
GSMEC NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Gathering for March

We are planning to start having a rotating location for our gatherings around the community area. If you would like to host a gathering at your church or other location, let Stephanie Wasserman know at gatherings@gsmec.org.

Chili Cook Off

We are going to have a chili cook-off at the March Gathering. If you have a favorite chili recipe make it and bring it, and if not then bring a side or dessert to compliment. Come prepared to fellowship and worship our loving and powerful Lord and Savior!

Sponsors, please remind your previous pilgrims and butterflies to join us. Let's help remind each other the importance of community.

March – 3/9/19

The March Gathering will be at Trinity United Methodist Church - 5613 Western Ave. Knoxville, TN 37921 at 6:30pm

UPCOMING WALKS/FLIGHTS

- 3/14-17 Men's Walk to Emmaus
4/25-28 Women's Walk to Emmaus
9/12-15 Men's Walk to Emmaus
11/7-10 Women's Walk to Emmaus

Walks/Flights are held at
Sevierville First United Methodist
Church
214 Cedar Street, Sevierville, TN

Team Selection Report

Walk 111 is just a few days away and the Team is prepared and ready to serve the men who will be attending as Pilgrims. Walk 112 is not too far behind and the Team for that Walk have started meeting in preparation for that weekend. A big THANK YOU goes out to all the men and women who have made the commitment to serve the Pilgrims that will be attending these two Walks.

I recently heard a comment that implied that “the same people” are always on the Teams and we should be calling on some of the new Community members to serve on Teams. To a degree, that is a true statement... if you are talking about the leadership positions on a Team. In the Conference Room, the 6-8 leadership positions require persons who have served on multiple walks, in multiple positions, and have given at least one Talk. For those positions, you do have folks who are making a commitment to serve and dedicate a large amount of their time over several years to serving the new Pilgrims and the Community. But, to fill about 10 of the 30 positions on a Team, we try to call on persons who have not previously served on a Team. To come up with the names of those 10 folk, at the Team Selection meeting for a Walk we develop a list of about 30 names of persons in the Community who have not previously served on a Team. And, for most Teams, all those names get called... in many cases, multiple

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CHRYSALIS

A couple of weeks ago we had Girls Flight #82 and Journey #41. Regrettably, we did not have enough boy caterpillars. It was a good one, lives were changed. Praise God!

We had a lot of helpers. I want to thank those who came for candlelight. You truly blessed all of us. Thank you Kim Roberts for your leadership. They worked hard.

We have not set a date for the next flight, but will soon. Please consider sponsoring a youth when we have our next flight. Thank you FUMC Sevierville for your hospitality. We are always looking for folks who are interested in working with us on the board and/or on the flights. If God is calling you to serve with us, prayerfully email Debbie Pope at debbielevepope@gmail.com

As always you can keep up to date on Chrysalis info at our Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/GSMECKnoxville/

Or at our website GSMEC.ORG

Send Chrysalis Questions or requests to help to info@gsmchrysalis.org

times to have a conversation and offer the opportunity to serve and participate. So, you ask, where do we get “those names” of who will get called. First, we try to look at who has been coming to Gatherings and who has come to help in the kitchen and/or dining room with serving meals during Walk weekends. We listen for recommendations from Reunion Groups and Community members. And, most notable, I look at who has contacted me or the Walk Lay Director and made known their desire to volunteer to serve on a Team. We are constantly asking for interested volunteers at almost all Community events and each monthly newsletter. Unfortunately, over the last year, I can pretty much count on my ten fingers the number of persons who have asked to be considered. If someone asks to be considered, they will get a phone call.

We are getting ready to start the process of selecting names to serve on the Fall 2019 men’s and women’s Walks. If you would like to be considered, please contact Lee Carleston (384-2602 or carlestonl@aol.com) ASAP. I look forward to hearing from you!

