GREAT RIVER WALK TO EMMAUS
Bylaws
Adopted on June 27, 2022 & updated September 28, 2026

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Community shall be Great River Walk To Emmaus (GRE) hereinafter referred to as the Community or GRE.

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 and is under the authority of the International Emmaus Program of Upper Room Ministries, Nashville, TN.

Section 3. The Community was incorporated on August 22, 2016, by the state of Illinois and has been granted a 501(c)3 status by the US Internal Revenue Service.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All persons who have completed a GRE 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 in another Community, Chrysalis, Journey, Cursillo, Tres Dias, Via De Cristo Weekend or other recognized spiritual renewal three-day event 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 twelve (12) elected lay members, three (3) elected clergy, and the Community Spiritual Director. The Community Spiritual Director may also serve as one of the elected clergy.

Section 3. Terms of Office

a) Members of the board shall be elected by Community members for three (3) year terms in three (3) classes, each class having four (4) lay members and one (1) clergy.
b) Board members cannot succeed themselves in consecutive terms, a term being three (3) years. They may not serve on the Board in any capacity for one (1). Once a person has served a second three (3) year term, they cannot serve on the Board again.
c) Board member's service shall begin January 1 and shall terminate December 31, except for officers, who shall serve until election of new officers at the first meeting of the new year. (Transition period included)
d) A Board member shall be replaced if they are absent more than two (2) meetings in the current year unless valid reasons are provided. Board members are to inform the CLD of his/her inability to attend at least three days in advanced of an inability to attend a meeting, unless circumstances change.
e) Clergy must run for a clergy position on the board unless his/her circumstance change (such as a denomination standard)

Section 4. Process of Election

a.) Board members are elected by the Community.
b.) The Board shall appoint a nominating committee which shall submit to the Board a slate of at least six (6) lay nominees to elect four (4) lay positions and at least one (1) clergy. The slate should represent a geographical cross section of the Community.
c.) The ballot shall be provided to the Community members no later than October 15 of each year.
d.) Completed ballots are to be received by the Board no later than November 15 of each year.
e.) Election is by plurality vote of the ballots cast.
f.) In the event a board replacement is needed the person who had the next most votes at election time will be offered the position.

Section 5. Meetings

a.) The Board shall meet monthly in regular meetings unless otherwise ordered by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board in a regular meeting. (Weather related cancellation accepted)
b.) Special Board meetings may be called by the Community Lay Director or when requested in writing by ten (10) members of the Board.

Section 6. Ten (10) members of the Board of Directors present at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 7. The immediate past Community Lay Director of the board shall serve on the Board one (1) additional year or the normal period of the term(s) whichever is longer.

Section 8. The Board may elect a person, upon nomination by the Community Lay Director or from the floor, to fill a vacant term until the next regular election for that term. Such person is eligible for election to a full term by the Community at such regular election.

Section 9. The Board of Directors shall name Board members to chair standing committees as outlined in the Standing Policies.

Section 10. The Community Lay Director of the Board will be an ex-officio member of all standing committees.

Section 11. The minimum standard of prospective board member candidate is that the member should have participated in 2 talks/walks with both conference room and background experience. Candidates should complete a form indicating the roles the candidate has performed.

Section 12. The Community Spiritual Director, the Past Community Lay Director, and other ex-officio members of the Board shall have voice and vote.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

Section 1. Officers shall be the Community Lay Director (who will serve as Chair of the Board of Directors), Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. In the case of an absence of the Community Lay Director, the officers will chair the meeting in the order given above. The Vice-Chair must be eligible to serve an additional year on the board and serve as the Community Lay Director if elected to that post. Officers can accept responsibility for a work area in addition to an elected position on the Board.

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 meeting. Officers elected to the Board are as follows: Community Lay Director

(serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors and oversees issues at hand); Vice-Chair (assists Community Lay Director as needed and oversees Board meeting in the absence of the Community Lay Director); Secretary (records minutes of the meeting and prepares minutes for the Board's review,); Treasurer (pays bills, issues checks, issues a financial statement each month for the Board's review, prepares and makes sure documents and forms are filled out for the State of Illinois and makes deposits). (The Treasurer must be a member of the GRE Community, not necessarily a member of the Board)

Section 3. The Community Spiritual Director shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors in December. Term of office shall begin January 1.

ARTICLE VI – THE THREE-DAY WALK TO EMMAUS EVENT

Section 1. The Community shall follow the guidelines of The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus program in the presentation of the three-day (72 hours) experience of Walk to Emmaus. The guidelines are presented in the Upper Room Handbook on 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 vote on The Spiritual Director for each Community Walk to Emmaus Weekend from a list of qualified clergy provided by the Community Spiritual Director.

Section 4. The Assistant Spiritual Directors for each Community Walk to Emmaus Weekend shall be selected by the Team Selection Committee from a list supplied by the Community Spiritual Director at the Team Selection Meeting. The Weekend Spiritual Director and the Weekend Lay Director can make suggestions, but the Team Selection Committee does not need to honor these requests.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall choose a Lay Director for each Community Walk to Emmaus weekend.

Section 6. GREAT RIVER EMMAUS TEAM SELECTION
The Team Selection Committee shall be comprised of the Team Selection persons from the Board, the Community Spiritual Director, and **two members** from each geographic area defined below. Ideally, one male and one female member are selected in each geographic area to facilitate selections from the

men's and women's team service lists. If a representative is unable to attend, a designee from that area should be substituted.

