



WalkTalk Newsletter

November 2022

The Greater Austin Emmaus Community

Volume 34, Number 13

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by Steven Scott - Lay Director

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2023 Walks at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center

Women's Walk #148 was cancelled due to what we hope were the final impacts of the pandemic. Fortunately we have been able to place some of those who had signed up for Walk #148 on a Walk with another community. The majority of the remaining pilgrims have decided to wait and attend the next

Women's Walk #149 scheduled for May 4-7, 2023.

Now is the time for you, the members of our community, to seek and sponsor additional pilgrims to make this the "Best Walk Ever". We encourage the community to talk to people you know, complete applications early and submit them as soon as possible.

Men's Walk #150 : Next Men's Walk will be Nov 2-4, 2023

The cost of the weekend is \$240 and can be paid with a check or with a credit card for an additional fee of \$7.50 to cover the credit card processing fee. You can download pilgrim, sponsor, and church forms from the austinemmaus.org website. Scholarships are available and forms are on the website.

The Next Gathering is Saturday Nov 19 at Lake Travis UMC

Lake Travis UMC is located at 1502 Ranch Rd 620 N. Lakeway, TX 78734. The potluck dinner is at 5:00pm in the fellowship Hall and the worship will start at 6:15pm as usual in the Sanctuary. See the attached flyer for more information on the gathering. We should be finished by 7:30pm. Please mark your calendar so you can see friends, fellowship, eat, sing, and worship before the holidays! So come get together and see folks you have not seen in years!!



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 if you are interested.

Next GAEC Board Meetings

Saturday, Nov 19, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.



The above board meeting will be held at
Lake Travis UMC

Greater Austin Emmaus Reunion Groups

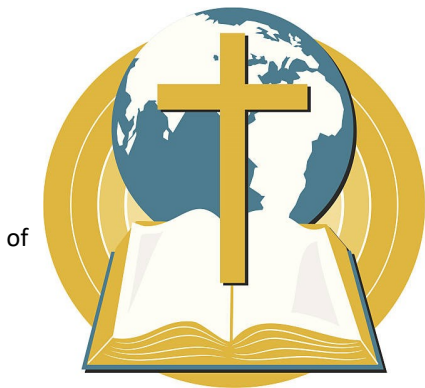
Looking for a reunion group?

Want to add a new group?

Need to update info on an existing group?

Send information to the Reunion Group/POC Support person

ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org.



Distracted In Our Faith

We have been doing a Sunday School lesson on Bob Goff's book titled "Undistracted: Capture Your Purpose, Rediscover Your Joy" for the last four weeks. Bob states that when we get **distracted** in our faith, we don't connect with Jesus because we see the storm instead of Jesus. This goes back to Matthew 14: 25-33 where Jesus walks on the water out to the boat with the disciples in the windy storm. They at first were terrified because they thought Jesus was a ghost, but Jesus said to them "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you." Peter replied, "Tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," Jesus said. Then Peter got down out

the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith, he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

We have had **distractions** over the last 2 ½ years with Covid. Our lives were totally turned upside down. When a lot of us needed to go to Church, we could not go. We lived in isolation with mostly only those in our household or family. Some had to go to work during this time and had a few more people to interact with. Some of us lost contact with Jesus. There is no shame in losing contact with Jesus! We need to eliminate the **distractions** and get back in the boat with him! Our congregation still has not all come back to the preCovid numbers. We need people to come back and get involved in our churches again. Come back to worship and Sunday School.

The same is true with the Greater Austin Emmaus Community. We have been **distracted** and lost contact with some of you. We have not seen or talked to you in years. We miss seeing you and having fellowship and worship together at gatherings. We have not had a Walk since 2019. God created us to be in relationship with him and with each other. We get strength whenever 2 or more are gathered in God's name! We don't have to have the appearance of looking like we have it all together. Share with each other your issues so we can share our faith and the experiences of what we have been through that comfort each other. We learn from each other and draw from the combined strength that we are given by the Holy Spirit. God many times is the only one with all the answers, but we are comforted by the love that flows from God to us to give to each other.

