



## The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



March 2020

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 31, Number 3

### Reignite the Fire

About 3 years ago the Lord put it on my heart to approach the Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC) Board about moving Gatherings to Saturdays to reinvigorate the community and to allow more people in Austin to attend Gatherings. I went to the Board meeting and the Board was receptive to the idea. I was then asked to come onto the Board to implement the idea. After prayer where I raised my hand and said, "Here I am Lord," I joined the Board as the Gathering Support Coordinator.

About the same time, I found out that there was another Emmaus Community in the north part of Austin called Diakonia Emmaus Eagles Wings Community (DEEWC). That community was composed mostly of four Presbyterian churches. The Lord gave me a vision to seek to merge the two communities together. I discussed with the Board the advantages to merge the two communities, such as having more people at Gatherings, more people to sponsor pilgrims, more people to choose teams from, more people to be on the Board to accomplish the work needed for the community since we had open Board positions, more weekends to have Walks about 6 months apart instead of having to wait a year for the next Men's or Women's Walk, and the ability to make a more ecumenical community instead of mostly Methodist community members.

The Board agreed that I could discuss the merger idea with the DEEWC Lay Director. I had that discussion and he took it to their Board where they were receptive to the idea. We had a Men's Walk using the DEEWC weekend date at our new retreat location of Eagles Wing's, near Burnet. The DEEWC community could not have their Men's Walk on their reserved weekend, therefore, we were able to use the date and invited DEEWC to sponsor pilgrims on the weekend as well. They did have pilgrims on that Men's Walk.

We then decided to hold a joint DEEWC and GAEC Women's Walk on the DEEWC weekend date. Both communities had team members and pilgrims on the Walk. Everyone worked well after going through new Upper Room rules and learning the different ways for doing things between the two communities. Then, on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, the DEEWC Board and the community voted to merge into GAEC at their Gathering. GAEC and DEEWC Boards met on a special called meeting Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issues to get resolved to merge the communities. At that time, we voted to merge the two communities together. We are working on the Board Director officer roles that everyone will have. We will have Director Acting officer roles to continue the work of the Board and we will issue that list after the March 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The Directors and their officer roles will be nominated and elected at the annual meeting to be held at the Gathering at Round Rock Presbyterian Church on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Praise the Lord for his plan to join our two Emmaus communities together to make a stronger and more vibrant community through this merger!

LeeLeen Sundbeck resigned from the Acting Lay Director role January 24<sup>th</sup> after serving on the Board as Gathering Support Coordinator, Lay Director, Advising Lay Director, Lay Director when Rob Turk went to be with the Lord, and again after Kristin Hampsten had to step down as Lay Director. We thank LeeLeen for her approximately six years of service to the community and stepping up to fill in as Lay Director twice! The Board nominated me to be the Acting Lay Director for GAEC at the Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. All the Directors will be nominated and elected at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Gathering.

I have been praying about it, and the vision the Lord has given me for my term as Lay Director will be a theme of "Reignite the Fire." The scripture 1 John 1:6-7 states "If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." I know many of you have heard the story or experienced it personally, of taking out a log from a fire and the log goes dim and then dark by itself. However, when the log is placed back in the fire with other logs it reignites and turns red hot with light. We need to remember that we need to be in community to support each other. We need to stay involved in Emmaus by being in a reunion group, coming to Gatherings, and sponsoring pilgrims for Walks to share what we experienced on our own Walk. All of these are ways to fellowship with one another in the light of God! We need to talk to the people that we know at our churches to come back to Emmaus and get involved again. We need them as part of the community, we need to share fellowship of the light with them, and they need to spread God's light to others through the Walk to Emmaus weekend. Reignite the Fire!!

De Colores!  
Steven Scott

De Colores!

# Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Volunteers

**Acting Lay Director**  
Steven Scott

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

**Spiritual Director**

Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr.

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

**Assistant Lay Director**

*Vacant*

**Gathering Support Coordinator**

Steven Scott

[BM4GatheringSupport](mailto:BM4GatheringSupport@austinemmaus.org)

[@austinemmaus.org](mailto:BM4GatheringSupport@austinemmaus.org)

**Walk Support Coordinator**

Jeanne Randall

[BM4WalkSupport@austinemmaus.org](mailto:BM4WalkSupport@austinemmaus.org)

**Member Support Coordinator**

*Vacant*

**Secretary**

Harold Sundbeck

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

**Treasurer**

Patti Bizzell

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

**Upper Room Representative**

Mel Chambers

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

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

**Advising Lay Director**

*Vacant*

**Registrar**

Myles McKemie

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

**Database Coordinator**

*Vacant*

**Electronic Communications**

Ed Turner

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

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

**Prayer Vigil Coordinator**

Jeanne Randall

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

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

**Community Letters**

Harold Sundbeck

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

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

**Food/Gift Agape Coordinator**

Jeanne Randall

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

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

**Music Coordinator**

Mike Carmagnola

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

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

**WalkTalk Editor**

Kellye Noret

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



**Financial  
Statement**  
as of 2/17/20



**Bank Balance**

**\$16,684.58**

**General Scholarship Fund**

**\$455.00**

**Pastors Scholarship Fund**

**\$15.00**

**Terry Gruber Scholarship**

**Fund**

**\$520.00**

**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!



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

Please send your articles, information, community opportunities, 4th Day experiences/reflections to:

