

**BYLAWS
of the
SOUTHERN MARYLAND EMMAUS COMMUNITY**

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this community shall be Southern Maryland Emmaus Community, hereinafter referred to as the Community.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. The object of the Community shall be to inspire, challenge, and equip church members for Christian action, in their homes, churches, places of work, and the world community through the Emmaus experience.

Section 2. The Community is affiliated with the International Emmaus Movement of The Upper Room, Nashville, Tennessee.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All persons who have completed a weekend experience of the Walk to Emmaus sponsored by the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community shall be members of the Community.

Section 2. Persons who have completed a Walk to Emmaus, Cursillo, Tres Dias, or similar 72-hour weekend may become members by participating in the activities of the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community and asking the Directory Coordinator of the Community to include their names in the mailing list.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Purpose
Direction of the Community shall be vested in a Board of Directors

Section 2. Composition
The Board will consist of fifteen (15) elected lay members, the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community Spiritual Director, the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community Assistant Spiritual Director, and a Southern Maryland Chrysalis Board Representative. Each member of the Board shall have one vote.

Section 3. Terms of Office
a) Lay persons on the Board shall be elected by the Community members in three (3) year terms. There are three (3) classes of five (5) lay members each, serving staggered terms.
b) Board Members cannot succeed themselves in consecutive terms. A two (2) year waiting period is required until a past board member is eligible for re-election.

- c) Terms of office shall begin July 1 and shall terminate June 30, except for officers who shall serve until election of new officers in July as provided in Section 5.
- d) Nominations for the Board elections shall be made at the May Board meeting. Any member of the Community may submit potential nominees.
- e) Board elections will be held at the June Gathering of the Community, with ballots printed in the June Newsletter. Those not present at the June Gathering may mail their ballot to the Community Registrar within 30 days of the nominations being publicized. Votes will be tallied 31 days after the nominations are publicized. Election shall be determined by a plurality of votes actually cast.

Section 4. Officers

Officers shall be the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer; and in case of absences will chair meetings in this order. The Vice-Chairperson must be eligible to serve an additional term on the Board and serve as the Chairperson if elected to that post. Officers can accept responsibility of a Work Area in addition to an elected position on the Board. Only Board members are eligible to be Officers.

Section 5. Election of Officers

Officers shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at the July meeting for a one-year term of office effective with the close of the July meeting.

Section 6. Meetings

The Board shall meet monthly in regular meetings unless otherwise ordered by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board in a regular meeting.

Section 7. Quorum

Fifty percent (50%) plus one (1), rounded to the next highest whole number, of the members of the Board of Directors present at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 8. Spiritual Director

The Spiritual Directors of the Community shall be selected by the Community annually. Term of office shall begin July 1. Each Spiritual Director will serve a two (2) year staggered term, the first year as the Community Assistant Spiritual Director and the second year as the Community Spiritual Director. Either Spiritual Director may be replaced during the term by ten (10) affirmative votes of the Board plus ratification by the International Spiritual Director of the Walk to Emmaus, who shall not be a voting member of the Board for purposes of removing the local Spiritual Director.

Section 9. Past Chairperson

The immediate past Chairperson of the Board shall serve on the Board one (1) additional year or the normal term of panel, whichever is longer.

Section 10. Special Meetings

Special Board meetings may be called by the Chairperson upon own initiative or when requested in writing by ten (10) members of the Board. A minimum advance notice of three (3) days is required for a Special meeting.

Section 11. Vacancies on the Board

The Board may elect persons, upon nomination by the Chairperson, to fill vacancies for the remainder of that vacant term. Such persons would then be eligible for election by the community to a full term at the next regular election following the completion of that vacant term.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall name Board members to chair the following committees: Gatherings, Registration, Agape, Group Reunions, Team Selection, Newsletter, Music, Entertainment, Event Coordinator, Directory, E-mail/POC, Childcare, Web/Board Room Liaison, Supply. The Board of Directors shall name individuals to chair the following committees: Gatherings, Registration, Group Reunions, Team Selection, Pilgrim Selection, Communication, Music, Event Coordinator, Child Care, Agape Support, Fourth Day Seminar, and any other committees that the Board deems necessary. Committee chairs serve at the pleasure of the Board and are accountable to the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Chairperson of the Board will be an exofficio member of all standing committees.

ARTICLE VI. Walk to Emmaus

Section 1. The Community shall follow the guidelines of The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus program in the formation of the three-day (72-hour) experience "Walk to Emmaus." The guidelines are attached hereto.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have general oversight in all matters relating to the local Walk to Emmaus Community.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall choose a Lay Director for each Community Walk to Emmaus weekend.

Section 4. The Spiritual Director for each Community Walk to Emmaus shall be selected by the Community Spiritual Director and Community Assistant Spiritual Director after consultation with the Board and the chosen Lay Director for that Walk.

Section 5. The Team Selection Committee will be chaired by a member of the Board, include 2 at-large members, and include the Community Spiritual Director, Weekend Lay Directors and Weekend Spiritual

Directors for that set of Walks.

Section 6. Weekend Assistant Spiritual Directors will be selected by the Community Spiritual Director, Community Assistant Spiritual Director, and the Weekend Spiritual Directors for that set of Walks, in consultation with the Weekend Lay Directors.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments may be presented to the Board by any member of the Board one (1) month in advance of consideration by the Board. If the amendments are voted in the affirmative by a three-fourths (3/4) vote they will be circulated to the membership by the Community Newsletter and if no petitions signed by at least twenty-five (25) community members objecting to the new amendments are received, the amendments will be considered adopted. Any objections must be received within sixty (60) days of the mailing of the notification. If an objection petition is received the amendment will be considered voided. If the Board then wishes to submit the amendment to the entire Community for a vote it may do so. A majority or plurality of votes cast by the membership will decide the matter.

ARTICLE VIII. RATIFICATION

The Bylaws are to take effect immediately upon certification of the Board that a majority of the mail ballot of the Community approves them.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution, assets will be sent to the Northeast Region Emmaus Representative. In the further event that the Northeast Region Emmaus Representative does not want such assets, they will be sent to the International Upper Room Emmaus Community.

Original document: August 2004
Amended: April 15, 2006
Amended and Approved: June 30, 2008