

Koinonia of Erie County, Pennsylvania CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM

Information about a Koinonia Weekend

Koinonia is an interdenominational movement dedicated to awakening and maintaining the vitality of a life with Jesus Christ and enhancing one's meaningful involvement in church and community. In Greek, the word Koinonia (coin-o-NEE-uh) means fellowship. A Koinonia Weekend is a fellowship gathering of people from different denominations and communities for a time of learning, sharing, and an inspirational experience in Christian living.

It is a retreat for Christians, beginning on a Friday evening about 8 p.m. and ending on Sunday about 8 p.m., which presents you with an opportunity to personally enrich your Christian walk. It is also a short course in Christianity that is meant to be a wonderful step in your spiritual journey, no matter where you are on that journey at this particular time. The themes and structure of each weekend are always the same and unfold in a specific way. The schedule is a busy one, revolving around a series of talks given by lay people and clergy. The talks cover such topics as God's Grace, Biblical Study, Christian Action, and other subjects relevant to lay people. The talks provide ideas for discussion and guidelines for life beyond the weekend. They are interspersed with large and small group activities, singing, and socialization during breaks, snacks and meals. Two clergy persons serve on each weekend (these differ from weekend to weekend). The weekend is like a gift. You will never be sorry you received it!

The best part of Koinonia, and the reason someone who cares about you wants you to attend, is a little harder to pinpoint and explain. It is difficult for Koinonians to share the essence of their weekend because it is a personal, unique experience. Everyone on the weekend comes from a different walk of life, family and faith journey. All you need to do is open your mind and heart, anticipating the gift of a Koinonia weekend.

If you choose to participate in a Koinonia weekend, your name will be placed on the waiting list. When your name comes up, your sponsor will be notified and they will contact you to see if you will be able to attend the upcoming weekend. There are separate weekends for men and women.

If you are married, the husband will attend a weekend first, and about a month later, the wife will attend. Married couples will be given the dates for both weekends. Koinonia is also for singles, and you will find both married and single people on each weekend. There will be about 50 people on the weekend; you may know some of them. They are from all walks of life, communities, and denominations. You will sit at a table of six or seven people, and you will be surprised how quickly you become friends!

When the date for your weekend comes up, your sponsor will pick you up at home and drive you to the retreat site. Your sponsor will take you home on Sunday evening. You won't need to take much with you, just a sleeping bag or bed roll/blankets, a pillow, your Bible, some casual clothes, toiletries, and a suggested donation of \$60. This amount goes toward the costs of food and other expenses for Koinonia weekends. The donation amount is flexible and anonymous, so don't stay away because you don't think you can afford it. Your every need will be met and you will be waited on hand and foot by cheerful and willing servants! Special needs, such as diets or physical problems, can be accommodated.

To summarize, a Koinonia Weekend is many things, but most of all it is an experience to be lived. The weekend is filled with joy, much informal conversation, eating, singing, worship, personal time to focus on your relationship with God, fun and laughter. Within the forty hours of the weekend, people who are complete strangers on Friday become a true Christian Community. The wonderful Koinonia experience will stay with you all your life!

***When you fill out the Candidate Application Form, keep this information paper
and give your completed application to your Sponsor. Hope to see you soon on a Koinonia weekend!***

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FOR CANDIDATE COORDINATOR USE ONLY

Date Received _____ Date(s) Called _____

NOTES: _____

The object of Koinonia is to provide a Christian weekend for those who believe that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior, regardless of their religious denomination. The weekend is for all who desire a new experience in their faith.

This is CONFIDENTIAL information.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

First Name _____ Middle Initial ____ Last Name _____

Preferred First Name _____ Birth date _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone Number (____) _____ Email _____

Gender (circle one): Male Female Marital Status (circle one): Single Married

Church Affiliation _____

Full name and City

Denomination _____

Business or Occupation _____

Community activities or Hobbies _____

Do you play a musical instrument? _____ If YES, please list: _____

Do you require a special diet? _____ If YES, please explain: _____

Do you have any health problems that will affect your participation? _____ If YES, please explain: _____

Could you attend a Koinonia Weekend on relatively short notice (about 3 weeks)? YES NO

Sponsor's name(s) _____

Your signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR SPONSOR