

Unidos en Cristo
Mission Statement / Faith Statements
Definition of a UEC Church
Allocation Policies / Allocation Appeals Process

Adopted by Unidos en Cristo (UEC) Council as of April 2009

Mission Statement of Unidos en Cristo (adopted by UEC Council on May 22, 2007)

"To Revive and strengthen Christian commitment and community in the local church."

Faith Statement of Unidos en Cristo (adopted by UEC Council on May 22, 2007)

"Unidos en Cristo is an inter-denominational and lay led community whose purpose is to help persons deepen a personal living faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The UEC community emphasizes the essentials of our Christian faith, which include the triune nature of God, the absolute authority of the Word of God, the forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus, and our common adoption into the body of Christ.

UEC equips Christian servants for action through a practical and personal demonstration of God's grace and by encouraging the extension of this grace to the local church and community.

We believe a living faith in Jesus Christ and Christian action will change our world."

Definition of a UEC Church (adopted by UEC Council on March 25, 2008)

A UEC Church is any Christian church with a Clergy member who has either attended a cursillo-type weekend or has given his/her blessing for UEC involvement in the church and one or more Cursillistas.

This definition was adopted for the following reasons:

- a) To build up and strengthen the local church (our mission).
- b) To preserve unity between the church, the Clergy and UEC.
- c) To extend the gift of God's grace in the form of the UEC weekend to more churches and to more people.
- d) To encourage Clergy to support UEC in their church at the level that best meets their needs, whether or not they have attended a cursillo-type weekend.

As the Council discussed this definition, it became clear that unity between UEC and Clergy is a priority. UEC is a unique weekend and part of what makes it so life changing is that it enjoys the support of our Clergy. It is important to preserve this unique element of UEC while at the same time opening up the weekend to as many churches and individuals as we can so that our mission to build up the local church can be accomplished. We found that many Clergy would gladly support the ministry of UEC in their church but do not desire to attend a weekend at the present time, usually because of prior commitment and interest. So, we choose to welcome their support whether they have attended UEC or not and are happy to bring UEC to their church as a tool to strengthen their church.

Unidos en Cristo Allocation Policies (adopted by UEC Council between Marcy, 2007 and April, 2009)

- 1. Applicant for a weekend will be a member or active participant in a UEC church or in a church that is active in a different cursillo-type community.**

This policy ensures on-going support for a Cursillista, which is best accomplished in the local church cursillo community. By reserving acceptance of applicants to those from UEC churches, we preserve the unity that exists between the Clergy of those churches and UEC. It also helps to ensure Clergy support for the local cursillo community.

2. Applicant for the weekend will be at least 21 years old at the time of the weekend.

Although not a perfect measure of maturity, requiring applicants to be 21 is the best un-biased way to ensure they are mature enough to understand the weekend. Age 21 is generally accepted as an age of responsibility.

3. For married couples, it is customary and strongly recommended that both husband and wife attend UEC together on a set of weekends.

UEC is a weekend that leads to spiritual renewal and change for many people. If only one spouse attends, changes that occur in that person and future commitments to UEC that person may wish to make may not be fully understood by the spouse not attending.

UEC has created a brochure called "UEC and the Married Couple" which explains further our desire to protect the marriage within this policy. This brochure can be obtained through a UEC Liaison or at the UEC web site.

As of April 2009, UEC has chosen NOT to REQUIRE couples to attend together, but to strongly recommend that they attend together. The decision was made to make UEC available to those who wish to attend where their spouse does not or cannot or chooses to attend later. The recommendation that they attend together remains based on the many UEC couples who are very happy that they did attend together.

4. Clergy (UEC or non-UEC) signature is required for acceptance of a weekend application. Signature of the Liaison will be accepted in situations where Clergy is not available for an extended period of time (transition, sabbatical, etc.) If the Clergy (UEC or non-UEC) chooses to welcome the ministry of UEC in the church, but doesn't wish to be included administratively, the Liaison can be designated to sign all applications. Signature acknowledges that the applicant will be supported and is emotionally and spiritually able to attend a UEC weekend.

It is the desire of UEC to protect unity between Clergy of UEC churches and UEC. It is the understanding of UEC that Clergy can be supportive of the ministry of UEC in their churches without attending UEC, or until they are able to attend UEC. Therefore, we welcome the support and unity of all Clergy who attend and/or give their blessing for UEC involvement in their church.

There are rare cases where Clergy do not wish for their parishioners to be involved with UEC within the confines of their church. UEC chooses to respect the wishes of those Clergy. If Cursillistas find themselves in such a church, it would be the desire of UEC that they seek UEC involvement elsewhere, while at the same time remaining involved in their church and respectful of the wishes of their Clergy. By these actions, unity remains preserved even with churches that choose not to be UEC churches.

5. Applicants who are being sponsored by Cursillistas from another UEC church should be co-sponsored by someone from the applicant's church.

This policy ensures that the new Cursillista will have someone from their church to work with to become active in the local cursillo community.

Unidos en Cristo Allocation Appeals Process (adopted by UEC Council on November 25, 2007)

While the officially adopted process is written here, please read the "**Statement from the UEC Council with Regards to the Allocation Policies and Allocation Appeal Process** (adopted January 2008)" before moving forward with an appeal for better understanding of why the Allocation Policies have been adopted and for guidance with how to proceed.

