

# HOOSIER HILLS EMMAUS



Welcome to 2018! I, Marla Fredrick, am Community Lay Director for Hoosier Hills Emmaus. I must say, I am truly excited about the direction Hoosier Hills Emmaus is heading. In 2017, the Board of Directors voted to get “Back to the Basics” of the Upper Room guidelines for the Walk to Emmaus. So in 2018 we are moving forward with that vision. The Board will be standing up a few committees to review some areas where we have kind of ventured off track from the Upper Room guidelines. We will be looking to the community to populate these committees as well as our standard committees (team selection, board nomination, facilities, etc.). Upper Room has also made some changes to the Emmaus Ministries structure. One such change is adding Community Trainers to conduct Upper Room Leadership training. In the past this training would be held once a year, which generally required traveling some distance to attend. Now, with the new Community Trainers we can host several training sessions per year. Due to this training opportunity HHE now requires all Lay Directors to attend the Leadership training prior to conducting a walk. The Board is also putting emphasis on Sponsorship, Chrysalis, and Outreach. Look for details about the new structure, training, and committees within the HHE Newsletter.

Excitement is in the air for both the Emmaus and Chrysalis Communities!

DeColores/ Fly With Christ, Marla Fredrick, CLD  
Walk #70A



## REUNION GROUPS

An updated list of Reunion Groups is much needed in our Community. This is not only for our 4<sup>th</sup> Day Packets, but for others who may not have yet found a group to meet with.

If you have a group, please provide me with the day of the week or month you meet, time and location. It would also be helpful to include a person's name and contact information if a prospective member has any questions prior to coming.

Information should be sent to Linda Gerkin by calling or texting 812-653-0373 or email at lkgerkin@gmail.com.

## Board of Directors – 2018

Marla Fredrick – Community Lay Director, Chrysalis

Lee Brown – Community Spiritual Director, Community Events

Phil Padgett – Quartermaster

Bonnie Kelley – Community Events, Finance, Team Selection

Janice Pickens – Secretary

Don Adams – Facilities

Rynn Cooper – Training

Sharon Steele – Quartermaster

Tim Wesner – Team Selection

Penny Carpenter – Agape

Chris Deckard – Chrysalis, Facilities

Paul Elliott – Quartermaster

Linda Gerkin – Newsletter, 4<sup>th</sup> Day/Reunion Groups

Susan Hanscom – Team Selection

## Ex-Officio Members

Aaron Johnson – Treasurer/Finance  
Dean Kelley – Registrar, Community Training

Chris England – Webmaster

Steve Boyer – Past Community LD

Beth True – Camp Indicoso

## UPCOMING WALKS

April 5/8, 2018 – Aaron Johnson, Lay Director

April 12/15, 2018 – Cheryl Snooks, Lay Director

September 6/9, 2018 – Dennis Fulford, Lay Director

September 13/16, 2018 – Sheri Sherrill, Lay Director

April 3/7, 2019 – Men's Lay Director TBA

April 10/13, 2019 – Women's Lay Director TBA

September 5/8, 2019 – Men's Lay Director TBA

September 12/15, 2019 – Women's Lay Director TBA

April 16/19, 2020 – Men's Lay Director TBA

April 23/26, 2020 - Women's Lay Director TBA

September 10/13, 2020 – Men's Lay Director TBA

September 17/20, 2020 – Women's Lay Director TBA



## OPPORTUNITY

The next gathering will be Friday, May 4 at the Bedford First Baptist Church, 1515 20th Street, Bedford, Indiana. This is a pitch-in dinner starting at 6:30.

The pilgrims from the Spring Walks will have a time of sharing with each other some of their 4th Day experiences.

## SPONSORSHIP

The following pages may seem unnecessary to some but to ensure a healthy community sponsorship is very important. The Upper Room has provided Guidelines when considering who should be sponsored on a Walk to Emmaus.

PLEASE Take time to refresh your mind as you consider who you might want to sponsor on an upcoming Walk.



# WALK TO EMMAUS

## SPONSORSHIP GUIDELINES

It is very important that we each understand the importance of Sponsorship when we invite a friend or relative to take part in an Emmaus weekend experience. Please review the following guidelines.

