

BIG BEND WALK TO EMMAUS BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this community shall be The Big Bend Walk to Emmaus, hereinafter referred to as the Community.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose 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 Upper Room Emmaus Ministries Office, Nashville, Tennessee.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All persons who have completed an Emmaus Ministry event sponsored by an Upper Room Emmaus Community shall be members of the Community.

Section 2. Persons who have completed a recognized three-day movement experience may become members by participating in the activities of the Community and asking the secretary or registrar of the Community to include their names in our database.

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 members and the Community Spiritual Director. Not more than three (3) of the voting members may be clergy.

Section 3. Terms of Office.

- a) Laypersons on the board shall be elected by the Community members through the Community website for three (3)-year terms in three (3) classes, each class having five (5) members.
- b) Board Members cannot succeed themselves in consecutive terms following a full three (3) year term.
- c) Terms of office shall begin January 1 and terminate December 31, except for officers who shall serve until election of new officers in January as provided in Section 5.

Section 4. Election of Board Members

- a) Laypersons shall be nominated from among active experienced members of the Community by Community members. Past board members must have been off the board for three (3) years prior to the year for which they are nominated.
- b) The Community may submit names through the Community website to the Nominating Committee who shall obtain the candidate's acceptance prior to placing their names on the ballot.
- c) The Nominating Committee shall submit to the board a slate of seven (7) nominees for consideration at the September board meeting.
- d) The ballot shall be provided to the Community members through the website or in the most effective way possible and shall be available no later than October 15 of each year.

- e) Ballots are to be received by the board no later than the November board meeting.
- f) Election is by majority vote of the ballots cast.
- g) The immediate past chair of the board shall serve on the board one (1) additional year or the normal period of the term, whichever is longer.
- h) The board may elect persons, upon nomination by the chair, to fill a vacant term until the next regular election for that term. Such persons are eligible for election to a full term by the Community at such regular election.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

Section 1. Officers

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

Section 2. Election of Officers.

Officers shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at the January meeting for a one (1)-year term of office effective with the close of the January meeting.

Section 3. Spiritual Director

The Spiritual Director of the Community shall be selected annually by the Board of Directors. Term of office shall begin January 1. The Spiritual Director may be replaced during the term by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board in a regular meeting.

ARTICLE VI Meetings.

Section 1. 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. Exceptions are that meetings will not be held during the months containing walks nor in December.

Section 2. Quorum.

Two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of the Board of Directors present at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Special Meetings.

Special Board meetings may be called by the Chair when requested in writing by two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of the Board.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall name Board members to chair the following committees: Agape, Candlelight, Gatherings, Kitchen, Literature, Logistics, Music, Outreach, Reunion Groups, Team Selection, Registrar and Training.

Section 2. The Chair of the Board will be an ex-officio member of all standing committees.

ARTICLE VIII WALK TO EMMAUS

Section 1. The Community shall follow the guidelines of the Upper Room Emmaus Ministries programs in the presentation of any Emmaus Ministries event.

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

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall elect the Lay Director for each Community Emmaus Ministries event.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall elect the Board Representative from the current board or a recent board member of the same gender as the pilgrims for each Community Emmaus Ministries event.

Section 5. The Spiritual Director for each Community Emmaus Ministries event shall be selected by the Community Spiritual Director after consultation with the Board.

Section 6. The board shall establish a Team Selection Committee. The Team Selection Committee shall consist of a board member who serves as chair, the Community Spiritual Director, and three (3) or four (4) members of the Emmaus Community who have broad awareness of the Community membership and a solid understanding of team needs.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to the bylaws 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 electronic communication 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 electronic communication sent to the community. 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 IX. RATIFICATION

The bylaws are to take effect immediately upon approval by the Board.

Approved by the Board of Directors –June 20, 2020