

2011 BYLAWS - WESTERN MONTANA WALK TO EMMAUS

*Each new Board of Directors should adopt bylaws that set forth the structure and rules of operation for the Board of Directors. The bylaws of each community should be reviewed every five (5) years. This review assures that the Board of Directors functions in accordance with its own mandates and provides the Board of Directors the opportunity to make necessary revisions in the bylaws to reflect current, best practice.
(The last 5-year update was done in 2010)*

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this community shall be **The Western Montana Walk to Emmaus Community**, 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 International Emmaus Program of Upper Room Ministries, Nashville, Tennessee.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All persons who have completed a weekend experience of The Walk to Emmaus sponsored by an Upper Room Emmaus community shall be members of the Community.

Section 2. Persons who have completed a Walk to Emmaus, Cursillo, or Tres Dias weekend may become members by participating in the activities of the Community and asking the secretary or registrar of the Community to include their names on the mailing list.

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Section 2. The Board will consist of at least twelve (12) elected lay members and the Community Spiritual Director.

Section 3. A) Laypersons on the board shall be elected for three (3) year terms in three (3) classes, each class having at least four (4) members.

B) Board members cannot succeed themselves in consecutive terms; after a one (1) year absence they can be nominated to serve on the board again.

C) Normal terms of office shall begin January 1 and shall terminate December 31, except for officers, who shall serve until election of new officers in January as provided in Article 5.

Section 4. A) Board members are elected by the Community except for replacements, which can be elected by the Board.

B) The nominating committee shall submit to the Board a slate of at least the number of board positions available. Any member of the community may nominate someone for the board. Nominees must be active in the Western Montana Walk community and have agreed to serve on the board.

C) The ballot shall be provided to the community members on the WesternMTWalk.com website and shall be available following the November Board meeting.

D) Ballots are to be received by the Board no later than November 30 each year. Each member of the community is allowed one ballot, which must be signed.

E) Election is by majority vote of the ballots cast.

F) 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.

G) The board may elect persons, upon nomination by the chair, to fill a vacated term until the next regular election for that term. Such persons are eligible for election to a full term by the Community at the next regular election.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

Section 1. Officers shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer; and in case of absences they will chair meetings in this order. The Vice-Chair must be eligible to serve an additional year on the board and serve as Chair if elected to that post. Officers can accept responsibility for a work area in addition to an elected position on the Board. The chair is eligible to serve one additional year on the board if nominated to the position again.

Section 2. 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. Officers may be re-elected within their normal Board term of office.

Section 3. 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 two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1. The Board shall meet monthly in regular meetings unless otherwise ordered by a two-thirds vote of the Board in a regular meeting.

Section 2. Two-thirds of elected members of the Board of Directors present at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Special board meetings may be called by the Chair or when requested in writing by two-thirds of elected members of the Board.

Section 4. All Board members are strongly encouraged to attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings, and to notify the Board chairman if unable to attend.

Section 5. If a Board member has two or more **unexcused** absences, and if after discussion with the Board member about the absences future absences cannot be avoided, the Board may elect a replacement nominated by the Board Chair to fill that position.

Section 6. The Board Agenda is created and distributed by the Board Chair one week prior to a meeting. Anyone may add items to the Agenda and are encouraged to do so by contacting the Board Chair prior to the Agenda distribution and identifying the specific item or topic to be added.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall name Board members to the following standing committees: Gatherings, Agape Acts, Team Selection, Newsletter, Music/ Entertainment, and 4th Day Coordinator.

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 Walk to Emmaus program in the presentation of the three-day (72 hour) experience Walk to Emmaus.

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. Lay Directors serve on the board as ex-officio members without a vote for two years. The first year they report their progress as lay director. The second year they act as an advisor to the board.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall choose a Spiritual Director for each Community Walk to Emmaus weekend.

Section 5. The Board shall establish a team Selection Committee. The Team Selection Committee shall consist of a Board member who serves as the Chair, the Community Spiritual Director (after the recommendation of the Community Spiritual Director), and several members of the Emmaus Community who have 1) broad awareness of the community membership and 2) solid understanding of team needs. Community members are appointed by the Board Chair.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be presented to the Board by any member of the Community one (1) month in advance of consideration of the Board

Section 2. If the amendments are voted in the affirmative by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board, they will be circulated to the membership through the community website. 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 any objection petition is received, the amendment will be considered void.

Section 3. 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 X: RATIFICATION

The Five Year Updates recommended by the Board shall be submitted to the Community for approval by electronic ballot. The bylaws then take effect immediately upon certification of the Board that a majority of the ballot of the Community approves them.

Ratified by the Western Montana Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors on this the 5th day of December, 2011.

Chair Mark Vrooman

Vice-Chair Bethanne Williams

Secretary Sandy Sprague

Treasurer Kay Duffield

Spiritual Director Dennis Reese

Member Richard Smart

Member Kay Smart

Member Lanell Curry

Member Sylvia Kimzey

Member Mary Bick

Member

Member

Member

Member

