

Bylaws of the Lowcountry Emmaus Community

Amended effective July 11, 2022

Article I. Name

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

Article II. Purpose

Section 1. The object of the Community shall be to inspire, challenge, and equip church members for Christian action, in their homes, churches, places of work, and communities.

Section 2. The Community is affiliated with and operates under the auspices of the National Emmaus Movement, The Upper Room, Nashville, Tennessee.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. All persons who have completed a Walk to Emmaus, Cursillo, Via de Christo, Kairos, Chrysalis, Tres Dias walk of other Fourth Day groups recognized by the National Emmaus Movement may become members by participating in the activities of the Lowcountry Emmaus Community.

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 of the Board of Directors. The elected members may be laity or clergy with no more than five (5) being elected clergy to assure the movement is laity led. The Spiritual Director of the Community shall also serve on the Board of Directors with voting rights. No two members of the same family may serve on the Board simultaneously except when one is the Community Spiritual Director.

Section 3. Terms of Office

A) Laypersons on the Board shall be elected by the Community members in three (3) year terms. The Board will prescribe nominations procedures in writing as a standing rule. Election shall be determined by a plurality of votes actually cast.

B) Terms of office shall begin January 1 and shall terminate December 31 and when their successors have been elected.

C) Board members may have no more than 2 (two) unexcused absences from “Formal” meetings per year (September through May) with the third occurrence being appealed to the entire Board. In addition two consecutive unexcused absences from informal meetings (June through August), either violation will constitute withdrawal from the Board.

Section 4. Officers Officers shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 5. Election of Officers Officers shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at the beginning of the January meeting for a one year term of office effectively immediately.

Section 6. Meetings The Board shall meet monthly in regular meetings unless otherwise ordered by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board

Section 7. Special Meetings Special Board Meetings may be called by the Chairperson upon his/her own initiative or when requested in writing by ten (10) members of the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Quorum Nine (9) members of the Board of Directors present at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 9. Spiritual Director The Spiritual Director of the Community shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the October meeting and will take office with the new Board on January 1 of each year. An assistant may be elected to serve for one year. An assistant will have voice, but no vote at Board meetings.

Section 10. Vacancies on the Board The Board may elect persons, upon nomination by the Chairperson, to fill vacancies until the next regular election. Such persons are eligible for election by the Community at such a regular election.

Article V. Committees

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall name Board members to chair such standing committees as the standing rules shall specify, upon recommendation of the Lay Director. The Board member then shall at their desire/need enlist members of the Community to serve as a committee to provide needed assistance, with those names turned into the Records Chair to record servanthood.

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

Article VI. Walk to Emmaus

Section 1. The Community shall follow the guidelines of The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus program in the formation 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 Lowcountry Emmaus Community.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall elect a Lay Director for each Lowcountry Emmaus Walk weekend.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall elect a Spiritual Director for each Lowcountry Emmaus Walk weekend.

Section 5. Candidates for a Walk to Emmaus must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and sponsored by a member of the Lowcountry Emmaus Community or a similar 72 hour experience.

Article VII. Amendments

Proposed amendments 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 affirmative by a three-fourths (3/4) vote they will be circulated to the membership by the Community Newsletter, 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 mailing of the notification. 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 of votes cast by the membership will decide the matter.

Article VIII. Ratification

The By Laws are to take effect immediately upon certification of the Board that a majority of the mail ballots of the Community approves them.