

Minutes: Heartland of Texas Emmaus Community Executive Board Meeting

December 4, 2023, 7:00 PM, Burnet FUMC

Attendees: Alan Bazard, JoAnn Dilworth, Rich Gilchrist, Roberta Goodman, Robert Hall, Bob Munsey, Laura Orr, Grady Roe

Guests: Gay Cochran, Troy Ellet, David Hinojosa, Paula Mays-Hall, Richard Wendrock

1. Bob called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and JoAnn opened us in prayer.
2. Women's Walk 2023:
 - a. Paula said that dying moments were the most powerful she'd ever seen.
 - b. One pilgrim was in emotional distress all weekend. She couldn't handle it if she wasn't the center of attention. It was quite disruptive, but the others at the table handled it well. Someone at the table was good at redirecting, which helped to mitigate the situation.
 - c. This could be mitigated further with sponsor training, alerting sponsors that people like this aren't good candidates for the walk. This is predicated on the sponsor being aware that issues exist.
 - d. It could also be mitigated with pastoral input. This is predicated on the pastor being aware that issues exist.
 - e. There was another person who was disruptive to a lesser degree, but other than these two people, it was a great walk.
 - f. Grady suggested that when disruptions occur at any future walks, that the lay and spiritual directors should meet to address it in the moment. They can elect to take whatever action they deem to be appropriate, up to and including bringing the pilgrim home.
 - g. We need to tighten up on requiring team members to complete the application form. There have been several team members in recent years who have not.
 - h. Gay mentioned there was someone who wanted to work on the conference team but had never worked on the servant team. Other communities had skipped the servant team requirement and allowed her to work on the conference team at their walks. She was quite hurt about not being allowed to work on the conference team, to the point where she probably will probably not participate in any HOTEK events. Working on the servant team first is an Upper Room requirement. The requirement needs to be made very clear to people expressing an interest in working on the conference team.
3. Men's Walk 2024:
 - a. The spiritual director has been secured – Bob Rogers from Llano.
 - b. The music director has been secured – Mike McKeown.
 - c. An ALD has been secured – Tom Bornschein.
 - d. Eight applications for the conference team have been submitted.
 - e. At the Christmas gathering on December 11, the need for people who want to work on the conference team to submit their application by December 15 will be announced.
 - f. The selection committee will meet towards the beginning of the week of December 18, preferably on the 18th or 19th.
4. The November minutes were received and accepted.
5. The November treasurer's report was received and accepted.
 - a. The Women's Walk will come out in the black.
 - b. We didn't submit the form 1023-EZ, which would have exempted us from sales tax on purchased from the Upper Room. The application fee of \$150 is exorbitant and we don't purchase very much from the Upper Room. It's more cost effective to pay the sales tax.

6. JoAnn reviewed a draft of the 2024 HOTEK calendar.
 - a. Alan will reserve Bee Creek UMC for the May gathering (May 20 due to the Memorial Day holiday).
 - b. Roberta will reserve Highland Lakes UMC for the August gathering.
7. Lake Travis Emmaus Community:
 - a. Bob spoke with Joanne Robison about Lake Travis joining HOTEK. Some Lake Travis women attended the Women's Walk 2023 and were very impressed with HOTEK, including the welcoming and friendly atmosphere.
 - b. They were formerly part of the Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC), but they no longer hold gatherings.
 - c. They are welcome to join us. This is very different from the recently considered partnership between HOTEK and GAEC.
 - i. There are no finances to merge.
 - ii. They aren't looking for HOTEK to change how we do things.
 - d. They might join us for the December gathering,
 - e. Bob told Joanne about the Men's Walk 2024. Lake Travis men are welcome to come on that walk.
8. Communications update:
 - a. Richard reported that Mail Chimp is up and running.
 - i. The e-mail announcing the December Christmas gathering was generated in Mail Chimp and the result is very visually appealing.
 - ii. 630 e-mails were sent, of which 180 were opened.
 - b. About 80 surveys have been completed. 10 churches are represented.
 - c. We agreed in June to use Simple Texting for text messaging. The cost would be about 5¢ per text. We haven't yet signed a contract with Simple Texting, nor have we paid anything to them.
 - d. Mail Chimp didn't offer texting in June, but they do now.
 - i. We can send 1,000 texts per month for \$20, which is 2¢ per text.
 - ii. The two months in which walks are held will require a higher volume of texting. We can pay \$25 to increase to 2,500 texts, which is 1¢ per text.
 - iii. We can opt to pay for the higher volume in those 2 months and revert to the lower volume for the other 10 months. We may also just opt to pay \$25 for 2,500 texts for all 12 months.
 - e. Grady moved to have Richard pursue Mail Chimp further. Robert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
9. The Upper Room has requested a \$500 donation for their charity. We will discuss this in January.
10. Roberta shared a prayer chapel document from Face to Face, an adaptation of The Walk to Emmaus. It can be used as a guideline to the prayer chapel team in the small chapel.
11. Bob closed the meeting at 8:30 and Grady closed us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Gilchrist, Secretary

December 5, 2023