



Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp Association

5 - 39317 RR 24

Lacombe County, AB T4E 2R7

587.468.CAMP (2267)

www.kuriakos.ab.ca

Kuriakos Ministry Partnership Program

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

- Philippians 1:3-5

Kuriakos is a community set apart where all people belong and grow together in God's love. Similarly, congregations are places of belonging and connection where people's faith is nurtured. The ministry of Kuriakos and the ministry of congregations are deeply connected.

Yet we bring different gifts to this shared ministry of the gospel. Kuriakos offers a place and a ministry shaped by community, hospitality, faith formation, leadership development, and service. Congregations offer relationships, pastoral care, worshipping communities, local knowledge, and a year-round context in which faith is lived and shared. When we bring these gifts together, our ministries are strengthened and our capacity to serve God's people grows.

The **Kuriakos Ministry Partnership Program** provides a simple way for congregations and Kuriakos to be intentional in their walk together in shared ministry.

The program is founded on Kuriakos' three core values:

Belonging: creating communities where all people are welcomed with the unconditional love of Jesus.

Growth: creating opportunities for people to experience personal and spiritual growth in relationship with God and creation.

Togetherness: recognizing that we are stronger and more faithful when we share our gifts and work together.

The Ministry Partnership Program is not primarily about membership, fees, or benefits. It is a **two-way relationship**, not transactional but covenantal. Congregations are invited to identify the ways they would like to participate in and support the ministry of Kuriakos, while Kuriakos commits to supporting and strengthening the ministry of its congregational partners.

Every congregation is different. Some will participate in many ways; others may have the capacity for only a few. There is no required number of commitments. What matters is that we intentionally identify ways in which we can walk together in ministry.

Each year, participating congregations and Kuriakos renew a simple **Ministry Partnership Covenant**. The covenant provides an opportunity to name the ways a congregation hopes to participate during the coming year and to renew Kuriakos' own commitments to the congregation.

The goal is simple: **to know one another, support one another, pray for one another, and share together in God's ministry.**

Through this partnership, we hope to create more opportunities for people to encounter Christ, grow in faith and leadership, serve others, and experience the belonging that comes from being part of a community.

Ministry Partnership Covenant

Congregation: _____

Year: _____

We recognize that Kuriakos and congregations are partners in God's ministry. We each have different gifts, relationships, and opportunities to contribute. As we enter another year of partnership, we commit ourselves to walking together in ministry.

Our Congregation's Commitment

- ☐ Pray regularly for Kuriakos, its staff, volunteers, campers, and ministry.
- ☐ Appoint a Congregational Connector.
- ☐ Participate in an annual Ministry Health Conversation.
- ☐ Share Kuriakos news, stories, and opportunities in our congregation.
- ☐ Encourage children and youth to attend camp.
- ☐ Send confirmands and leaders to Confirmation Camp.
- ☐ Encourage members to participate in Kuriakos retreats and events.
- ☐ Encourage members to volunteer at Kuriakos.
- ☐ Encourage young adults to consider serving on summer staff.
- ☐ Bring a congregation or retreat group to Kuriakos.
- ☐ Bring a group to participate in spring or fall work weekends.
- ☐ Host a Camp Sunday.
- ☐ Explore a Vacation Bible School or other ministry opportunity with Kuriakos.
- ☐ Support Kuriakos financially by:
 - ☐ Including an annual gift to Kuriakos in the congregational budget to support operations
 - ☐ Contributing an annual amount to a campership fund
 - ☐ Financially supporting our staff training process (e.g. travel and honoraria for presenters)
 - ☐ Supporting a capital project
- ☐ Other:
 - ☐ _____
 - ☐ _____
 - ☐ _____
 - ☐ _____

Kuriakos' Commitment

- ☒ Pray for your congregation, its leaders, members, and ministry.
- ☒ Make time to hear about your congregation's hopes, challenges, opportunities, and ministry priorities.
- ☒ Seek to understand how Kuriakos can be a resource and partner in your congregation's ministry.
- ☒ Provide resources that support your congregation's ministries.
- ☒ Host an annual gathering for Congregational Connectors.
- ☒ Equip your congregation with information and materials for promoting camps, retreats, volunteer opportunities, and other programs.
- ☒ Create opportunities for children, youth, families, and adults to participate, grow, serve, and build relationships.
- ☒ Provide opportunity for your pastor to come for an annual private retreat.
- ☒ Provide space for your congregation's council to come for a retreat, at a reduced rate.
- ☒ Work collaboratively when opportunities arise for shared ministry, education, worship, service, and outreach.
- ☒ Maintain regular communication with our congregational partners.

