of the applicant or the Koinonia Community to attend alone – it may grant an exception. **For single men or women:** the term “single” includes those who have never married or are divorced or widowed. They may attend a weekend on a first come, first served basis.