### ***SPONSORSHIP; THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB OF ALL***

- Good sponsorship is the first act of Agape
- Good sponsorship undergirds the whole weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of each pilgrim embodying the personal commitment of the community to each pilgrim
- Good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement that is fulfilling its true purpose: the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry

### ***WHY DO WE SPONSOR? WHAT IS OUR AIM?***

- It is NOT trying “to get all my friends to go” or to “fix people’s problems” or to reproduce one’s own religious experience in others.
- Rather, IT IS the aim of the sponsor to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The AIM of sponsorship is to build up the Body of Christ.

### ***WHO DO WE SPONSOR?***

- It IS for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments for Christ’s sake. Those sponsored could include the following:
  - Church leaders (pastors and laypersons) who will bring vision, commitments and understanding back to their congregations and who need the renewal and grace Emmaus channels.
  - Dependable church members who are the quiet backbone of the church.
  - Less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitments renewed.
  - Christians who are hungry for “something more” and who want to grow spiritually.
  - Members and leaders who represent a cross section of the church and who will help Emmaus remain theologically sound, centered on the essentials of our common faith, and open to different perspectives.
  - Respected laypersons and clergypersons whose participation, support, and leadership will encourage others to take the Walk and will be a sound, balanced leadership base for the movement in the community.
  - Members of diverse congregations, denominations, and ethnic groups.

## **WHO WE DO NOT SPONSOR**

- Christians whose theology and/or practice are so notably different or incompatible with the traditional theology and practice by The Walk to Emmaus: Christians who have specific dietary restrictions and Sabbath celebrations that the Emmaus experience cannot provide.
- Persons undergoing an emotional crisis (for example, family breakup, job loss, severe grief) or who are psychologically unstable.
- Persons who decide not to make a Walk after being presented the opportunity. It could be timing...
- “Church hoppers” – members who frequently have an axe to grind against the church.
- Persons who are always looking for another spiritual high or another experience to help them “arrive”.

Emmaus is right for many people BUT not for everyone. The religious background or emotional condition of some people may make Emmaus an improper discipleship tool for them.

## **TWO KINDS OF SPONSORSHIP – WISE AND UNWISE**

**WISE** sponsorship is purposeful and prayerful

**UNWISE** sponsorship is haphazard and undiscerning.

**WISE** sponsorship eventually will produce a balanced theologically centered movement of the Holy Spirit, which is integrated into the life of the church in the community which is honored by a variety of churches as an effective instrument for conveying God’s grace, the call to committed discipleship, and our unity in Christ.

**UNWISE** sponsorship eventually will produce a harvest that becomes a burden rather than a blessing for the church. It will develop small para-church or small isolationists groups.

## **HOW DO WE SPONSOR?**

1. Pray for the person’s openness to God’s call to discipleship, not for how to get him or her to go on a walk.
2. Make an appointment with the person or couple for the purpose of discussing participating in Emmaus.
3. Extend an invitation; invite the prospective pilgrim to attend for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ, not just an event to go to. Share your faith; explain the basic elements of the Walk, its purpose, and follow-up dimensions that help us live in grace for the rest of our lives. Take the attitude that you are giving the person a wonderful gift rather than that he or she needs to go.
4. Ask the person to make a commitment by filling out the registration form. If the person is married, speak with both partners and encourage equal commitment by both.
5. Continue to pray for your prospective pilgrim, prepare agape letters, and enlist the support of their pastor. Collect 8-12 personal agape letters. Do not ask the team to deliver personal gifts during the three days. Mark an “F” on the immediate family letters for them to be read first.
6. Support the Walk through your prayers during the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil and your presence at Send Off, Sponsors’ Hour, Candlelight, and Closing. Support the pilgrim’s family by house sitting, baby sitting, watering plants, picking up mail, feeding pets, or just checking in with a spouse to see if any help is needed

7. Encourage the pilgrim in his or her Fourth Day involvements. Give your friend an opportunity to talk through and appropriate the experience. Help the pilgrim find a reunion group, or be prepared to start a group with him or her for a period of time until others join the group. Take the pilgrim to Gatherings as your guest for a couple of months.
8. Help the pilgrim reenter his or her church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.
9. Help the pilgrim sponsor others.

Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the pilgrims, for the Emmaus community, and for the church. It demonstrates agape love, making us instruments of preventient grace.

