

Called Board Meeting
Tidewater Emmaus
25 Sept 2011

Present6

Jon Bennett	N	Christy Kapko	Y
Stan Best	Y	Randy Leazer	Y
Barbara Edwards	Y	Arnie Lindblad	Y
Alan Foster	Y	Kim McConnaughey	N
MaryBeth Grambo	Y	Jack Meservey	Y
Don Gaines	N	Carolyn Robertson	Y
Peggy Jordan	Y	Larry Taylor	N

Communion was served by Rev. Tom Mercer.

CLD shared three documents pertaining to the number of pilgrims needed for a walk. Documents are attached.

Sponsorship reported that at the deadline for application submission there were less than the required numbers of confirmed applications. TW 97 had less than the required number of confirmed applications, but there are still two week before the deadline.

CLD afforded each person present to make a statement concerning the number of pilgrims needed for a walk.

A letter from HSD was read.

A motion was made: Tidewater Emmaus will adhere to the guidelines provided by the Upper Room that calls for a minimum of 20 pilgrims for a walk. It was seconded. The motion passed. A roll call vote was taken: Aye 10, Nay 0.

A motion was made: the fall walk, TW 96, will be postponed in accordance to the guidelines of the Upper Room due to not meeting the minimum pilgrim count. It was seconded. The motion passed. A roll call vote was taken: Aye 6, Nay 3, Abstention 1.

It was also noted that if the applications for TW 97 fail to make the minimum number it too would be postponed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Guidelines - Flavors

Some people refer to our documents as guidelines. The word guideline comes from cave explorers and refers to the line they use that they tie at the entrance and then play it out as they go into the cave. This is their "guideline" to get out of the cave. It is not a suggestion, nor something to be tweaked. It is their only way to assure survival.

The term guideline means an indication of future conduct. Synonyms for guidelines are rule, law, regulation, standard operating procedures, etc. If we look at rule, the definition is a prescribed guide for action and one of the synonyms is guideline. The word law means a binding practice of a community and a synonym for law is guideline. Thus, to say that the Emmaus/Chrysalis materials are guidelines is saying they are rules or laws.

Communities sign a Letter of Agreement. Agreement means a contract duly executed and legally binding on the parties entering into it. A covenant is a legal contract, a binding agreement. The LOA is a binding legal contract. We refer to it as a covenant because of the use of the term covenant in the Bible.

When a community signs the LOA, they are agreeing to what is in the LOA. Part of that agreement is that communities will conduct the Walks according to the latest editions of The Upper Room materials and that interpretation of the materials is vested in the staff of the International Emmaus/Chrysalis office. Therefore what one calls a "flavor" needs to be interpreted by this office. Flavors can be changes and become problematic for the community.

If there were to be no consistency in the Emmaus/Chrysalis program, what would it be like? It would be like what is described in the Old Testament about the period of the Kings—
----everyone was doing what was right in his own eyes-----
and the nation was pulling apart at the seams.

Comments on Low Pilgrim Count

Many, if not most, communities feel they “must” have walks every season as they always have. Years ago this was not a problem, but now it is most definitely a problem as more and more communities are struggling with low pilgrim count and having to make very hard decisions about holding a walk. The 20 pilgrim minimum has a two fold principle backing the Upper Room guideline that says not to go forward with less than 20 pilgrims. First, you do not want the number of team members to overpower the number of pilgrims. If communities are not careful, the walk goes forward for the benefit of the team because of “all the hard work done in training”. Second, you cannot in most cases, justify the expense of a walk with less than 20 pilgrims.

The reason I take time to review this with everyone is because apparently many of you feel you MUST have as many walks as you always have had. NOT SO! In fact, you don’t have to have walks at all. You can gather as a fourth-day community until such time as you do have enough pilgrims. It may even work to your advantage to cancel or postpone a walk from time to time in order to get the attention of the community about their failure to sponsor.

May I suggest that each Board review their policy concerning holding Walks? You will not be judged on canceling or postponing a walk from time to time, but you could be judged on going forward with less than 20 pilgrims.

In some cases, and maybe in many, the equal commitment rule is being misused or not used at all. Conscientious sponsors take the time to sit down with both husband and wife to explain Emmaus, so they both hear your Emmaus story at the same time. When done this way, most spouses will agree to go on the walk without hesitation. Please don’t take the easy way and only speak to one; see both so the two can discuss clearly from the information you shared with them.