

## WEST TENNESSEE EMMAUS COMMUNITY SPONSOR'S APPLICATION FORM



### **AS A SPONSOR, IT IS YOUR DUTY TO READ THE FOLLOWING IN IT'S ENTIRETY:**

**Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment and vision in the church and everyday life, for Christ's sake. We cannot reserve spaces for Walks. The Registrar can only accept complete applications (both the Pilgrim and Sponsor applications must be complete). Incomplete applications will be returned to you for completion. In addition, the deposit must accompany the completed applications. Please do not call the Registrar and ask for an exception because exceptions cannot be granted. Thank you for your sponsorship.**

- A. Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments, for Christ's sake. That could include:
1. Dependable church members & leaders who will bring new vision, commitment, and understanding back in their congregations.
  2. Less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitments renewed.
  3. Christians who are hungry for "something more," who want to grow spiritually.
  4. Members and leaders who represent a cross-section of the church and who will help Emmaus remain sound theologically, centered on the essentials of our common faith, and open to different perspectives.
- B. Emmaus is right for many people, but not for everyone! In some cases, Emmaus can be wrong for a person because of his or her religious background or emotional condition. In other cases, a person can be wrong for Emmaus because of the negative effect he or she will have on an Emmaus weekend or because of the divisive influence they will bring to the church. Sponsors should be sensitive to these factors. Some examples of bad or questionable sponsorship are:
1. Non-Christians – persons with no relationship to the Church of Jesus Christ.
  2. Persons undergoing an emotional crisis (family break-up or severe grief) or who are psychologically unstable.
  3. Christians whose theology and/or practice is notably different or incompatible with traditional theology and practice represented by the Walk to Emmaus. For example: Adventists who will want to be faithful to Saturday sabbath and strict dietary stipulations; members of independent groups will feel a need to defend the uniqueness of their beliefs throughout the Walk; persons who do not accept other kinds of Christians; or persons who do not share belief in traditional doctrines of the faith basic to the major denominations of the Church and to Emmaus.
  4. "Church hoppers" or members who continually have an ax to grind against the church; persons who will use Emmaus as a tool to divide the Body, to further their own theological agendas, or who will create an "Emmaus Church".
- C. Wise Sponsorship is purposeful and prayerful.
1. Wise Sponsorship will eventually produce a wise theologically centered movement of the Holy Spirit which is integrated into the life of the Church in the community and which is honored by a variety of churches as an effective instrument of the Church for conveying God's grace, the call to committed discipleship, and our unity in Christ.
  2. Unwise Sponsorship is haphazard and undiscerning. Unwise sponsorship eventually will produce a harvest that is more of a burden for the Church than a blessing, a movement which has become a "religious fringe group" or a true para-church apart from the established Church in the community.

### **HOW DO WE SPONSOR?**

1. Pray for the person's openness to God's call to discipleship, not for how to get him or her to go on a Walk.
2. Having made understood the purpose of Emmaus, invite them to attend for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ. Share your faith; explain the basic elements of the Walk, its purpose, and follow-up dimensions which help us live in grace for the rest of our lives.
3. Ask them to make a commitment by filling out the registration form. If the person is married, speak with both partners because an equal commitment by both spouses is necessary.
4. Continue to pray, prepare agape letters, enlist the support of their pastor. Collect eight to twelve personal agape letters. Do not give personal gifts during the weekend.
5. Support the Walk through your prayers during the 72-hour Prayer Vigil and your presence at Send-Off and Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight and Closing. Support the pilgrim's family by house sitting, baby sitting, watering plants, picking up mail, feeding pets, or just checking in with a spouse to see if any help is needed.
6. Encourage the pilgrim in his/her "fourth day" involvement. Allow them to talk through and appropriate the experience. Help them find a group. Take them to Gatherings as your guest for a couple of months.
7. Help the pilgrim re-enter their church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.
8. The aim of a sponsor SHOULD NOT be (1) to get friends to go, (2) to fill up a weekend, (3) to fix people's problems, or (4) to reproduce one's own religious experience in others.

I have read and understand the duties and responsibilities of wise sponsorship and pledge to adhere to them fully.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the Pilgrims, for the Emmaus community, and for the Church.  
 It is a demonstration of agape love. It is making oneself an instrument of prevenient grace.***

*(Please print)*

Pilgrim's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSOR:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (business) \_\_\_\_\_ (Email) \_\_\_\_\_

Name & denomination of church membership \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an active member? Y / N Walk # you attended: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Pilgrims sponsored in past year? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your reunion or accountability group \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known Pilgrim? \_\_\_\_\_ Describe relationship with Pilgrim: \_\_\_\_\_

If married, is the spouse attending Walk? Y / N If no, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you prayed about inviting this person to participate in the Walk? \_\_\_\_\_

Does Pilgrim have mental & physical health to be an active participant in Walk? *(Reread Section B on Page 1)* Y / N

Is Pilgrim under any temporary emotional stress? Y / N If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you believe this person would be a good Pilgrim? *(Reread Sections A & B on Page 1)* \_\_\_\_\_

**DUTIES OF SPONSOR:** *(Reread Section C and "How Do We Sponsor?" on Page 1)*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Have you committed to bring your Pilgrim to send-off? Y / N                            | Have you committed to attend Closing and take your Pilgrim home? Y / N                    |
| Have you committed to attend Sponsor's hour? Y / N                                     | Have you committed to care for the needs of your Pilgrim's family over the weekend? Y / N |
| Are you aware of the community guidelines for the number of letters per Pilgrim? Y / N | Have you committed to attend Candlelight? Y / N   |
| Are you willing to hold to the letters guidelines? Y / N                               | Have you committed to having minimal contact with your Pilgrim over the weekend? Y / N    |
| Have you committed to help your Pilgrim find a reunion group? Y / N                    |   |

**After prayerful consideration, knowing my pilgrim is an active church member, having explained what to expect during the weekend, knowing my pilgrim would exhibit high idealism, a spirit of charity and cooperation, I am submit that this is good candidate for Emmaus.**

Signature of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

***A completed application includes your Pilgrim's form and Deposit. No exceptions.***

***See top of page 1 for complete explanation.***

**Return to: Registrar, 305 John Brown Road, Beech Bluff, TN 38313 • 731-423-3330 • Sheila.Johnson@wtbc.edu**