Even though we have taken our eyes off of Jesus and concentrated on other **distractions** of life, we can put our focus back on Jesus and get back in the boat with him! Would you please join me back in the boat and get back involved in your church and in Emmaus! God needs you to share his love. Your church needs you to be part of the congregation. Emmaus needs you to be involved in Gatherings and sponsoring and working Emmaus walks! You have an opportunity to get in the boat this Saturday 11/19 at Lake Travis UMC for our last Gathering of 2022! Bring your potluck and set your DVR to record your college's football game. Potluck is at 5:00pm and Worship is at 6:15pm. We look forward to seeing you!!

With the HOPE of Jesus, we continue to step forward one day at a time. We strive to keep our eyes on Jesus and ignore the **distractions**. 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.

De Colores!

Steven Scott, Lay Director

Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors

Position	Name	Term Ends	Contact
Lay Director	Steven Scott	2023	LayDirector@austinemmaus.org
Assistant Lay Director	OPEN	2023	AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org
Past Lay Director	Steven Scott	2023	PastLayDirector@austinemmaus.org
Secretary	Harold Sundbeck	2023	Secretary@austinemmaus.org
Treasurer	Rick Seifert	2023	Treasurer@austinemmaus.org
Upper Room Support	Ann Montgomery	2025	UpperRoom@austinemmaus.org
Assist Upper Room Support	Mel Chambers	12/1/2022	AssistUpperRoom@austinemmaus.org
Communications Support	Ann Montgomery (Temporary)	2022	Communications@austinemmaus.org
Walk Support	Jeanne Randall	2023	WalkSignups@austinemmaus.org
Gathering Support	Gene McConnell	2025	Gathering@austinemmaus.org
Spiritual Director	Rev. Sylvester Chase	2024	SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org
Team Selection Support	OPEN	2024	TeamSelection@austinemmaus.org
Reunion Group/POC Support	OPEN	2025	ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org
Database/Website Support	Christian Nelson	2024	DatabaseWebsite@austinemmaus.org

Term Expiration 2022-1, 2023-3, 2024-3 & 2025—4 (* indicates newly filled position)

Top three Directors expire every year. Officer roles and terms expire on May 31st of the above years.

Non-Board Positions

Music Coordinator	*Randy Nettles	Music@austinemmaus.org
Assistant Music Coordinator	Jesse Madera	AssistMusic@austinemmaus.org
Registrar	Myles McKemie	Registrar@austinemmaus.org
Website Developer	Eric Bursley	WebsiteDeveloper@austinemmaus.org
WalkTalk Editor	Ann Montgomery—temporary	Communications@austinemmaus.org

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!



Financial Statement

as of 10/31/22

Bank Balance

\$26,475.81

Scholarship Fund

\$3390.61

GAEC Website

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

GAEC Facebook page

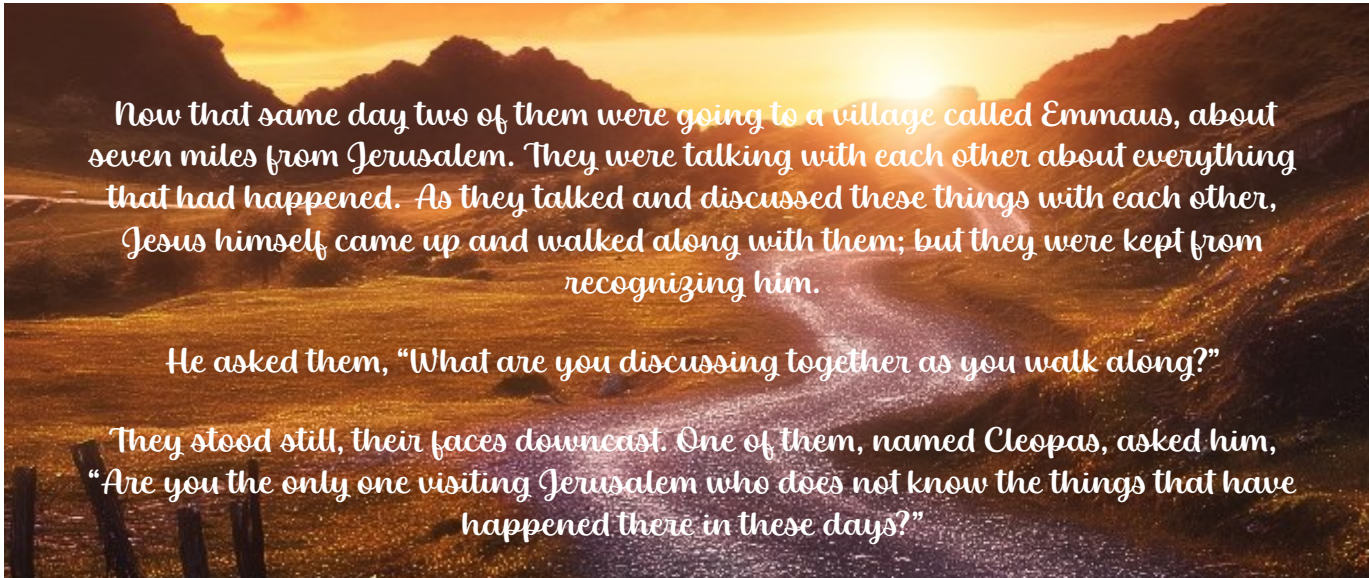
www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterAustinEmmaus/

