

Midwest Crossroads Emmaus Community Board Meeting February 1, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Pastor Pete Ward, acting chairperson. In attendance were Annette Wray, Ann Mullins, Pastor Randy Schrock, Bob Demeter, John Schmidt, Val Shultz, Pastor Pete Ward, Paul Keaton, Lerryn Darnell, Phyllis Gerber, Kecia Bell, and Debbie Bennett, secretary. Guests included Larry Darnell and Robin Wilkening.

Pastor Randy gave devotions, and Pastor Pete gave a summary of the present condition of the Community. He mentioned that three campgrounds have been considered for future walks. Camp Connect has remodeled, but pretty much priced out of our range. Camp Lawrence is presently closed, but has done extensive infrastructure remodeling. It hopes to be ready later this year, but we do not know its costs either. A third campground in Cedar Lake was considered. Also very pricey, we would potentially be mixed among other groups, therefore losing our cloistered environment. The committee will also look into Camp Buffalo – a Boy Scout camp downstate. We, along with Northern Indiana and Michiana Emmaus groups, could go together at a central location and share in presenting walk weekends.

Two individuals are considering the position of Community Spiritual Director. Debbie Bennett was elected to be secretary, and Bob Demeter was elected to be treasurer.

There are changes in the published Gathering schedule. **The March Gathering has been changed to Sunday, March 22, at 3:00P.M. It will still be at LaPorte United Methodist Church.** Valparaiso First United Methodist Church will host the Gathering on Friday, December 4. Pastor Pete and Val will be in contact with Whiting about a potential Gathering there. We are trying to propose different dates to help increase attendance. One every two months or quarterly Gatherings may be considered. A suggestion was to offer a partial scholarship to a church hosting or a raffle to those in attendance for a pilgrim. No action was taken at this time on the suggestion.

The Committee Chairpersons list was revised. Policies and Procedures include Pastor Pete Ward, John Schmidt, and Phyllis Gerber. The entire board is on the nominations committee. Pastor Pete will ask if Joanne DeFries will edit the newsletter, now that we have a platform to disseminate it. Pastor Pete Ward and Chris Kosary will chair the Tech Committee. At this time we have no Quartermaster or Outreach Committee. Kecia Bell will continue as Gathering Coordinator, and she and Ann Mullens will continue as Reunion Group Coordinators. Lerryn Darnell will continue on sponsorship training (along with Karen Durnell who was absent today?). Fundraising chairpersons are Lerryn Darnell and Debbie Bennett. Prayer team will be Pastor Randy Schrock and Val Schultz.

Walk specific committees/ liaisons will be: Team selection – Community Lay Director and Phyllis Gerber; Site Coordinators include Paul Keaton, John Schmidt, and Pastor Pete Ward. Annette Wray will do registration. Karen Durnell continues with international agape and Lerryn Darnell and Debbie Bennett will do local Agape. The kitchen liaison will be Chris Kosary. Prayer Chapel Liaison will be Pastor Randy Schrock and Val Schultz. At this time we do now have chairpersons for Saturday Night entertainment or servant/agape liaisons.

We do not have a full board yet. Some names were discussed for potential board members. We will discuss that next meeting. Annette will send out the notes from November and December meetings to the new board, so that new members can come up to speed. Also the November notes, which are approved, will be sent to Christ Kosary to place on the MCEC website for all Community to read. Future notes and minutes will be posted once they are approved.

Prayers concerns were shared and Pastor Pete closed us in prayer. The next board meeting will be **March 7 at Valparaiso First UMC** upstairs in the Discipleship Room at **9:00 A.M.** Community members are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bennett, secretary