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SunCoast Emmaus Newsletter

June 2019

Clergy Training

Rev. Don Roser, Community Spiritual Director

Greetings to all,

This newsletter item is really geared toward our clergy members, but some may also find it interesting. So, let's delve into the clergy training transition/evolution with information from the Upper Room (UR).

In the process of clergy certification training (2008 - 2010), the UR came to see the importance of training for all clergy who serve in the Emmaus Ministries. The UR still believes local Boards have the responsibility of identifying and equipping clergy to serve as Event Spiritual Directors and Assistant Spiritual Directors. It is important that every clergy person who wants to serve in any of the above categories have a clear understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Spiritual Directors, the theology of Grace that is core to this movement, as well as the ecumenical outreach of the Emmaus Ministries. At

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Sponsorship Questions and Answers

Margarete Roser, Education Committee Chair

As the Board has been publicizing, the deadlines for receiving for applications for pilgrims for Walks #91 and #92 are July 20 and 27, respectively. With that in mind, we want to address some of the common questions that arise regarding sponsorship. As a matter of fact, the Upper Room Ministries publishes a booklet on Sponsorship that addresses

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clergy traveled to in order to receive the training and become Certified Emmaus Clergy.

Beginning January 1, 2018, the Emmaus Ministries International office started a process to prepare every Community Spiritual Director (CSD), within the United States, to offer the necessary training for Event Spiritual Directors and Assistant Spiritual Directors within their community. The date(s) for community clergy training will be set by the Board of Directors and communicated, by the CSD, to the International Office. Annually, every member of the clergy pool will be required to participate in at least one session.

In order to be fully empowered, every clergy desiring to serve as a Spiritual Director in these ministries will need to have completed the following process:

1. Participate as a pilgrim on a WTE weekend or another recognized Fourth Day weekend.
2. Fill out a Clergy Team Application form and submit it to his/her Community Board of Directors through its Lay or Spiritual Director.
3. Attend an Upper Room Clergy Training offered by the Community Spiritual Director.

The UR training for the CSDs (yes, veterans still love acronyms) is conducted via web conferencing. I attended a session in APR 2019. I am currently working on formatting the information provided to conduct the annual required training sessions. At the outset, I will concentrate on the clergy teams for Walk 91 and 92.

that publication.

How many should I sponsor on a Walk?

The simple answer is only one, which is a reasonable guideline to follow. Sponsoring one person in the nurturing love of the community is a time-consuming activity. Adding a second person could compromise your ability to be a good sponsor. Giving the applications to several people is the easy part. Carrying out all the sponsor responsibilities will challenge the hardest Emmaus person. As a sponsor, take to heart Christ's admonition in Luke 14:28-32: count the cost of discipleship before you begin to sponsor. A married couple who sponsors another married couple may share those responsibilities.

Can I sponsor someone if I am on the team for that walk?

The sponsor's responsibilities require sufficient involvement that make it very difficult, if not impossible, for a team member to be a good sponsor without a co-sponsor. Even then, the pilgrim would need to understand that you have a job on the team and won't be spending time with them. If you are working in the Conference room, confidentiality would especially be difficult.

How soon should I sponsor after going on my walk?

It is advised that pilgrims wait for a year before sponsoring someone. This delay is intended to give the pilgrim ample time to learn about the complete Emmaus movement and to participate in Emmaus functions. In this time, your sponsor should train you in the responsibilities of sponsorship and assist in your first sponsorship.

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way to deliver the training: face-to-face or via the internet (Skype, etc.). Please send questions or suggestions to csdsuncoastemmaus@gmail.com.

Please remain in prayer for pilgrims for Walks #91 and #92 and for the teams.

De Colores,
Don Roser

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Movements

Rev. Don Roser, Community Spiritual Director

The Walk to Emmaus is great, but it isn't the only 72 hour / 4th Day movement available. The Upper Room recognizes the following other movements and our community is invited to support them with agape if we wish:

- Roman Catholic and Episcopal Cursillo
- Presbyterian Pilgrimage
- Via de Cristo (the Lutheran version of Cursillo)
- Tres Dias (an ecumenical version of Cursillo)
- Teens Encounter Christ and Happening (other versions of Chrysalis)
- Chrysalis Flight & Journey
- Kairos and Epiphany (The Prison Ministry)

You might hear of other 72 hour / 4th Day movements, but they are NOT recognized by the Upper Room and we should not be involved as the SunCoast Emmaus Community. As an individual, you, of course, may do as you wish.

Personal agape letters constitute one of the many unique aspects of the Walk to Emmaus. The goal is to have 12 letters from family members and close friends. If the pilgrim receives more than 12 letters, the excess are put aside and given to the pilgrim at the end of the walk on their way home. The pilgrims have a limited amount of time to read these letters and no one will have to wonder if they received less than anyone else. These positive and uplifting letters should convey a meaningful message from the writer and, if possible, relate a special moment the two have shared. The sponsor needs to work quietly behind the scenes to obtain these letters so the pilgrim is unaware of what is happening. The pilgrim will not receive them until Sunday afternoon and they will be a highlight of the weekend for many pilgrims.

REMEMBER: Sponsorship is the most important job of all. Start with prayer. Pray. Pray. Pray.

De Colores!
Margarete Roser

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Pilgrims for Fall Walks

Lisa Adams, Registrar

At a special meeting of the Board on June 15, we agreed that by the deadline of 61 days before a Walk starts, we must have at least twelve (12) confirmed registrations of Pilgrims -- or else the Walk will be cancelled. The rationale for it was explained in an email to the Community. If you didn't get it, [let us](#)

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Agape for Fall Walks

Susan Bensen Klinger
Agape Chair

As we prepare for our fall walks we are asking the community to consider bringing lunch for the team meetings.