Our Last Gathering September 24, 2022

Our September 24 Gathering was an in-person gathering at Pflugerville UMC. Pflugerville provided a potluck for the fourth day with food and drinks at 5:00 pm. The worship was at 6:15pm with the format for the gathering similar to what we have been doing.

We had songs before announcements and songs during worship. We had communion and Brett Crouch was the Fourth Day speaker. We enjoyed his testimony and his service to God in all his mission work. Randy Nettles and the Praise Band provided an AMAZING worship service!

Thank you to everyone who worked on the Gathering.



Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"



The *WalkTalk* deadline is the 20th of each month. Items received after that will be printed only if space is available.

Communications@austinemmaus.org

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2022

The March Board Meeting was held in person at Pflugerville UMC & called to order at 3:10 PM. Steven opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

The following members were present: Steven Scott, Lay Director; Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Rick Seifert, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Support; Gene McConnell, Gathering Support, Jeanne Randall, Walk Support, (by call-in). Christian Nelson, Database/Website Support, and Ann Montgomery, Assistant Upper Room Support. Absent: Rev. Sylvester Chase, Spiritual Director.

Quorum: Seven Board members were present and one by Call-in providing a quorum for the meeting.

Minutes:

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 Dennis Perryman resigned as Lay Director and Steven has moved back into the role of Lay Director from Past Lay Director.

Mel has agreed to be remain on the Board and be reassigned to Assistant Upper Room until December 1 to train up Ann Montgomery as the Upper Room Support.

Steven made the motion that we eliminate the following three Support Positions on the Board to reduce the number of community members required on the Board and the number of open positions. Delete the Assistant Upper Room Support effective Dec. 1. Delete the Assistant Walk Support (Agape) and add the roles to the Walk Support persons role. Delete the Training Support person role since the Board is responsible to train the team for walks. The Job Descriptions will be updated to optional positions. Steven made the motion to delete the Assistant Upper Room Support effective Dec. 1, the Assistant Walk Support (Agape), and the Training Support person and to make them optional positions on the Board. Rick seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Board terms of service have been set with current openings for Training Selection Support, Reunion Group/POC Support, Assistant Lay Director and a permanent Communications Support. Steven is praying about & contacting people for these positions. We are still in need of a permanent back-up for Treasurer.

With the motion passed to delete the three support positions, Steven would like to update the Job Descriptions to make three positions optional and to add a Registrar Job Description to the list for the Board to review that is in line with the Upper Room standards. The Registrar sends out the Acceptance Letter to Participant and a Letter to the Participant's Sponsor (that covers acceptance on a Walk and Sponsor Responsibilities) with a sample Letter to Request Agape Letters for Participant. GAEC has not been following that procedure and having the Lay Director of the Walk send the letters .