That said, serving on a Team takes a time commitment. First, you are committing to be at the Walk weekend for the entire 72 hour event. Second, the Team meets 3-6 times prior to the Walk to train, preview talks, and plan assignments. The meetings are recommended to take a total of about 20-24 hours of time, usually on Saturdays in the couple of months prior to the Walk. Third, Team members are asked to pray daily for the other members of the Team, the Pilgrims who will be attending the Walk, and that God will use them in a mighty way. As disciples we are called to serve, sometimes in ways that we would rather not be bothered with or are uncomfortable with. But, God will put you in the right place at the right time to make a difference in another life. Please prayerfully consider making the commitment to serve on a Team or in some support function on one of the upcoming Walks. DeColores! - Lee Carleston

Emmaus Community Lay Director

Your Testimonial can change a Life

As Christians we have heard people give testimonies of how Jesus transformed their lives when they became believers. As we listened, we felt encouraged that God was moving in people's lives. We knew that He was still in the healing business when we learned of a cure that the doctors could not explain. We rejoiced when we heard of family members or friends that were saved by the forgiveness of God through Christ's death and resurrection.

Remember how the Walk to Emmaus lit a spiritual fire in you and how you testified that it brought you closer to Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. I'm sure you told your friends and family about how wonderful it felt to be spiritually renewed.

We need to bring those testimonials to a wider audience. We would like to put your words on the GSMEC.org website. Rev Stephen Burkhart, our new Community Spiritual Director started this process by asking for testimonials for a brochure. Let's keep it going. Send your testimonials to cld@gsmec.org. You can sign them, or we could use just your first name, or you can keep them anonymous. It is up to you. We would also like to see some videos. If you want to make one, we'd love that also.

Let's reach out to those needing His touch of comfort and forgiveness. Let's tell the world that their walk will change their life!

De Colores, Todd Fisher

An Address by a Member of the GSMEC Community

One-score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth in East Tennessee a new community, conceived through God's grace and dedicated to the proposition of strengthening the Holy Spirit in our Christians Churches.

Now we are engaged in a great spiritual war, testing whether that community or any community so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We meet at monthly gatherings and on the battlefield of EMMAUS Walks/CHRYSALIS flights. We dedicate ourselves on the battlefield of these Walks/Flights so those Christians who wish to deepen their faith in God can do so. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot deepen their faith because so few attend. The brave men and women who struggled here before us have established a strong foundation for this community to build on. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what we do here.

It is for us the community to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who worked here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us the members of the GSMEC Community to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these past dedicated members of our community we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave such powerful devotion—that we here highly resolve that these members shall not have worked in vain, that this Community under God shall have a new birth of the Spirit, and that the GSMEC, of Christians, by Christians, and for the Christian community shall not perish from East Tennessee.

That we shall have a new growth of members attending Gatherings and sponsoring pilgrims/catapillars on the Walks/Flights.
DeColores

Richard Schulman

Walk 55 -Table of Matthew

Men's Walk to Emmaus #111 Prayer Vigil

Sign up at this link for the March prayer vigil -[Mens Walk March Prayer Vigil](#)

The walk is Coming up fast. March 14th – 17th, 2019.

You can also sign up at the link at the bottom of our www.gsmecc.org home page.

Please help us fill this prayer vigil up fast. The website we use for prayer vigils had some kind of issue and they could not get it set up for us so we are under a time crunch to fill those slots and we need you. We switched to signup.com which we used last year and had good results with.

Walk Weekend

The Walk is March 14th – 17th, 2019. If you would like to help please contact us at communications@gsmecc.org and we can tell you where we need helpers.

There are also a few opportunities to help with the walk in person throughout the weekend.

Schedule of Events for the Community

Send-off - Thursday, starting at 6:30 pm

Candlelight - Saturday, starting at 7:45pm

Closing – Sunday starting at 4 pm

As always you can come and help serve at any of the meals or help with the Agape Team.