This is a way for all our reunion groups and community members to show support for those who will be serving our pilgrims in the fall walks. It could be as simple as a baked potato bar, pizza, a variety of sandwiches etc. Please contact me at swbensen@gmail.com for the dates of meetings beginning in August.

We would also be interested in comprising a list of those community members who might be willing to serve at the special Saturday evening dinner during the Walks so our PALS would have some support.

The best Agape gift of all would be to sponsor a Pilgrim for the fall walks. Please remember the dates for applications of a minimum of 12 men and 12 women are coming quickly.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Blessings,
Susan Bensen Klinger

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Supporting the Worldwide Walk

The current counts and deadlines for the Fall Walks:

Men's Walk #91 -- 5 Pilgrims -- July 20

Women's Walk #92 -- 7 Pilgrims -- July 27

Please pray and work for adding Pilgrims.

Lisa

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Reunion Groups

Peter Patrick, Reunion Group Committee Chair &
Community Activities Chair

Wearing a visible cross is a great way to remind ourselves of who's we are -- we are children of God, purchased at a great price!

It is also a great way to show others our faith and maybe start up a conversation. Bob Mallory and Oscar Keuker, both with the EUMC Thursday morning reunion group, have that happen all the time. They could wear their Emmaus crosses (which is good to do to advertise our community) or some other cross. They choose to do so with a Disciple's Cross and when people say they like it, they offer them one -- free, as a gift of agape love. They only request that the recipient actually wear the cross.

Do you wear a cross? Is it visible? Have you had conversations started because of it?

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Jesus said, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him. - Luke 8:30 (NIV)

When I read that verse from Luke recently, it reminded me what The Walk to Emmaus is all about. As Pilgrims on The Walk to Emmaus we are blessed by God's grace and we go home with a renewed commission to tell everyone about that grace. But did you ever wonder how The Upper Room supports The Walk to Emmaus worldwide? Here are some things I discovered about how the Walk is touching Pilgrims worldwide and how The Upper Room supports new Emmaus Communities worldwide.

The Upper Room relies on income from resource sales, participants' fees, and the generous support of donors to cover all expenses and to be in ministry around the world. The Upper Room receives no apportionment funds from the United Methodist Church or any other denomination.

I would like to focus on a program called "The Gift." Following is an excerpt from The Upper Room website concerning The Gift.

The Emmaus Gift Fund is a love offering for emerging Emmaus Ministries communities around the world, providing support to these communities and to their regional representatives. Currently, there are seven emerging communities: Kenya, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Poland, and Bulgaria. It takes three to

the Good News of what Jesus has done for us -- and for them!

Call Peter Patrick 410-713-2406 or email propanepete@live.com with questions.

Peter Patrick

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Gary Doss, Gatherings Committee & Housing Committee Chair

Upcoming Gatherings:

Bring your Christmas spirit (and maybe a pickup load of shaved ice)!

July 20th 2019 5pm

Christmas in July

Ellenton United Methodist Church

3607 US 301

Ellenton FL 34222

Christmas in July party. If interested in helping with the event and decorations email gdoss@egracechurch.com. This would be a great time to be elves and make some Agape for the Fall walks.

August 17th 2019 5pm

First UMC Palmeto

330- 11ave West

Palmetto FL

A beautiful location near the Manatee

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typically costs \$80,000.

Did you know that each Emmaus community signs a written covenant to support emerging communities through the Emmaus Gift Fund? Over the years, we have seen that existing communities are strengthened and energized when they help new communities emerge. One of the known signs of a healthy Emmaus community is its involvement in growing new communities. The excitement that builds encourages community growth, not just in numbers, but also spiritual growth in God's grace. As with church congregations, when people work to build ministries in new places, they are mobilized to increase participation in local activities as well.

The global growth of The Walk to Emmaus would not be possible without the hands-on work of existing communities whose generous pilgrims host future leaders of new communities in their walks and travel to serve in various roles during the launch phase of those new communities. Right now, interest in The Walk to Emmaus—and the need for financial support—is especially great in places like Central Africa and South America.

The Suncoast Emmaus Board of Directors sign an annual covenant that includes support for programs like The Gift. Walter and I have been part of The Gift for several years and we know it is a way we can share the blessing of our walks with others around the world that we could never connect with on our own.

I invite you to go to <https://emmausgift.org/theemmausgift/>

Just a reminder that Gatherings are a good opportunity to bring potential candidates for future walks to meet the community and to experience our love for Jesus and each other. Guests are welcome and we ask at the beginning of each gathering if we have any. This allows the community to make them feel welcome and more comfortable about going on the walk. Just remember not to give away the ending of the book. 😊

Anyone interested with working on the Gathering and Housing team email gdoss@egracechurch.com. It does not take much effort and what you get in return makes it more than worth the time. I can say the Joy I get just from conversing with the current members is worth it all on its own. Their Love of the Lord is an inspiration.

Jesus loves you and so do I,
Gary Doss

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A Note from Communications

Rich Sidley,
Communications Chair

We hope you are enjoying the Newsletter and the ad hoc emails. We have about 380 active recipients and about half of these open any one email. If you know someone who is not receiving the emails, please remind them that they can sign up on the [community website](#) under the Contact menu.

If you are interested in serving on the

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Pam Hunt

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De Colores!

Rich

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