The Women's Walk #148 was cancelled at a Special Board meeting on Monday September 19, 2022 at 6pm because the team decided they were not supported by the community and the Board. Steven has personally called the Sponsors and told them of the cancellation of the Walk, the possibility to attend the Boerne Emmaus Community – Born Again – Walk on Nov. 17, 22 at Camp Capers in Comfort (\$285 cost) as a option or wait till the probable date of May 4-7, 23 for the GAEC next Women's Walk. The Sponsors and Pilgrims will pray and discuss and let Steven know if they want to cancel their spot on the Walk and/or attend the Born Again Walk. So far only one person out of 10 applications in hand has stated they want to cancel their attendance

Steven contacted Eagle's Wings Retreat Center and told them the Women's Walk #148 on Nov. 3-6, 22 was cancelled and that we understand we are losing our deposit of \$2,450 since the Walk was cancelled less than 60 days from the date of the Walk.

Steven has preliminarily reserved with Eagle's Wings Retreat Center the available dates of May 4-7, 23 for Women's Walk #149 and Nov. 2-5, 23 for Men's Walk #150. Steven made a motion to reserve those dates with Eagle's Wings Retreat Center to host the two Walks. Jeanne seconded the motion and the motion passed.

GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2022 (continued– Page 2)

Steven suggested that with the experience of Women's Walk #148 we need to add additional training for prospective eligible LD's, ALD's, BR's, and SD's to provide additional knowledge to make sure they are aware of:

1. The roles of the team, community, and Board
2. Policies and procedures of the GAEC to run a Walk
3. The Director's Manual section by section review
4. Schedule of the Walk Weekend times, roles, and responsibilities line by line

Steven is already working on this curriculum to be able to train the prospective LD's, ALD's, BR's, and SD's in the near future. The plan would be to check the database to see who is eligible for these positions and contact them to see if they are interested in being involved in the leadership of Emmaus teams for next year or later. We would also advertise the eligibility requirements to the community for these positions and see if anyone in the community is interested in filling any of the roles they are eligible for. After the training the Team Selection Committee would pick the roles from the eligible candidates for the next Walks. The Board would then approve the inside Team and the Servant Team Coordinator positions. Steven made a motion that this training and selection process would be the way the Board trains and chooses the Walk positions from now on. Rick seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The next Board meeting will be November 19, 2022 at 3:00 PM at Lake Travis UMC.

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 \$26,831.31. Jeanne made a motion to approve the financial report. Mel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

UPPER ROOM/ASST. SUPPORT – Mel will order new metal crosses for the upcoming Walks.

DATABASE/WEBSITE SUPPORT – Christian will work with the Database/Walk template committee for our 2023 Walks. Rick will help.

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT – Ann Montgomery will assist in a temporary position to work on the WalkTalk and MailChimp messaging while we are seeking a permanent person for the position.

WALK/ASST. WALK SUPPORT - The Sign-up agape list and the 72-hour Prayer Vigil need to be redone for the new Women's Walk #149 on May 4-7, 23 and sent out.

GATHERING SUPPORT – Pflugerville FUMC is hosting the Gathering today. A potluck dinner will be provided for a requested love offering at 5:00pm. Worship will be at 6:15pm. with Brett Crouch as the 4th day speaker. The next In-person Gathering is on Nov. 19, 2022, at Lake Travis UMC at 6:15pm. with food at 5:00pm.

REUNION GROUP/POC SUPPORT - Steven will request info today at the gathering on Reunion Groups.

NEW BUSINESS – Steven will work on updating the By-Laws in the future.

OLD BUSINESS – Nancy Napolitano was nominated to be the Woman's 4th Day Team Selection Member from Old Eagles Wings Community. However, Nancy did not come to the Team Selection meeting or notify anyone of her not coming. Rick to confirm Nancy wants to do this role.

WalkTalk Articles – Steven will provide an article for the WalkTalk along with either Ann or Jeanne.

Rick closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 4:31 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 November 18, 2022.



Greater Austin Emmaus Community

GAEC Community Gathering

November 19, 2022

Lake Travis UMC

1502 Ranch Rd 620 N.

Lakeway, TX 78734

5:00pm – Pot Luck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6:15pm – Music and Worship in the Sanctuary

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS

4TH Day Please Bring First Letter of Last Name:

A – E: Desserts

F – K: Appetizers, Salads, Side Dishes

L – Z: Main Dishes

Fourth Day Speaker is Myles McKemie

If questions, please contact Gene McConnell @ 512-567-1118

gene.mcconnell@yahoo.com