Our Commitment

For our congregation:

Name: _____

Role: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Kuriakos:

Name: _____

Role: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Congregational Connector

Purpose

The **Congregational Connector** is a simple point of connection between a congregation and Kuriakos. The Connector does not need to organize every Kuriakos-related activity in the congregation or be the congregation's fundraiser for Kuriakos. Their primary role is simply to help the two ministries **stay connected, communicate well, and recognize opportunities to work together.**

The Congregational Connector Will:

Stay Connected

- Receive regular communication from Kuriakos.
- Stay generally informed about upcoming camps, retreats, events, volunteer opportunities, and other ministry opportunities.
- Know who to contact at Kuriakos when questions or opportunities arise.

Share Information

- Share relevant Kuriakos information with the congregation.
- Help make sure that campers, families, volunteers, and others know about opportunities that may be meaningful to them.
- Share stories of the congregation's involvement with Kuriakos.

Encourage Participation

- Encourage members of the congregation to participate in Kuriakos programs, retreats, service opportunities, and volunteer opportunities.
- Help promote the congregation's annual commitments in the Ministry Partnership Covenant.
- Assist with Camp Sunday or other special opportunities when appropriate.

Help Build the Relationship

- Participate in, or help arrange, the annual Ministry Health Conversation.
- Help Kuriakos understand the congregation's ministry and identify opportunities where Kuriakos might be able to help.
- Bring questions, ideas, needs, and opportunities from the congregation to Kuriakos.

The Congregational Connector for the year _____ is:

Name: _____

Contact info: _____

Annual Rhythm

The Ministry Partnership Program follows a simple annual rhythm. The specific activities will vary from congregation to congregation.

September–October

Renew the Partnership

Kuriakos contacts participating congregations to:

- Celebrate the previous year's partnership.
- Review the Ministry Partnership Covenant.
- Renew the covenant for the coming year.
- Confirm or appoint the Congregational Connector.
- Share opportunities for fall participation and service.

Fall Service Weekend, “Thanksgiving at the Lake”

Congregations are invited to participate in a fall work or service weekend at Kuriakos.

November–February

Ministry Health Conversation

Kuriakos connects with congregational leaders and/or the Congregational Connector for a conversation focused primarily on listening.

Questions may include:

- How is your congregation doing?
- What are you celebrating?
- What challenges are you experiencing?
- What are your hopes for the coming year?
- How can Kuriakos pray for you?
- How might Kuriakos support your ministry?
- Are there opportunities for us to work together?

The Ministry Health Conversation is not primarily a fundraising conversation. It is an opportunity for mutual listening and discernment.

Winter Communication

Kuriakos provides resources and information that congregations can use in their own communications and ministry planning.

March–May

Prepare for Summer

Congregations are encouraged to:

- Promote summer camps.
- Encourage confirmands and youth to participate.
- Share camp information with families.
- Recruit volunteers and summer staff.

- Consider hosting a Camp Sunday.
- Participate in spring service opportunities.

Spring Service Weekend, “May Days”

Congregations are invited to gather at Kuriakos for a day or weekend of service and fellowship.

June–August

Share in Camp Ministry

Congregations participate in the ministry of Kuriakos through:

- Sending campers.
- Sending volunteers.
- Sending confirmands.
- Supporting summer staff.
- Praying for campers and staff.
- Visiting Kuriakos when appropriate.
- Sharing stories of camp ministry with their congregation.

Kuriakos shares stories, photographs, and celebrations from the summer with its congregational partners.

Throughout the Year

The relationship continues through simple points of connection:

- Prayer
- Communication
- Congregational visits
- Camp Sunday
- Retreats
- Volunteer opportunities
- Financial support
- Shared ministry opportunities
- Stories and celebrations

Not every congregation will participate in every opportunity.

The purpose of the annual rhythm is simply to ensure that **the relationship is renewed, nurtured, and given opportunities to grow.**