The location for the walk is:

SEVIERVILLE FIRST UMC

214 CEDAR STREET

SEVIERVILLE, TN 37862

Thank you for all your prayers and support on this and all our Walk Weekends.

Send any questions to communications@gsmecc.org

Great Smoky Mountain Community Board Restructuring

In 2017, the Upper Room started recommending a structure change to Emmaus Communities who host multiple ministries (Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis, Journey to the Table, Face to Face, Discovery Weekend), to look at changing the leadership structure to help with handling the day to day workings of each ministry as well as making sure each ministry has representation and voice on the board of directors. In the beginning of 2018 your GSMEC board welcomed Hess "Doc" Hall, Jr., - Director of Older Adult Spiritual Formation Programs for Upper Room Emmaus, to come and give a presentation of the type of change they felt would be beneficial to our Community.

Your board of directors formed a sub-committee of Emmaus and Chrysalis board members to look into his presentation and see how it would work with our Community. Our sub-committee came to the conclusion that this was something we would like to pursue. We then took the presented information and came up with a new structure plan to present to the GSMEC board of directors.

At the January 2019 GSMEC board meeting, the board looked over that structure and voted unanimously to change our current format to this new structure.

Here is a brief explanation of how things will change:

Current Structure of GSMEC

Right now we run a 2 Board of Directors structure. We have an Emmaus Board of Directors and a Chrysalis Board of Directors. They run as 2 individual units that communicate to each other via a board liaison at each monthly board meeting.

The Emmaus Board of Directors is in charge of:

- Walk to Emmaus Weekends
- Communicating with Upper Room
- "Business side of things" (taxes, insurance, payments to Upper Room)
- Making sure that Emmaus and Chrysalis are both following the Upper Room Format for our weekends.

The Chrysalis Board of Directors is in charge of:

- Chrysalis Weekends
- Bookkeeping for Chrysalis Expenses/Payments
- Sharing in Business Expenses of Whole Community (insurance, supplies, office needs)
- Communicating to Emmaus Board

- The Chrysalis Board reports their info to the Emmaus Board so they in turn can report to the Upper Room. Each board is performing business as well as planning for their respective weekends.

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- **Current Structure looks like this:**

Emmaus

- Lay Director
- Past Lay Director
- Spiritual Director
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- 4th Day
- Agape
- Candlelight
- Communications
- Gatherings
- Kitchen/Dining
- Music
- Prayer
- Registration
- Supplies/Lit
- Sponsorship
- Team Selection
- Reunion Groups
- Walk Support
- Chrysalis Liaison

Chrysalis

- Lay Director
- Past Lay Director
- Spiritual Director
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- 4th Day
- Agape
- Candlelight
- Communications
- Gatherings
- Kitchen/Dining
- Music
- Prayer
- Registration
- Supplies/Lit
- Sponsorship
- Team Selection
- Reunion Groups
- Walk Support
- Emmaus Liaison

Both Boards are currently set up as 3 year positions. A new member of the community is voted into a vacant position each year at the November Gathering. That is at total of 40 - 3 year positions.

Adopted Structure Change

The Change that has been adopted will change our 2 Board of Directors system into 1 Governing Board over both ministries (Emmaus, Chrysalis). This will have the effect of having one group do the “Business side of things” for both ministries and the Ministry groups will change over to a Committee system to focus on the individual Weekend Ministries (Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis).

