

Emmaus Board Minutes
May 22, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.
1st Baptist Church - Harlingen

Members Present: Margaret Ellison, Sharon Henry, Glenn Lemke, Joe Mohney, Cindy Robinson, Janet Schooley, Jim Parker, Rev. Hamilton Musser, Jerry Sires, Pam Schwartz, Dale Coalson, Rev. Doug Hinchcliff, Roger McCord, and Don Kurth

Opening Prayer: Rev. Hamilton Musser

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from April 24, 2014, were approved as corrected. The report on the business meeting at the Community Gathering on May 17, 2014, was also approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jerry Sires, treasurer, presented the report. He stated that a check for \$1,500 was issued to Jim Vallely for food purchases needed for the recent men's walk. When the stipend check was received from the conference, the bank account was reimbursed for the \$1,500. He reported that Bonnie Cherrington said that a check from the Camp Thicket Endowment Fund should be arriving soon to pay for kitchen supply needs. Jerry also stated that the endowment fund bank account may be moved from Kingsville UMC to Wesley UMC (as the "umbrella" church) for local convenience.

Introduction of New Members - Sharon thanked the nominating committee for their work on presenting a slate of new board members. The new members in attendance were introduced, which included Don Kurth, Rev. Doug Hinchcliff, Glenn Lemke, and Roger McCord. Rev. Hamilton Musser will also continue on the Board as an assistant spiritual director. The new members that were absent were Rev. George Colon (assistant spiritual director), Hope Heacock and Alma Vela. There was a motion to accept Rev. Hinchcliff as the new community spiritual director since Rev. Jo Ann Karm will be moving. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Men's Walk #1752 – Lay Director Dale Coalson reported that all closing paperwork had been completed and turned in to the conference office. He said that 22 pilgrims completed the walk, and that all went well. He stated that the outside team, music team, and cook team did great jobs, and the candlelight ceremony was awesome, although the community "procession" needs to be changed. He expressed a concern about the Camp Thicket location because there is not a camp employee on site in case of a problem, such as the air conditioning going out in a cabin. He noted that the use of all three camp buildings is just one building fee. The buildings accommodate 80 people. He stated that the follow-up orientation at the gathering on May 17 went well. He will pass on the team manuals to the next women's walk lay director, Chris Carey, along with the extra crosses and lanyards.

Women's Walk #1773 – Sharon Henry reported for Lay Director Chris Carey that a guitarist is still needed for the walk, which will be held on November 6-9, 2014 at Bayview. October 21 is the deadline for pilgrim registration.

Committee Reports:

Prayer Vigil – Pam Schwartz will email information to the new chair

Music/Entertainment/Sound – A new hand-held microphone is needed for the walks. Jim Parker will get one.

The committee chairs for 2014-15 are as follows:

Agape – Susan Francis
Candlelight/Sponsor's Hour – Joe Mohney
Community Training/Sponsors – Rev. Doug Hinchcliff
Finance – Jerry Sires
Gatherings & Community Events – Margaret Ellison
Group Reunions & Follow-up – Sara Van Wyk
Kitchen – Roger McCord
Literature & Supplies – Heather Adair
Music/Entertainment/Sound – Jim Parker
Outreach & Missions – Janet Schooley
Prayer Vigil – TBA
Newsletter – Dina Wilson
Walk/Flight Team Selection – Margaret Ellison
Website/Newsletter – Heather Adair
Weekend Set-up/Break-down – Glenn Lemke

New Business:

Walks for 2015: Men's Walk at Camp Thicket April 30-May 3, 2015; Women's Walk at Bayview November 5-8, 2015. Lay Directors still need to be assigned for both walks. Jerry Sires stated that Beverly Sires is ready and willing to lead the 2015 Women's walk. Jerry made a motion that Beverly be accepted for the position of lay director for that walk. Glenn Lemke seconded the motion. Motion passed. Joe Mohney moved to choose a committee to investigate the potential candidates for leadership and locations for the other upcoming walks. Jerry Sires seconded the motion. Members of the new ad hoc committee (so far) are Dale Coalson, Joe Mohney, Jerry Sires, and Hope Heacock. They are planning on touring the new facilities at the Valley Baptist Retreat Center in Mission soon.

Election of new Board officers

Lay Director – Sharon Henry
Assistant Lay Director #1 – Susan Francis
Assistant Lay Director #2 – Joe Mohney
Secretary – Susan Francis
Assistant Secretary – Janet Schooley
Treasurer – Jerry Sires
Assistant Treasurer – Glenn Lemke
Board Representative – Margaret Ellison
Spiritual Director – Rev. Doug Hinchcliff

Jim Parker moved to accept the slate of new officers. Glenn Lemke seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Signing of Covenant Agreement – The Emmaus Board Covenant was passed around to be signed by all new and returning board members.

Change Order of Gatherings: Discussion was held on the order of worship at community gatherings. Janet Schooley pointed out that pages 125-130 in the Board manuals have information concerning the order of worship and that board members should read this. (Our community uses Format C.) Discussion followed. It was also mentioned that there is a need for musicians at each gathering location. Joe Mohney will call a potential musician that he knows and report at the next meeting.

Supplies – Jerry will order purple worship books as needed.

Status of Emmaus car decals – Glenn Lemke will look into various styles, prices, etc. and report at the next meeting.

Next Gathering – June 21, 2014, at Los Fresnos UMC

Upcoming Gatherings Scheduled:

July 19 – Breathe Life, Harlingen

December – Wesley UMC

August 16 – Trinity UMC, McAllen

January – First Baptist, Arroyo City

September 20 – San Benito UMC

February – Mission UMC

October 18 – Location TBA

March – La Feria UMC

November – FUMC Harlingen

April – Cornerstone, Bayview

Note: Rev. Hinchcliff will not be at the July and August gatherings. He will work on getting other clergy to fill in for him at those times.

Other Business – Rev. Hamilton Musser stated that all board members should tell people at their respective churches to be praying for pilgrims for the upcoming walks. Rev. Hinchcliff added that there is a need for planning ahead on having the pilgrims register for the walks as early as possible. He also stated that the team leadership needs to be planned more in advance of the walks. He said that our community can connect with the Corpus community to help with the lack of potential team members. A committee can be set up to investigate this situation.

Next Meeting – June 26, 2013 at Wesley UMC in Harlingen

Rev. Doug Hinchcliff adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Robinson, Assistant Secretary