

## The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



November 2021

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 32, Number 4

### Change and Radical Believers

I taught our last lesson in Sunday School today from Francis Chan's book "Crazy Love." The last chapter in the book is about where he is in his life 5 years after he wrote the book. He says if you do the same things today that you did 5 years ago, you need to closely examine your heart. He goes on to say that to repent means to **change** and that as you discover areas of your life that are not under God's control you should repent and **change**. He says that if we do not actually **change**, we deceive ourselves and we are doing Satan's work for him because he doesn't need to deceive us if we are doing it to ourselves. **James 1:22** – But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **2Cor. 7:10** – Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

I thought about what has happened to me over the last five years since November 2017 and what I have done since then. My wife, Paula, and I are co-leaders of the Sunday School class since 2017, we are one of the teachers of the Sunday School class since 2017, I went on the Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC) Board as the Gathering Support person in February 2018, I became the GAEC Community Lay Director in February 2020, and I have been involved in new missions that I was not involved in before. We have gained two more for a total of 4 grandkids that we can love and have a relationship with, and we have new friends that we have loving relationships with both from church and personal friends. Just like any relationship with family and friends we have been intentional to spend time with God through prayer, scripture, devotionals, Christian music, and Christian studies. I have **changed** a lot through all of this. I have found that life is nothing but **change**. Just when we get comfortable, things **change**, and we start anew.

Francis Chan left his church in California after he wrote the book "Crazy Love" and went to Asia with his wife and 5 kids because they felt called to go somewhere else. In India, he was shocked by the commitment level of the believers there. He found out that calling yourself a Christian in India means you lose everything! Your family and friends reject you, and you lose your home, status, and job. He stated then why would anyone choose that unless he or she is serious about Jesus? He found out that they were since he met thousands that were beaten or watched relatives murdered for their Christian faith. Francis visited underground Christian churches in China where members were being trained to be missionaries. The way they prayed and gave testimony about being persecuted was convicting and encouraging to Francis. He was asked about the US churches, and he explained that Americans tend to focus on buildings and that people sometimes switch churches based on music, childcare, preaching, or disagreements with other believers. He said that they laughed in disbelief at our church experiences, thinking it was ridiculous that we would call that Christianity. Francis said that he used to think of the "**radical believers**" overseas as the strange ones but now he realizes that we are the weird ones where we can reduce the call to follow Jesus and make disciples to an invitation to sit in a church service! Not everyone or every church meets that definition of a sitting and not doing ministry church, but his point is that we need to be **changed radically** to be the disciples that Jesus wants us to be in the world. We are at least not now in the US, beaten, put in prison, or murdered for our Christian faith. We need to be committed, **radical believers** to **change** and grow to experience new things and step out in faith! Have you **changed** over the last 5 years? What do you need to do to **change**? Pray about what God wants you to do in your life to be a **radical believer**! Take the first step and keep going!

We are still requesting the Fourth Day community to send TESTIMONIES of how the Walk to Emmaus has **changed** their life to put on a TESTIMONY page on the GAEC website. Remember that Paul stated in **2 Timothy 1:8** "So do not be ashamed to TESTIFY about our Lord." You can check the last three WalkTalk editions on the GAEC website for Board member testimonies to give you an idea of what the article might look like (<https://www.austinemmaus.org/testimonials/>). Send a written or video TESTIMONY to [communications@austinemmaus.org](mailto:communications@austinemmaus.org). **Continue the year now by sharing** and make a difference in the GAEC community on the new website. We have not received many yet, so step out in faith and be **changed** by the experience!

With the HOPE of Jesus, we continue to step forward one day at a time. Thank you for all you are doing to keep HOPE alive! Stay connected to each other, your Church, and God. Continued blessings on you and all those around you.

DeColores!  
Steven Scott, Lay Director

# Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Non-Board Positions

**Lay Director**  
Steven Scott

[LayDirector@austinemmaus.org](mailto:LayDirector@austinemmaus.org)

**Assistant Lay Director**  
Dennis Perryman

[AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org](mailto:AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org)

**Past Lay Director**  
Fred Widmer

[PastLayDirector@austinemmaus.org](mailto:PastLayDirector@austinemmaus.org)

**Secretary**  
Harold Sundbeck

[Secretary@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Secretary@austinemmaus.org)

**Treasurer**  
Rick Seifert

[Treasurer@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Treasurer@austinemmaus.org)

**Upper Room Support**  
Mel Chambers

[UpperRoom@austinemmaus.org](mailto:UpperRoom@austinemmaus.org)

**Assist Upper Room Support**  
Open

[AssistUpperRoom@austinemmaus.org](mailto:AssistUpperRoom@austinemmaus.org)

**Communications Support\***  
Candy Kyle

[Communications@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Communications@austinemmaus.org)

**Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer)**  
Jeanne Randall

[WalkSignups@austinemmaus.org](mailto:WalkSignups@austinemmaus.org)

**Assistant Walk Support (Agape)**  
Jo Peters

[Agape@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Agape@austinemmaus.org)

**Gathering Support**  
Open

[Gathering@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Gathering@austinemmaus.org)

**Spiritual Director**  
Rev. Sylvester Chase

[SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org](mailto:SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org)

**Team Selection Support**  
Tami Pharr

[TeamSelection@austinemmaus.org](mailto:TeamSelection@austinemmaus.org)

**Reunion Group/POC Support\***  
Chuck Tencer

[ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org](mailto:ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org)

**Training Support**  
Open

[Training@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Training@austinemmaus.org)

**Database/Website Support**  
Christian Nelson

[DatabaseWebsite@austinemmaus.org](mailto:DatabaseWebsite@austinemmaus.org)

## Non-Board Positions

**Music Coordinator**  
Mike Carmagnola

[Music@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Music@austinemmaus.org)

**Assistant Music Coordinator**  
Jesse Maddera

[AssistMusic@austinemmaus.org](mailto:AssistMusic@austinemmaus.org)

**Registrar**

Myles McKemie

[Registrar@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Registrar@austinemmaus.org)

**Website Developer**  
Eric Bursley

[WebsiteDeveloper@austinemmaus.org](mailto:WebsiteDeveloper@austinemmaus.org)

**WalkTalk Editor**

Candy Kyle

[Communications@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Communications@austinemmaus.org)

\*denotes a change in person holding position



## BOARD MEMBERS



**Financial Statement**  
as of 11/10/21

**Bank Balance**  
**\$29,351.64**

**Scholarship Fund**  
**\$6,333.61**

**GAEC Website**

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

**GAEC Facebook page**

[www.facebook.com/groups/  
GreaterAustinEmmaus/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterAustinEmmaus/)

**Emmaus Sunday!**  
**Don't forget!**

The first Sunday of each month is Emmaus Sunday. Wear your cross and lanyard to worship. This is a great opportunity to help bring awareness to the Walk to Emmaus at your church!



**Join us for our next  
In-Person Gathering  
at Northwest Hills UMC**

**November 13, 2021**

**Music and Worship at 6:15 pm**

**The WalkTalk deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month; items received after that will be printed only if space is available.**

[Communications@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Communications@austinemmaus.org)

## TESTIMONIES: What Are You Going To Do About It?

My husband and I were fortunate enough to go on back to back Emmaus weekends in 2014. Although it was an amazing experience, I don't think I really understood everything about the Walk to Emmaus until it came full circle and I served on my first Emmaus Team. As a matter of fact, there were many things I didn't even remember about my weekend. It could possibly be from lack of sleep, an overstuffed belly, or just being overwhelmed by all my surroundings! I am so glad I had the experience to serve on so many Emmaus teams because I feel I took something new home with me from each role I had the opportunity to serve in.

When I came home from my weekend, I was so excited to see my husband and let him know how exciting the weekend was! He knew from my excitement that I had been blessed by the Walk to Emmaus and he was going to be as well.

When my husband came home the next week from his weekend, I think we went the whole week never even turning the tv on! All we did was compare notes and share our experience. It was truly a bonding experience for us that wasn't expected.

I think we both knew how special the Walk to Emmaus weekend was for us but what were we going to do with it? My husband knew right away that he wanted to get involved with prison ministry. It amazed me that he was so adamant that he wanted to do this and I was wondering why I hadn't figured out what my Emmaus experience was going to lead me to. When my husband told me this, my response was, "I will support you on that but please don't ask me to do this!" And he didn't.

Over the next year, I was able to discern that I wanted to get involved with some kind of ministry program but I just couldn't figure out what it was going to be. My husband became very active in Kairos but held true to his word that he wouldn't push me into it. He would come home from a weekend and share with me about his experience and it reminded me of our Emmaus weekends. He would be so uplifted for weeks after that and I became very envious. I really wanted to be involved in something that did good work for others.

Finally, my husband invited me to a closing ceremony at the end of a Kairos weekend. He told me that he wasn't pushing me to do Kairos, but that he thought I would enjoy getting to see the result of the work God did throughout a weekend and why he was so uplifted after each weekend. I accepted, somewhat reluctantly, but I was so glad I did! At the end of the ceremony, I was bawling like a baby and told my husband that I now knew "what I was going to do with it!"

I've been a part of Kairos Prison Ministry ever since and have never been so blessed with what this has brought to my life! The moral to my story is, never question where God is leading you. I'm thoroughly convinced that God wants us to enjoy serving Him and only He knows where that joy will come from!