### ***WHO CAN SPONSOR?***

1. Any persons who have participated in Emmaus can sponsor another person as long as they understand the aim and responsibilities of sponsorship and can fulfill them for the person they would sponsor.
2. Persons who have participated in Chrysalis can also sponsor adults to Emmaus under the same conditions. The same conditions for sponsorship apply also to persons who have participated in Cursillo, Tres Dias, or another valid expression of the recognized fourth-day movements.
3. Sponsors should not serve as a team member on Walks with persons they are sponsoring. If persons choose to serve as team members on Walks, they should find others who will sponsor the particular persons they would otherwise sponsor. Sponsors must be able to fulfill the responsibilities of sponsorship for any person they would sponsor. Confusing the roles of team member and sponsor in one's relationship with a pilgrim diminishes the value of both roles.

### ***INTERPRETING THE EQUAL COMMITMENT RULE***

#### ***THE REASON FOR THE RULE***

Husbands and Wives are encouraged to make an equal commitment to participate. The rule reflects a concern and hope about the effect of Emmaus on marriages and families.

First, the equal participation rule guards against the Emmaus experience becoming a divisive influence in marriage. Emmaus can be the occasion for commitments to new life directions that one's spouse may understand or appreciate the time. The Emmaus Movement attempts to strengthen marriages and to avoid practices that may have the potential to affect a marriage adversely.

Second, when the rule is followed, Emmaus can indirectly strengthen the spiritual bond in a marriage and family. So sponsorship of married persons involves approaching both husband and wife together and encouraging them to make an equal commitment to participate. It allows them to grow together as a Christian family while actively supporting the Emmaus Movement and the church as families - not only as individuals.

Third, the equal commitment rule results in increased participation of many grateful husbands and wives (usually husbands) who probably would not have attended an Emmaus weekend otherwise but did so in order to make it possible for their spouse to participate. While their initial motivation for going on a Walk may not have been personal, they come to realize during the course of the Walk that the three days were meant for them.

## **WHAT THE RULE DOES NOT MEAN**

The equal commitment rule does not mean a wife can never go to Emmaus unless her husband has gone first. It is always best to schedule spouses' participation in the same set of Emmaus events so they can share their experience and support each other. It is the practice of this community that every effort is made to allow the male to be on the next walk as a priority.

## **WHY MEN'S EVENTS PRECEDE WOMEN'S EVENTS**

Men's Emmaus experiences do NOT precede women's Walks for theological reasons. This scheduling pattern does not reinforce a belief that men are the spiritual heads for the household and that wives should follow their lead. The reasons for this scheduling pattern are historical and practical. History shows that the likelihood of those husbands participating increases when the men's Walk precedes the women's.

## **LOCAL EMMAUS TRADITIONS OF A SPONSOR**

1. The sponsor (Sunday School class, friends, reunion group) may consider paying the total fee for the pilgrim as a gift of Agape.
2. The Sponsor may bring enough Agape for the Team and Pilgrims (usually 100 pieces allowing for damage, etc.) Keep out of sight of the pilgrim.
3. The sponsor will meet or pick up the pilgrim for a dinner and drive to the Walk. Family, Sunday School Emmaus members, children, etc. may attend. Children can not go to the Walk unless they have been on some type of Walk accepted by the Golden Spread Emmaus.
4. The sponsor can explain any and all parts of the Walk without exception.
5. The sponsor insures all the Agape letters are provided NO later than Candlelight.
6. The sponsor helps the pilgrim with baggage to and from the Walk and stands with the pilgrim during registration for any questions/clarifications.
7. The sponsor will walk with the pilgrim to the assigned room and help in any procedure to unpack, make a bed, etc.
8. An emergency number (how to contact the sponsor) should always be clarified during registration for any type of emergency.
9. Re-clarification of clothes, bedding, personal hygiene, phones, watches should be discussed with the pilgrim.
10. No special gifts, flowers, etc. are permitted until Fourth Day events. The message of Emmaus is that God loves each person with the same love; God does not have favorites.
11. There are absolutely no children at ANY Walk activities or those who have not attended a Walk.
12. Be on time, prompt, and listen to the instructions of the Lay Director for the Pilgrim Send-Off, Prayer Service and times to return to the Walk for Candlelight and Closing.
13. The sponsor (or anyone else) is NOT to reach out during Candlelight and touch their pilgrim.
14. WHEN IN DOUBT – ASK. Remember some traditions and past Walk activities do not guarantee it was correct.
15. Have fun and make this as Memorable for You as for the Pilgrim.

## **DECOLORES!**