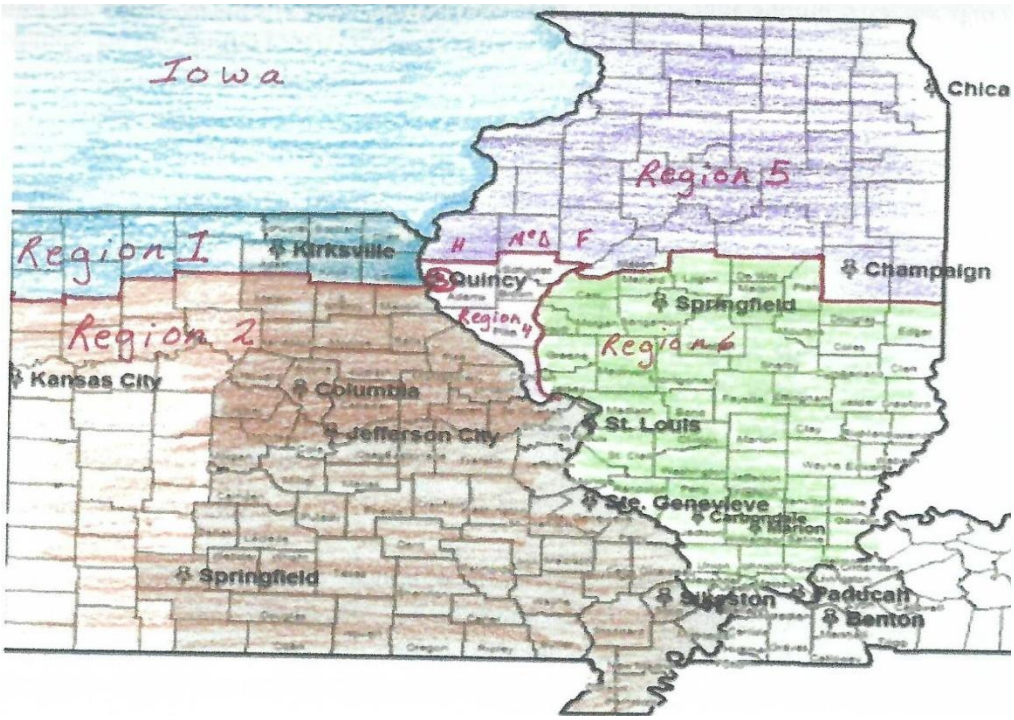
Terms of each Team Selection member will be two years, with terms staggered so as one new Team selection member is selected each year.

The Great River Emmaus Community shall consist of the following area groups:

- **Region 1 North Missouri/Iowa** (North Missouri counties of Lewis Clark, Scotland, Knox, all other Missouri counties to the north of dividing lines and Iowa.)
- **Region 2 South Missouri** (South Missouri counties of Marion, Shelby, Ralls, Monroe and all other counties south of dividing line)
- **Region 3** Quincy addresses
- **Region 4 West Central** (rural Adams, Schuyler, Brown, Pike, Calhoun)
- **Region 5 north and east** (IL counties of Hancock, McDonough, Fulton and all others north and east of defining line)
- **Region 6 south and east** GPS (IL, counties of Green, Pike, Scott, and all other counties south and east of dividing line)

- Ideally, the Team Selection Committee (TSC) plans ahead with the sponsoring organization's spiritual leader and asks clergy 12 months in advance to commit to an entire Emmaus ministries event. (CM p.64)
- The TSC intentionally recruits both men and women clergy among clergy speakers for both men's and women's events. The SD should be the same gender as participants. (CM p.57)
- Ideally Team selection is to begin at least 6 months prior to the weekend. (CM p.57)
- Ideally If a person serves as a Lay Director, he/she may not serve in any other capacity that same calendar year, including Board Advisor, except in an emergency situation.
- Emmaus is designed for progressive servanthood. (CM p.59) A goal of the Team selection committee is to staff each team with approximately 1/3 divisions: 1/3 new conference room team members, 1/3 second-or third time team members, and 1/3 team veterans (CM p. 63)
- Ideally, Team Selection should include on each team a clergyperson who has never served as a team member. (CM p.64)
- The Board of Directors needs to approve proposed team selection members and alternates, both lay and clergy
- All team members selected should be active in a Walk to Emmaus reunion group that uses the Emmaus reunion card.

- When a team is confirmed, the event LD sends the team roster to th Team selection chair and the BOD for approval. (CM p.57) After approval, the team roster should be sent to the Communications team for publication to the community.
- The Board representative(s) does not provide leadership in the team process unless his or her counsel is sought. The Board representative participates in all team meetings. (CM p. 58)
- Ideally, The Team selection committee will wisely select at least 1 ALD who is experienced and confident in this role and at least 1 ALD who is new to the job. (CM p.64)



GRE MAP BY REGIONS

Section 7. The Musician on the weekend cannot also serve as table leader/speaker on that weekend except in an emergency.

ARTICLE VII – BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposed amendments must be presented to the Board by a member of the Community one (1) month in advance of consideration by 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 newsletter and/or email, 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 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 VIII – DISSOLUTION

The property and assets of the corporation shall be distributed on dissolution as follows: In the event of dissolution of the corporation, in the sole judgment of the corporation's Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, give or dispose of all the remaining property and assets of the corporation, including cash, to Upper Room Ministries, or its legal entity successor(s), provided that any such legal entity successor also qualifies at the time as an exempt organization under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE IX – REVIEW OF BYLAWS

The Bylaws are to be reviewed no later than three (3) years from the date of adoption.