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

**March Gathering! Don't miss it!**

Join us at Northwest Hills UMC on March 7<sup>th</sup> for the March Gathering. Agape Making Party at 4:00, meal provided by NWHUMC at 5:30, music and worship at 6:30. Childcare available with advance notice to [ssarch@verizon.net](mailto:ssarch@verizon.net) by March 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Greater Austin Emmaus Community 2020 Walks

### Women's Walk #147

Deena Raynor, Lay Director  
Nancy Mossman, Spiritual Director  
Lynn Magee, Board Rep.  
Steven Scott, Servant Team Coor.

May 14-17, 2020

Contact: [Deena@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Deena@austinemmaus.org)

Contact: [Lynn@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Lynn@austinemmaus.org)

Contact: [Steven@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Steven@austinemmaus.org)

### Women's Walk #148

Debby Duplantis, Lay Director  
Spiritual Director TBD  
Diane Merwarth, Board Rep.  
Bob Duplantis, Servant Team Coor.

November 5-8, 2020

Contact: [Debby@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Debby@austinemmaus.org)

Contact: [Diane@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Diane@austinemmaus.org)

Contact: [Bob@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Bob@austinemmaus.org)

Both of these Walks will be held at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center in Burnet.  
The fee is \$210.00 each.



### Team Applications

If you are interested in serving on one of these Walks, go to the link below and fill out a Team Application form. If you have already filled one out, make sure the information on it is still correct. This info is used by the Team Selection Committee for Conference Room Team selections. No application is needed to serve on a Servant Team, but you must contact the Lay Director or the Servant Team Coordinator of that Walk to express your desire.

[http://austinemmaus.org/team\\_app.php](http://austinemmaus.org/team_app.php)

TEAM SELECTION

### Become a Sponsor!

Please be in prayer for who you think is ready to take their Walk to Emmaus, and offer to be their sponsor! Go to <http://www.austinemmaus.org> and click on 'Document Downloads' for the pilgrim and sponsor applications. Be sure you also download the Sponsor Packet for a detailed list of sponsor responsibilities.

<http://austinemmaus.org/pdf/EmmausSponsorPacket.pdf>



## Next GAEC Board Meeting

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Northwest Hills UMC  
Room 104 in the Family Life Center  
7050 Village Center Drive  
Austin, TX 78731

The community is welcome to attend,  
you do not have to be a member of the Board!



## Greater Austin Emmaus Reunion Groups

Looking for a reunion group?  
Want to add a new group?  
Need to update info on an existing group?

Go to the link below to do all of this!

[http://austinemmaus.org/reunion\\_groups.php](http://austinemmaus.org/reunion_groups.php)



## Next Gathering!

**March 7, 2020**

Northwest Hills UMC  
7050 Village Center Drive, Austin, 78731  
Agape Making Party at 4:00 p.m.  
Meal provided by NWHUMC at 5:30 p.m.  
Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.  
4th Day Speaker John Coffman



## Fourth Day Experiences

Do you have 4th Day experiences you would like to share with the community? Perhaps a reflection on your spiritual journey since your Walk? Or maybe sharing your answers to the two questions asked at Closing: What has this weekend meant to you? What are you going to do with it? Send your reflections to:

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

We will all be blessed by your sharing!

## GAEC Facebook page!

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/  
GreaterAustinEmmaus/](https://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!





*Greater Austin Emmaus Community*

**GAEC GATHERING**  
**Saturday March 7, 2020**

Northwest Hills UMC  
7050 Village Center Drive  
Austin, TX 78731

4:00 – Agape Making Party

5:30 – Meal provided by Northwest Hills UMC

6:30 – Music and Worship

4th Day Speaker John Coffman



There will be no potluck dinner, as Northwest Hills UMC will be providing a meal at 5:30 (thank you, NWHUMC!).

Child care is available for ages 5 and under with reservations by 2 PM Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact Steven Scott @ 281-460-5567

[ssarch@verizon.net](mailto:ssarch@verizon.net)

*See back page of this issue for remainder of 2020 Gatherings.*



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**GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**  
**February 6, 2019**  
**Northwest Hills UMC**

The Board has received and accepted the resignation of Acting Lay Director LeeLeen Sundbeck. Mel Chambers made a motion to appoint Steven Scott as Acting Lay Director in order to call the meeting to order. Jeanne Randall seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Acting Lay Director Steven Scott, who opened the meeting with a devotional and a prayer. The following directors were present: Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Representative; Steven Scott, Gathering Support Coordinator; and Jeanne Randall, Walk Support Coordinator. Also attending were Eben Files, Lynn Magee, Deena Raynor, Bob Duplantis, and Debby Duplantis. **QUORUM:** Five 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 January 9, 2020, 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:

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Patti Bizzell had sent out the financial report by email. The Frost Bank balance reconciles with the Aplos balance of \$22,120.58. Patti made the motion to accept the financial report. Jeanne seconded the motion. All approved. Patti reported she had filed the 990-N with the IRS and the franchise form with the State Comptroller's office on January 24, 2020. She also reported she had four paid pilgrims for Men's Walk #146.

