

Instructions for Completing the Walk to Emmaus Pilgrim Application for the Hill Country Emmaus Community

In accordance with the policies established by the Board of Directors, you must take special note of the following questions on this Pilgrim Application. The Board has directed the Registrar to return any applications in which these questions are not fully answered and to request additional information before accepting the application.

INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Because Emmaus is not intended to make disciples, but rather strengthen those who are already disciples, persons accepted for a Walk to Emmaus are expected to be ACTIVE members of a Christian congregation. ALL EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY must be approved in advance by the Community Spiritual Director(s), please make note of this before you send the application in, otherwise, the form may be returned.

Persons who are members of one congregation but are actively attending another congregation should confront the issue where GOD is calling them to service and make a commitment to a worshipping community before applying for a Walk to Emmaus so that they are ready to participate FULLY in that community upon their return from the Walk to Emmaus.

HAS THE WALK TO EMMAUS BEEN EXPLAINED TO YOU?

Make sure you are fully aware of what the Walk to Emmaus is all about. If you have a question, please ask your sponsor for more information. Your sponsor should not sign this form until s/he has explained Emmaus and its follow-up to you.

IF THE WALK IS CANCELLED OR PILGRIM CANNOT ATTEND

The Sponsor, Pilgrim, and/or Lay Director may request a refund or request for a transfer to a future Emmaus Walk. If the Pilgrim is paid in full and an application is on file, you will not need to submit a new application. Whether requesting a refund or transfer, the request must be made in WRITING either through email, fax or regular mail to the registrar's office.

INFORMATION ON SPECIAL NEEDS

It is especially important to know if you have any special needs or challenges. It is rare that any such need cannot be met so that you can participate fully in the Walk to Emmaus. We would like to know as far ahead as possible so leadership can make your Walk a fulfilling experience for you.

NONE OF THE INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED BEYOND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MEETING YOUR NEEDS.

SIGNATURES REQUIRED ON THE FORM

There are three signatures REQUIRED for reservation. The form will be returned to you for completion of any are missing, which may result in a delay of your registration. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SPONSOR TO SEE THAT THESE SIGNATURES ARE ALL PRESENT!

1. **YOUR SIGNATURE** – This is your free commitment to accept God's invitation to attend the Walk. Therefore, the form must be signed by you personally, not your sponsor, spouse, friend, or parent (they cannot make such a free commitment for you).
2. **YOUR PASTOR'S SIGNATURE** – This signature is the commitment of the clergy member of the congregation that you serve to work with you in developing your service to God after the Walk. The clergy member does not have to have been on a Walk him/herself, however, the Walk is not intended to bypass or usurp the authority of the pastor of your congregation in any way. If your pastor is opposed to your attending a Walk, it will be difficult for you to serve effectively after your Walk, and you may feel frustrated and discouraged. Your sponsor or the Spiritual Director of the Hill Country Emmaus Community may contact the clergy member if s/he is hesitant or uncertain. IT IS MEANINGLESS TO HAVE ANY MINISTER OTHER THAN YOUR OWN SIGN THIS FORM, SINCE THAT WOULD COMPLETELY DEFEAT THE PURPOSE OF THE PASTOR'S SIGNATURE.
3. **YOUR SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE** – This is your sponsor's commitment to both you and to the Emmaus Community that s/he is willing to help you prepare for your Walk, care for your family while you are away, and help you become more active in service after the Walk. This signature emphasizes the great importance the Walk to Emmaus places on your sponsor.