Appeals will be accepted for consideration up to two (2) weeks prior to the first day of any UEC weekend. Appeals must be accompanied by an application if one has not already been submitted. If you are wondering whether you should appeal, you may contact the "Advocate", for some direction. However, you will still be asked to follow the Appeal process.

1. ***The application is returned by Allocation Coordinator because it does not meet one or more of the policies above. Allocation Coordinator notifies the sponsor(s).***
2. ***Sponsor appeals to the Church Liaison.***
3. ***Liaison discusses with Clergy at church.***
4. ***If both Liaison and Clergy agree there is merit in the request for an exception to the Allocation Policies, then the Liaison contacts the Allocation Exception Advocate, a Council member not on the Executive Committee appointed by the Convener (herein referred to as "Advocate").***
5. ***The Advocate will gather information from the Sponsor, Liaison and Allocation Coordinator. As part of this process, a letter on behalf of the Applicant may be submitted.***
6. ***The Advocate discusses the request with the Executive Committee to determine whether the Executive Committee or the full Council will consider the exception.***
7. ***The Executive Committee or full Council will discuss the appeal and a final decision is made. No further appeals will be consider.***
8. ***Advocate notifies the Allocation Coordinator, Sponsor and Liaison of outcome.***

This Allocation Appeal Process allows the Allocation Coordinator to process applications according to the approved policies. It also allows for a more neutral person, the Advocate, to shepherd the request through the rest of the process. And, finally, it allows the Allocation Coordinator to explain the process to the Sponsor without being the person the Sponsor and/or Liaison will work with throughout the appeal process.

Statement from the UEC Council with Regards to the Allocation Policies and Allocation Appeal Process

(adopted by UEC Council January 23, 2008)

If you have submitted a weekend application that has been returned by the Allocation Coordinator for reasons regarding policy, you may appeal to the UEC Council for acceptance of the application if you feel that the circumstances of the situation may allow for the Applicant to attend. The complete Allocation Policies are attached. Below, please find the Appeal Process and some explanation regarding how the UEC Council approaches an appeal. Please be prayerful as you read and consider whether appeal at this time would really be in the best interest of the Applicant.

The UEC Council

On rare occasions, the UEC Council has to decide to accept or not to accept an application when the application does not meet all the UEC allocation policies, if the Sponsor, Church Liaison and Clergy feel that circumstances warrant acceptance and an appeal to the Council has been made.

Those who have accepted positions on the UEC Council have done so because we love UEC and feel everyone should have the opportunity to experience God's grace in the Cursillo way. We choose to respect and honor the process of prayer and consideration taken by those who have gone before us as they made difficult decisions, including those regarding Allocation Policies. The majority of the time, the Allocation Policies will be followed.

Please consider these thoughts before moving forward with an appeal:

GOD'S TIMING

God's timing is interesting. In all our years of being involved in UEC, we have learned this over and over again. The "best weekend ever" occurs because God's timing is not tampered with. In any given weekend, this might look like the couple that has been waiting to attend for 3 years and finally can. It turns out to be the perfect weekend for them. Or, it might look like the broken pipe in the only bathroom, which brought everyone together in way that could not have occurred had

the pipe broken 3 weeks earlier. Or, it might look like the returned application caused by what might appear to be a "silly" allocation policy, which 6 months later becomes the perfect weekend for that applicant to attend where healing in his/her life occur like it could not on any other weekend because of the other "God-picked" people that are in attendance on that particular weekend — ALL because of God's perfect timing. We have all heard similar testimonies given at Clausuras.

Most of us have learned not to question these occurrences, but instead, to stand back and watch as God works miracles amongst us. He is AMAZING.

We understand the turmoil felt when an application is returned. Most Council members have sponsored enough to have been through this situation themselves or to have observed the situation with someone close to them. We have made it our choice to have faith in God's timing and to pass this faith on to the Applicant by giving testimony to God's timing saying, "This is not the weekend you are supposed to go. You'll see, when that weekend arrives, it will be God's perfect timing for you."

THE POLICIES

We believe, by faith, that the Allocation Policies should be followed until they are changed.

Allocation Policies are also interesting. They seem to either get in God's way or they keep us out of God's way so He can work. It's very difficult to discern which is occurring. The current Allocation Policies were developed through prayer and consideration. When the policies are challenged, we tend, as a Council, to side with the policies, believing that God is in control and that He inspired the policies for a reason.

This does not mean we are always rigid and inflexible. We realize that individual circumstances may allow for exception. This is why we have developed the Appeals Process. It also does not mean the policies shouldn't be re-evaluated and possibly changed. At the writing of this piece, policy change was the number one priority at Council meetings. Each change is approached with prayer and much discussion.

The Council is a group of volunteers doing our best to iron out the very few and rare situations that occur in the UEC world of 8,000 plus members. We seek God's guidance at every turn and with every decision. We also welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Please feel free to contact anyone on Council to discuss your concerns and suggestions. Please be kind, even if you are frustrated. One Council member cannot make an instant decision or create instant change. But one Council member can listen to you and bring your thoughts and suggestions before the rest of the Council for consideration.

Thank you for your consideration. If you choose to continue with the Appeals Process, we ask that you follow the steps laid out in the Appeal Process and that you proceed prayerfully, putting the spiritual welfare of the Applicant in first priority.

Sincerely,

UEC Council