



PIONEER COUNTRY
EMMAUS & CHRYSALIS



ROOSTER TALES

The monthly newsletter of the Pioneer Country Emmaus Community June
2024

Join us for the

June Gathering

Wesley United Methodist Church - OKC
1401 NW 25th St.
Oklahoma City, OK. 73106

June 15, 2024

4:00 - Board Meeting

5:30 - Potluck

6:30 - Worship

DeColores

Stephane Brooks, International Spiritual Director for Emmaus family of ministries, recently had a session with Community Spiritual Directors. What follows came from that session:

Email Inquiry:

I have had some very important questions from Emmaus community members this past week. Since the United Methodist Church has made controversial decisions lately, people are not willing to commit to serving on the Walk to Emmaus events!

.....
Could you please send me some updated information that I can pass on ...?

I just had a call this morning about a gentleman wanting to drop off of the October men's team as Lay Director in Training because of the latest Methodist events.

Email Inquiry:

With the recent actions of General Conference, does this mean the Walk to Emmaus retreats will now be fully inclusive of LGBTQIA++ persons, welcoming married persons of the same sex and non-binary persons on the weekend retreats?

Thanks for your question re: Walk to Emmaus and inclusivity.

The recent LGBTQ+ decision(s) taken by the UMC do(es) not affect our work.

As far as the Emmaus Ministries are concerned, there are 2 things that are central to this conversation:

Clarity on our mission – “to renew Christian disciples and strengthen local churches”;

Clarity on the nature of our work: it is ecumenical.

Our mandate – that goes back to the mid-1900s - continues to be an ecumenical one that causes us to be in partnership with various local churches and denominations.

On some issues, these churches and denominations have diverging views. In the context of the Emmaus Ministries, **we acknowledge this diversity, but we do not discuss it.** Having discussions/arguments over the many theological, political, racial, social, doctrinal ... positions that divide us as a people is **not part of our mission.** There are other fora for that.

On these divisive issues, Emmaus Ministries programs are neutral grounds on which team members work with God to “build” an environment of grace in which participants are able to experience God’s grace in refreshing ways.

For that reason, when participants show an interest in having clarity on divisive issues, we abstain from giving our stance. We encourage them to further the specific conversation with their church leadership. Those leaders will help them gain clarity on their church’s position on the matter.

All of this to say that in the context of the Emmaus Ministries, **we welcome everyone. However, there is one caveat:** no one is allowed to use the programs to promote their agenda (for or against) on any of those divisive issues. When this happens, persons (team member or participant) are immediately excused from further service on the team or participation in the event.

If persons (BoD members, Team members, participants) are having difficulties upholding the approach to the work of the Emmaus Ministries community then, it might be a case in which Emmaus Ministries is not (no longer) a good fit for them. They should not seek to change the mission. They should not seek to reduce the scope of the ministry. They should be treated with respect and encouraged to fulfill their calling in another ministerial context.

Having said all of the above, because of the litigious nature of our society, there are a number of elements to be taken into consideration when having to decide whether or not a member of the LGBTQ+ community will be invited to be on team or to participate in an event. For this reason, when requested, we are open to providing any necessary guidance.

Trusting that you find this helpful and, wishing you continued blessings on the journey.

Thanks again for reaching out.

Walks Postponed Until October

Women's Walk #155 will be first, October 3-6, 2024
Kelley Essary will be the Lay Director.

Men's Walk #156 will be October 17-20, 2024
Lay Director to be determined.

Walk site to be determined.
Please be in prayer for who you might sponsor and get their application in soon.

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