

The Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Newsletter January/February 2017

Newsletter Format

For a few years now we have become familiar with the Emmaus newsletter format and heading. Breaking the mold, at least temporarily, has to happen with this edition. I can't promise this look will remain but for right now bear with this format.

Board Meeting Change

Our bylaws require us to list the time and dates for all Board meetings. It's not only a legal requirement, it also assures Board transparency when we meet. We normally meet at Richfield UMC at 9:00AM on the second Saturday of every month. That you can mark on your calendar. However, the February meeting will be conducted on the 3rd Saturday in February, February 18th, 9:00AM at Richfield UMC.

Page | 1

Speaking of Bylaws

The bylaws are required for an Emmaus organization. They are boring to say the least and yet they are the Board's Covenant with the Community. Annually, the Board of Directors for MNWTE are required to sign a Covenant with The Upper Room saying we will comply with the content with ALL of the Emmaus manuals. Our Covenant to the Community comes in the form of bylaws. When a Walk takes place, our Covenant with the Team is in the form of training and Board representation. As a side note, during the next meeting, the Board will be considering changes to the bylaws which will be presented to the Community upon a Board vote to seek approval by the community.

Speaking of Teams

There have been frequent questions as to why Team members cannot sponsor pilgrims. Personally, there are many reasons floating around out there but perhaps the best reason is found in *The Handbook on Emmaus*, page 17, on Sponsorship. The chapter discusses what good sponsorship entails. It entails many aspects that a team member cannot do while serving on Team. Essentially, being a good sponsor requires you to attend to things that occur off-sight as well as attending to your pilgrim's needs by participating in Candlelight, and Closing. There will be more on good sponsorship in future newsletters.

Speaking of Sponsorship

Why sponsor a pilgrim? One Community member put it best when he said, "I want a guarantee that the information and format I received will be the same that a person I sponsor, receives." He brings up a very good point and one that Emmaus talks about in the prefix section of the *Handbook on Emmaus* where the need for consistency from Walk to Walk, and from State to State is mentioned. If the program and the talks changed at the whim of the Lay Director, there would be no guarantee that the pilgrim you sponsored would have the same uplifting experience. One other movement authorizes changes from State to State. Emmaus has a different approach in which each State is required to be compliant with the content of the manuals. Deviate from the manuals, as some States have elected to do, and they lose their charter to operate as an Emmaus Community. Charter loss does happen. Right now we are getting new Emmaus members from out of state and other 4th-Day movements. We hope they experience the same consistency.

Sponsor a Pilgrim Now

The next set of Walks are for the Men's Walk, April 20-23 2017, and the Women's Walk April 27-30, 2017. Pilgrim Registration, Sponsorship and Team forms can now be completed and paid for on the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus website: www.mnemmaus.org. It is quite the task to maintain the website but while some areas are "under construction" the functionality for Team, Agape,

The Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Newsletter January/February 2017

Sponsors, and Pilgrims are live and online! Enhancements are being added frequently and on a time available basis. Check it out and keep checking out the new items.

Speaking of Technology

Have you liked us on Facebook? On Facebook, search for “MN Walk to Emmaus”. We’ll be having updates as we draw closer to the next set of Walks.

Page | 2

What is Happening on the Board?

There’s an excitement on the Board as volunteers are coming forth to serve on committees as well as assuming open Board positions. We have numerous committee openings available. Darlene Vandermyde (training@mnemmaus.org) is finding matches for everyone desiring to serve on committee. The advantage of serving on committee is being able to serve a vital function and at the same time be eligible to serve on a Conference Room Team or Agape. Honestly, we can use more volunteers to work with our Board.

As previously mentioned, the Board will be looking at bylaw changes. The bylaw changes are necessary because we noticed we unduly restricted ourselves. It is hoped the draft proposal will be ready for Board viewing and perhaps acceptance by the February meeting. The bylaws require Community approval.