**DeColores!**

**Candy Kyle  
Communications Support**

[Communications@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Communications@austinemmaus.org)

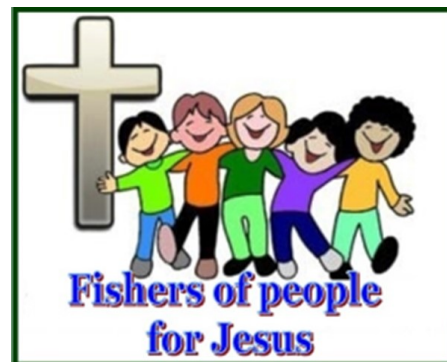
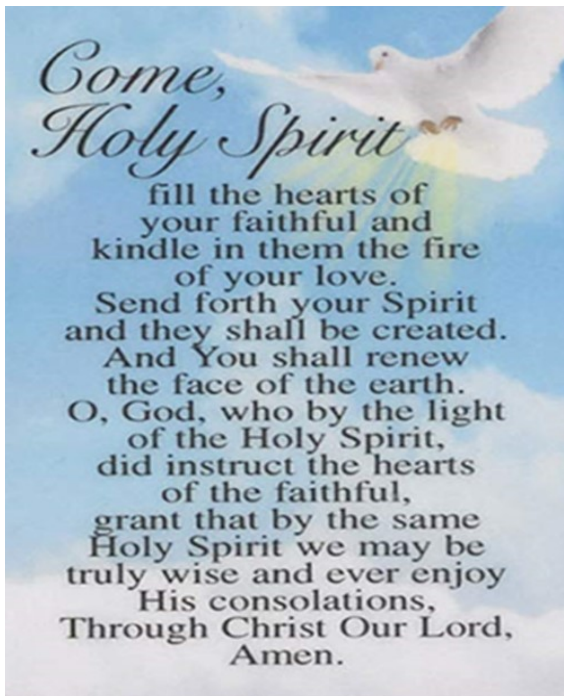


## GAEC Board Director Officer Roles

<u>OFFICER ROLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Lay Director	Steven Scott	2022
Assistant Lay Director	Dennis Perryman	2022
Past Lay Director	Fred Widmer	2022
Secretary	Harold Sundbeck	2023
Treasurer	Rick Seifert	2023
Upper Room Support	Mel Chambers	2022
Assist Upper Room Support	Open	2023
Communications Support	Candy Kyle	2024
Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer)	Jeanne Randall	2023
Assistant Walk Support (Agape)	Jo Peters	2022
Gathering Support	Open	2024
Spiritual Director	Rev. Sylvester Chase	2022
Team Selection Support	Tami Pharr	2022
Reunion Group/POC Support	Chuck Tencer	2024
Training Support	Open	2024
Database/Website Support	Christian Nelson	2024



**Term Expiration 2022-4, 2023-4, & 2024-5**  
**Top three Directors expire every year.**  
**Officer roles and terms expire on May 31<sup>st</sup> of the above years.**





## Next GAEC Board Meetings

Saturday, November 13, 2021  
at 3:00 p.m.

The above board meeting will be held at  
Northwest Hills UMC



## Greater Austin Emmaus Reunion Groups

Looking for a reunion group?  
Want to add a new group?  
Need to update info on an existing group?  
Send information to the Reunion Group/POC  
Support person at [ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org](mailto:ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org).



## Our Next Gathering November 13, 2021

Our next gathering will be an in-person gathering on November 13, 2021 at Northwest Hills UMC. The gathering will be at 6:15 pm with the format for the gathering similar to what we have been doing for our past live stream gatherings.

We will have songs before announcements and songs during worship. Communion will be a pre-pack set. Masks are not required. The offering plate will be in the back of the room for you to place a cash or check offering. Mike Carmagnola will be the Fourth Day speaker. Bring your lanyards and purple books for the service since there will not be slides to view.

We will provide a reminder on the in-person gathering by MailChimp as we get closer to the November 13 date. We look forward to you attending the in-person gathering!

**Northwest Hills UMC**  
**7050 Village Center Drive**  
**Austin, TX 78731**



## Fourth Day Speakers Needed

Would you like to give a Fourth Day talk at a Gathering? Fourth Day speakers are always needed! Please contact Steven Scott at [laydirector@austinemmaus.org](mailto:laydirector@austinemmaus.org) if you are interested.

## GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2021

The July Board Meeting was held at Hope Presbyterian Church.

The following members were present: Steven Scott, Lay Director; Dennis Perryman, Assistant Lay Director; Fred Widmer, Past Lay Director; Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Nelda Carpenter, Assistant Upper Room Support; Lauren Moffatt, Communications Support; Chuck Tencer, Gathering Support; Jeanne Randall, Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer); and Terri Engdahl, Training Support.