**UPPER ROOM REPORT** – Mel reported he had not yet sent in the Covenant to the Upper Room. He wants to wait until we finish filling the open Board positions with the Board from Eagle's Wings community. He ordered additional manuals for the Lay Directors for the upcoming Walks. He reported we owe \$1,706.00 to Church Mutual for our insurance renewal.

**WALK SUPPORT** – Jeanne reported the Prayer Vigil and Agape sign-up lists need to remain up on our website after a Walk in order to update sign-up contacts. The next Walk sign-up lists can be put up on the website after the previous Walk is completed.

**GATHERING SUPPORT** – Our next Gathering will be March 7, 2020 at Northwest Hills UMC. John Coffman will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Speaker. Steven will lead the Agape Party. The May 2<sup>nd</sup> Gathering will be at Round Rock Presbyterian Church. The November 21<sup>st</sup> Gathering will be at Hope Presbyterian Church; however, there may be a question of costs if we need to pay for their sound system. Eben Files offered his sound system if needed.

**MEN'S WALK #146 LAY DIRECTOR REPORT** – Eben Files reported they do not have the minimum required pilgrims for Walk #146. If the Board cancels the Walk, we will refund checks and retrieve the manuals that were passed out to the team.

**WOMEN'S WALK #147 LAY DIRECTOR REPORT** – Deena Raynor reported they had team selection and she will begin making calls for the team members now that the Board has approved the team selection list. Her Spiritual Director is Nancy Mossman, her Board Rep. is Lynn Magee, and Steven Scott is the Servant Team Coordinator. Terri Sloan and Beth Bible will serve on the music team.

**WOMEN'S WALK #148 LAY DIRECTOR REPORT** – Debby Duplantis requested guidance for a potential Spiritual Director for Walk #148. Several names were suggested, and she will reach out to those individuals. Diane Merwarth will be the Board Rep. and Bob Duplantis will be the Servant Team Coordinator. Team selection will take place mid-March, date TBD.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Walk #146 is canceled due to a lack of pilgrims.

Steven would like the Board to establish a Team Selection Committee with members of the Board and two members from the general Emmaus community. The Board discussed looking into Constant Contact and Mail Chimp to send out notifications to the community since Yahoo groups has changed.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Steven will write the Lay Director article for the *WalkTalk*.

The Board wants to acknowledge and thank LeeLeen Sundbeck for her many years of service, especially for serving as Lay Director, not only for her designated time but for stepping back in to the role after the death of Rob Turk and then Kristin Hampsten needing to step down.

Steven Scott closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Harold Sundbeck.*

**Meeting  
Minutes**

## 2020 GAEC Emmaus Community Gatherings

Training Workshops at 4:00 PM

Potluck Dinner 5:30 PM

*(With the exception of the March 7<sup>th</sup> Gathering, where a meal will be provided by NWHUMC)*

Music and Worship at 6:30 PM

### March 7, 2020

Northwest Hills UMC  
7050 Village Center Drive, 78731  
Agape Making Party at 4:00 p.m.  
Meal provided by NWHUMC at 5:30 p.m.  
Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.  
4th Day Speaker John Coffman

### May 2, 2020

Round Rock Presbyterian Church  
4010 Sam Bass Rd., Round Rock, 78681  
Agape Making Party at 4:00 p.m.  
Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.  
Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.  
Women's Walk #147 Team Commissioning  
4th Day Speaker TBD

### May 30, 2020

Welcome Back for Women's Walk #147, Location TBD

### July 11, 2020

Cedar Creek UMC  
5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek, 78612  
Agape Making Party at 4:00 p.m.  
Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.  
Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.  
4th Day Speaker TBD

### September 12, 2020

Lake Travis UMC  
1502 Ranch Rd 620 N, Lakeway, 78734  
Sponsor Training at 4:00 p.m.  
Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.  
Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.  
Women's Walk #148 Team Commissioning  
4th Day Speaker TBD

### November 21, 2020

Hope Presbyterian Church  
11512 Olson Drive, Austin, 78750  
Welcome Back for Women's Walk #148 at 4:00 p.m.  
Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.  
Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.  
4th Day Speaker TBD



### 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 [ssarch@verizon.net](mailto:ssarch@verizon.net) if you are interested. We will all be blessed by your sharing!