It’s on the Web: At this point it would be appropriate to comment on the Board Members and their dedicated service to the Minnesota Emmaus Community. Normally, the Board Members would be listed by name in this newsletter but instead, breaking from tradition, direct your attention to the board of Directors link found on www.mnemmaus.org. There you will find a list of every Board member who is dedicating three or more years of their Christian lives to serve God by serving you. It is often a thankless job and sometimes filled with discussions with a variety of opinions and yet they serve in their capacity in such a giving way.

The web is getting a pretty big work out lately with numerous improvements. The first thing is the sign-in on the left column. Ignore that for now. That has been set aside for future use. There are other features that too are dedicated for future use which will enhance communications with those we serve. Stay tuned for that.

With the website comes dedicated email. The initial setup for Board Members is a little cumbersome but once established, it does create a good form of communication. We have done away with listing private emails on the website as they become targets for spam and malware. If you have a question or comment, please feel free to use the email link provided. We hope to get the line of communication open for all Board members within a month or two.

With the upcoming Walks, the prayer charts have been established and can be accessed also through the website. Ron Bogle and Mindy Schenck are both working on filling their teams based upon the list provided by Team Selection. Please pray for their leadership as well as their teams and the incredible Agape Teams.

CLD Perspective

The Board – Coming onto the Board in this capacity after one year off, I have the pleasure of serving with some of the most dedicated volunteers possible. Being a Board member is not just a once-a-month meeting dedication. Many times that is when the work actually begins. This board does make a positive difference in the Minnesota Emmaus Community and rarely do they ever hear a thank you. So, I’d like to thank them right now but at the same time, I’d also like to thank all former Board members. Their service made the Emmaus Community what it is today.

Emmaus discourages the use of Board members to serve on Team. It doesn’t seem fair but Emmaus explains that the work that is done on the Board requires total attention to detail as does serving on Team. The other aspect which is hidden away is the “progressive servanthood” rule which brings community members on a logical progression from pilgrim to

The Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Newsletter January/February 2017

Agape, to Assistant Table Leader, to Table Leader, Assistant Lay Director, and ultimately Weekend Lay Director. Following that progression while doing all of the work required while serving on the Board requires too much time and energy. At the same time, it may also remove the opportunity for a new pilgrim to begin their own progressive servanthood.

So, what about those web enhancements? Bernadine Seablom and Dan Foster are working on enhancements almost daily. Most are minor and yet they are enhancements. At the February 18th Board meeting the Board will be discussing a "Prayer Request" and a "Praise Report" section of the website. The Board has seen the draft proposal and are making comments. At the same time, some Community members are providing input. Once online, we will constantly be seeking ways to make the website more functional for the Emmaus Community.

Page | 3

Now is the time that we all should be considering sponsoring. The Walks will be coming up sooner than you would think. Team and Agape training begins on March 4th! It would be fantastic to have a waiting list for both Walks. That will only happen with you sponsoring a pilgrim. Pick one person. It could be a family member, church member, even co-worker who you may share common Christian beliefs. I think each of us left our Walk or served on Team seeing Jesus walk beside us as in Luke 24: 13-35. That is the foundation of the Emmaus 3-Day movement and should continue into all of our 4th Days.

As CLD for the Minnesota Emmaus Community, I count my blessings because of the active volunteers serving on the Board. Each is taking on a role in service to the community and doing it, very much, behind the scenes. While the Board meets monthly, there is constant activity going on probably each day. This newsletter, my first, was written by me while I was out of the country. Future newsletters will have many contributions from other Board members. I am indebted to each one as they serve you, they also serve God.

I believe in open communication and transparency in everything we do. We'll have more newsletters coming, especially as we find areas where we can improve our bylaws and Policies & Procedures Manual, remaining compliant with the Emmaus Model. To support the belief in the transparency of our process, there will be in the near future a section where meeting minutes from each meeting will be stored. That will be coming in the not too distant future.

On behalf of the members of the Minnesota Emmaus Community Board of Directors, thank you for your support, dedication, and contributions.

Blessings,

Pete Schenck