New Structure Would Look Like This:

GSMEC Unified Organization Chart

Board Chair	Vice-Chair	Past Board Chair	Secretary	Treasurer
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Team Selection Chair	Agape Chair	4th Day Chair	Walk To Emmaus Committee Leader	Chrysalis Committee Leader	Board Spiritual Director
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Voting Members

Committees

Emmaus Spiritual Director	Emmaus Agape	Emmaus Kitchen
Emmaus Walk support	Emmaus Music	Emmaus Candlelight
Emmaus Registration	Emmaus Sponsorship	Emmaus Secretary
Emmaus Team Selection	Emmaus Reunion Groups	Emmaus Prayer
Emmaus Sponsorship	Emmaus Walk Support	

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Chrysalis Spiritual Director	Chrysalis Agape	Chrysalis Kitchen
Chrysalis Flight support	Chrysalis Music	Chrysalis Candlelight
Chrysalis Registration	Chrysalis Sponsorship	Chrysalis Secretary
Chrysalis Team Selection	Chrysalis Reunion Groups	Chrysalis Flight Support
Chrysalis Sponsorship	Chrysalis Prayer	

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Additional Support Committees

Communications	Gatherings	Education	Literature/Supplies	4 th Day/Next Steps
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Emmaus Trainer

3/3/2019

This new structure would have 11 members of the Governing Board of Directors. They would be elected to a 3 year term by the community each November. The board will meet once a month. The board will be in charge of Handling Legalities/Finances, Setting Policy, & Insuring that the all ministries are operation in accordance to the Upper Room

Then there are 2 Committees Lead by the Walk to Emmaus Committee Leader and the Chrysalis Committee Leader who are in charge of planning and operating the Weekend Ministries. The people on these committees are appointed to their positions by the Committee Leader to a 1 year term. These Committees will meet separately from the board and are not members of the board of directors. The Committee Leader of each group will report to the Board and convey any needs they have to the Board at each Board Meeting.

Then we have the Additional Support Committees that will help the Board of Directors and each of the Committee members as needed.

This new structure changes the amount of people needed and commitment levels. The Governing Board positions are still set up as 3 year positions. They will be voted on by the community each November Gathering. This is a rotating number of people so that 1/3 of the board is replaced each year. That gives us 11 - 3 year positions.

Then we will have 28 – 1 year positions (14 for each of the 2 Ministry Committees). These are appointed positions. If you feel called to stay in a position for more than one year then you may be reappointed for another 1 year term at the Committee Leaders Approval.

Then there are 5 Additional Supporting Committees that are a 1 year appointment by the Governing Board. The Emmaus Trainer position is a 3 year appointment by the Governing Board and is trained directly by the Upper Room to help with keeping the community up to date with all new things the Upper Room has to offer.

If you so choose, you could be on the Chrysalis and Emmaus Committee for the same thing. For Example, you could be in charge of Kitchen planning for all Walks/Flights.

That gives us 12 - 3 year positions and 33 – 1 year positions.

Conclusion

I shared this information at the February gathering with the community in attendance and I share it again for those who were not able to attend or if you wanted a written copy to look at again. The Board of Directors has voted to go ahead with this plan. They feel it is a good way to reorganize to best use our Communities time and talents going forward to set us up to build a growing community and give people the opportunity to use their God given gifts in the areas they feel they can best contribute.

We are currently working on a transition plan on how to move into this new structure as smoothly as possible making sure that all the needs are still met for the Community & the Walks to Emmaus and the Chrysalis Flights during this transition.

If you have any more questions about this change, want more information, or feel called to fill a role in leadership, please email me (Layne Jennings) at communications@gsmec.org or give me a call (Layne Jennings) at (865) 673-4948.

If you are not in favor of this change, there is a 60 day window to express any opposition to the board. In order for this decision to be overturned there must be a petition signed by 25 community members presented to the board before the 60 day deadline is over. Again contact me if you would like any info on this as well.

I hope this has been a helpful explanation of the direction we feel the Lord is leading the leadership of the GSMEC.

Love In Christ,

Layne Jennings – Communications Chair

CONTACT US-

AS ALWAYS IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR YOUR GSMEC BOARD, PLEASE LET US KNOW. YOU CAN SEND EMAILS TO

[COMMUNICATIONS@GSMEC.ORG](mailto:communications@gsmec.org)

Also our new board positions and contact info are at GSMEC.org/leadership