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# **From the Pioneer Country Emmaus Board**

The below letter was brought before the PCE Board during the September board meeting. After discussing this letter, the board approved for this message to be sent out to the PCE community as a whole in the hopes that it will be prayerfully received and considered by all who read it.

De Colores,  
Phil Christie, CLD

Dear Pioneer Country Emmaus,

I am writing this letter as the Past Community Lay Director and on behalf of the Pioneer Country Emmaus Board. I know it is no surprise to anyone as to what I am about share. The reality is that COVID knocked the wind out of our sails like it did to many organizations. At the same time, the symptoms had been present prior to COVID as we have had problems staffing walks and sponsoring pilgrims.

At our last board meeting, we talked about the Emmaus Community involvement and realized that, while we have seen a slight increase in participation at Gatherings, it was nowhere near the years leading up to our troubles staffing walks and sponsoring pilgrims. Other than the ice cream social, which still remains a hit, our numbers at gatherings have been regularly less than 25 and at times less than 15.

Your Emmaus Board has been working hard to keep things going. We have engaged new systems to reach out to members to ensure everyone receives a newsletter and everyone stays connected. But the reality is, without members participation at gatherings and supporting walks, it makes it very hard to continue.

Is your board ready to throw in the towel. NO...NO...NO!!! But without a vibrant and active community, we feel hand cuffed.

Our plea is that everyone reengages in the community activities. That you reach back to your first walk and remember the impact it had on you. The impacts it had on your daily walk with our Lord and Savior. The impact it had on your church. The impact it had when you sponsored pilgrims and saw their shining faces lit up by candles. The impact your letters of encouragement had on the pilgrims when they opened your letter. And the lasting impact those letters have been as they were reread them for many years after ones walk. And lastly, the shared fellowship and worship we have enjoyed at the many gatherings.

Does Pioneer Country need your help...Yes..Yes..Yes..Yes..Yes. Yes...Your Pioneer Country Emmaus Board needs your help by reengaging in the community, participating on walks when asked, sponsoring pilgrims, attending walk activities even if you haven't sponsored a pilgrim and attended gatherings on a regular basis.

Please prayfully consider the needs of Pioneer Country Emmaus allowing the walks and gatherings to continue. Yes...If you have suggestions or ideas, please email me at [okiebull13@gmail.com](mailto:okiebull13@gmail.com)

De Colores,  
Jeffrey Bull

Past Community Lay Director

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