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm and Steven opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

**QUORUM:** Nine Board members were present providing a quorum for the meeting.

**MINUTES:** The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on May 10, 2021 and were approved by email.

**REPORTS:** The following officers, directors, or other persons presented reports to the Board of Directors, with any items discussed or actions taken as noted below. The following items were discussed:

**LAY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Steven Scott reported that two of the Board openings have been filled with Tami Pharr filling the Team Selection Support and Terri Engdahl filling the Training Support as voted by email by the Board. The Database/Website Support position is still pending. We are still in need of a permanent backup for Treasurer.

Steven sent out the current job descriptions for review by the Board and they were approved by email.

Our 2021 Women's Walk #147 to be held 11/4 - 11/7 will take place at the Eagle's Wings Retreat Center. Deena Raynor will continue to be the Lay Director, Lynn Magee will continue to be the Board Representative, and Steven Scott will continue to be the Servant Team Coordinator. However, we will need to find a Spiritual Director.

The Walk #147 Team Selection is rescheduled for Tuesday 7/13 at 6:30 pm at First UMC Pflugerville to allow more time to contact past team members to confirm if they are willing to continue on this new walk date.

Steven recommended we cancel the August Board meeting. Next Board meeting will be September 11, 2021 at 2:30 pm at Round Rock Presbyterian Church. This meeting will be an in person meeting.

Due to recent deaths of long-term community members and the need to let the community know and have a chance to attend services for these members, Steven made a motion to allow info about deaths of GAEC Fourth Day Members be sent out by MailChimp to inform the community on services that they may want to attend. Harold Sundbeck seconded the motion. The motion passed. Information can be sent to Lauren Moffatt, Communications Support.

During today's Gathering Steven will make a request to all members to help update the Reunion Group info as to times, place, contact person and any on-line info for the community.

*Board Minutes continue on page 7*

*Board Minutes continued from page 6*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Rick Seifert submitted the Treasurer's report by email. His report indicated the Frost Bank balance reconciled with the Aplos balance of \$31,940.17. Harold Sundbeck made a motion to approve the report and Jeanne Randall seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**UPPER ROOM/ASST. SUPPORT:** Nelda will meet with Mel to discuss the Upper Room responsibilities.

**DATABASE/WEBSITE SUPPORT:** The subcommittee recommends purchasing a new computer with 11 gen Intel Core i7, 16GB Ram, 15.6" touch screen, 1 TB of memory + 32 GB Optane to speed up the SSD, and Intel XE Max graphics to be able to produce WalkTalk & Website graphics in Ultra HD, provide backup storage for GAEC documents, photos, team rosters, data base, and WalkTalks for Communications Support, Upper Room Support Team Selection, and Lay Director use. The computer would be set up with partitions so it could be used by the Servant Team Coordinator on walks for graphics, team and pilgrim rosters, prayer partners, photo names, schedules, and other documents without erasing important documents. Cost to approve is computer \$1,630 + Microsoft 365 Business Software 12 month \$150 + Webroot Security and Antivirus Protection 24 month \$50+ Logitech MX Ergo Plus wireless Trackball Mouse \$100 for a total of \$1930 (Sales tax will be zero with exemption form). Nelda Carpenter made a motion to approve the purchase, Jeanne Randall seconded the motion. The motion passed to purchase the new computer.

**COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT:** Lauren Moffatt reported the Website is updated with all Gatherings for the rest of the year.

**WALK/ASST. WALK SUPPORT:** Jeanne Randall reported the sign-up is ready for Walk #147.

**GATHERING SUPPORT:** Chuck Tencer reported the July Gathering will take place today at Hope Presbyterian Church at 6:15 pm.

The September 11th Gathering will take place at Round Rock Presbyterian Church with the Gathering being in-person only. The November 13th Gathering will take place at Northwest Hills UMC at 6:30 pm with the possibility of hosting a pot-luck dinner at 5:30 pm. This is still to be decided. Additionally, we will have the Welcome Back for Walk #147 at 4:00 pm at Northwest Hills UMC.

**REUNION GROUP/POC SUPPORT:** Christian Nelson has added the DEEWC to our current POC list.

**TRAINING SUPPORT:** Terri Engdahl will get the link to the Upper Room Online Training from Mel Chambers.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Steven will continue to work on updating the By-Laws.

**OLD BUSINESS:** We still need a woman to serve on the 4th Day Team Selection committee from the old Eagles Wings Community. Steven will complete the paperwork for the merger of Eagles Wings and GAEC.

Dennis Perryman closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

**CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY:** I certify that I am the duly elected Secretary of Greater Austin Emmaus Fourth Day Community, Inc., d/b/a Greater Austin Emmaus Community and that these foregoing minutes were adopted and approved by email by the Board of Directors on July 12, 2021.

*Minutes written and respectfully submitted by GAEC Secretary, Harold Sundbeck.*

