

The Walk to Emmaus is a structured, disciplined ecumenical experience in spiritual renewal, operative both in the life of the individual and of the church. Because of its life-transforming potential, Emmaus calls for excellence in team preparation and performance. This excellence is manifest in the spirit of humility and servanthood that characterizes the ministry of Emmaus — the same spirit modeled in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. In order to sustain the spirit of Emmaus, team members must, first of all, be committed to personal spiritual growth. Secondly, they are called to remain faithful to the spirit and structure of the Walk to Emmaus that has been entrusted to them by obedience to the authority and direction under which the Walk to Emmaus is conducted.

In order to adequately fulfill your role as a member of an Emmaus team, you will find it necessary to have a thorough understanding of the goals of the Emmaus weekend and a clear perception of its rhythm and dynamic. You will be called upon to sustain the character and spirit of Emmaus, to embrace and absorb your role with a keen awareness of and commitment to Christian servanthood. Sustaining the spirit of Emmaus requires your surrender to the presence and movement of the Holy Spirit. You, along with the other members of the Emmaus team, will be an instrument through which God can work mighty acts in the lives of Pilgrims. As an Emmaus team, it is important that you encourage one another as you seek to be formed spiritually into instruments of God. Only that mutual encouragement and personal surrender to Christ can ensure that it will indeed be the Holy Spirit, not the team, who reaches hearts during the Walk to Emmaus.

The Lay and Spiritual Directors for Emmaus weekends are called to lead a group of people from an Emmaus community through a process known as “team formation.” This is primarily a spiritual formation experience. The team, which you may become a part won’t just happen! It will be carefully and prayerfully selected, chosen jointly by the Team Selection Committee, from the Tampa Bay Area Emmaus community, and the Lay and Spiritual Directors for the weekend. Because of this broad selection process, each Walk to Emmaus belongs to the entire Emmaus community, and you are called to honor your responsibility to that community.

Emmaus weekends are under the authority and direction of the Board of Directors of the Tampa Bay Area Emmaus community, which, in turn, is under the authority of the Upper Room. This line of authority provides continuity from the International Emmaus Movement, through the local Board of Directors, to the Emmaus weekend you will be helping to conduct. This consistency and continuity is essential to the Walk to Emmaus as an instrument of spiritual renewal. This selection process also provides a mechanism to assure good stewardship of the Emmaus community — to assure that there is effective and responsible utilization of time, talent, and energies of individual community members.

Team formation takes place through discussion of the dynamics of the 72-hour weekend including the rhythm, spirit, progression of thought, and team discipline involved in the Walk to Emmaus. This process is necessary in preparing for each Emmaus weekend — no matter how many times team members may have, been involved in conducting previous events, these reminders are essential.

All team members are parts of one message — the grace of God and the love given to us through Jesus Christ. In all things during the team formation, let Jesus Christ and others come first. When the team experiences spiritual unity — being in Christ and having Christ in you — you become one of those who walked to Emmaus, the Pilgrim becomes the other, and Christ walks with you both — and your eyes will be opened.

I have read the above discussion and hereby agree to submit my name for consideration as a team member. I understand that this involves a commitment to attend all team meetings, to pay my own expenses as a resident member of the team for this weekend, and to follow the guidelines for conducting a Walk to Emmaus as set forth by the Upper Room.

Signature: _____

Date _____

The fee for Team members is \$ 125. This must be paid in full by the last Team meeting.