

North Georgia Walk to Emmaus Board Meeting Minutes May 4, 2021

Due to COVID-19, this meeting was conducted online.

ATTENDING: Patti Ann Allen (Agape), Suzanne Ayers (Weekend Communication), Hilary Berman (Training), Maria Blackwell (Face to Face), Steve Busey (Technology), Bobby Butler (Men's Team Selection), Terry Cooper (Chrysalis), Shua Gambill (Head Kitchen), Buffie Harper (Asst. Secretary & Training), Craig Hawkins (Co-Sponsorship), Pam Quantock (Secretary), Martha Lee Sanders (Community Lay Director), Ginny Sternberg (Women's Team Selection), John Thompson (Co-Sponsorship), Tara Thompson (Communications), Brian Watson (Registration), Daisy Watson (Registration), Bobby Whirley (Treasurer), Dave Wilkins (Facilities), Mark Wyssbrod (Development)

ABSENT: Rev. David Bowen (Men's Community Spiritual Director), Trey Kinney (Set-Up), Gene Newby (Music), Kendel Nickens (Asst. Community Lay Director), Robin Ward (Fourth Day)

ATTENDING GUESTS: None

CALLED TO ORDER: Martha Lee started the meeting at 7:05 PM. Steve Busey opened with prayer.

MINUTES: Martha Lee discussed the minutes for the April 2021 meeting. Bobby Whirley made a motion with a second by Craig Hawkins to approve the April minutes as posted. All voted to approve the minutes. Going forward, the format of the minutes will change—committee reports will no longer be imbedded into the minutes, but instead printed as an addendum.

Martha Lee announced that David Bowen has resigned as Community Spiritual Director. She asked the Board to keep this position in prayer.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bobby Whirley— Submitted

Financial Discussion

- As of month-end, total cash on hand is \$124,190.
- Individual donations year to date total \$13,139, of which \$9,055 are through the various recent fundraising campaigns.
- Year to date the organization has run at a small loss, thanks to the fundraising campaigns.
- There has been an outflow of \$9,100 during the first 4 months of the year. Also, our designated reserved fund allocation now has a zero balance.
- Bobby said we need to focus on getting more recurring gifts. He is also working with Mark to link the Campaigns with our data and to determine the best way to use the Kindful application.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Facilities / White House – Dave Wilkins** – There are foundation issues at the White House. Two reunion groups have already funded projects to help reduce future water erosion. The house is not unsafe, but it is unwise to fund any improvements until the foundation is repaired. Reunion Groups have donated about \$400 (with another \$5,000 expected) designated for White House improvements. A few months ago, Facilities received a repair proposal from Engineered Solutions of Georgia for \$24,502. Since then, the cost of steel has increased, and Dave expects the actual cost to

be a little higher than that. The work should take under two weeks to complete. Dave motioned to proceed with Engineered Solutions to resolve the White House foundation issues. Ginny seconded. Bobby Butler amended the motion as follows: to proceed with Engineered Solutions to resolve the foundation issues at the White House with an amount up to \$30,000. Ginny seconded. The amended motion was voted on and passed.

- 2. Fund Development Status / Update – Mark Wyssbrod** – There have been 129 donations in March and April. Additionally, almost \$600 has been raised from the campaign that began today. The general link to fundraisers is [NGWTE.Kindful.com](https://www.ngwte.org/Kindful.com).
- 3. COVID Task Force Update – Dave Wilkins** – The Governor’s Orders dated May 1 have shrunk to 28 pages (from 51 pages in April), and restrictions have been greatly reduced. The current Order expires May 31 and Dave suspects they will not be renewed. The Orders no longer mention limitations regarding churches or gatherings. Under the current guidelines, The Task Force recommends we proceed with the Fall Walks.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Weekend Brainstorm – Dave Wilkins / Martha Lee Sanders** — We discussed various aspects of a weekend, including whether to have sanitation stations and where they would be located; whether to limit the number of pilgrims; if vaccinations would be required; the use of a COVID-19 sign off sheet; if we would provide masks; limiting attendees at Send Off; adjustments to Candlelight; the conference room snack table; how to have communion. We discussed the need to stress to team members not to serve if sick and for sponsors to be better about coaching pilgrims about the weekend format, facility layout, and generally what to expect. It was decided to limit the September Walks to 24 pilgrims and then reassess the pilgrim count for the October and November weekends. We also decided that vaccinations would be encouraged but not required. The remaining details will be looked at further by the Task Force who will report back to the Board with an update. Dave motioned on behalf of the Task Force to proceed with the Fall Walks based on the current COVID regulations in place. The motion was seconded by Brain Watson. The motion passed.
- 2. Agape – Patti Ann Allen** – Patti Ann motioned to add Loren McParland and Amelia Rye to the Agape subcommittee. Tara Thompson seconded. Motion approved.
- 3. Other** – Daisy brought up a concern that the first Candlelight could focus too much on community members seeing each other for the first time. She suggested we have a get together at the camp in the Summer prior to the first set of Walks. Mark said that Development had considered hosting a bake sale or barbecue this Summer. Mark and Robin need to get together to coordinate some type of event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agape –Patti Ann Allen— May 2021 — As Submitted

Chrysalis –Terry Cooper—May 2021 — No Report

The new Chrysalis materials from the Upper Room are ready.

Communications—Tara Thompson— May 2021 – As Submitted

May Loveletter articles are due May 9. Ginny Sternberg, Craig Hawkins, Dave Wilkins, Terry Cooper, Mark Wyssbrod and Maria Blackwell plan to submit Loveletter articles.

Community Spiritual Director - Rev. David Bowen—May 2021— As Submitted

Development – Mark Wyssbrod – May 2021 – No Report

Face to Face – Maria Blackwell— May 2021—No Report

The F2F Board is deciding when to restart Encounters. A survey was sent to the last two teams to determine their comfort in serving. The earliest possible Encounter would be November 2021.

Facilities – Dave Wilkins – May 2021 – As Submitted

Reminder of the June 19 Work Day and that ionizers will be installed on May 17.

Fourth Day Activities—Robin Ward— May 2021—No Report

Kitchen – Shua Gambill – May 2021—No Report

Shua noted that food costs for Fall Walks may be higher than normal since a lot of staples need restocking due to purging last year.

Music – Gene Newby—May 2021—No Report

Registration—Brian and Daisy Watson – May 2021 – As Submitted

Set Up – Trey Kinney – May 2021—No Report

Sponsorship – Co-Chairs Craig Hawkins and John Thompson -May 2021—No Report

Women’s Team Selection – Ginny Sternberg—May 2021 – As Submitted

Men’s Team Selection – Bobby Butler—May 2021—No Report

Technology – Steve Busey—May 2021—No Report

The Wi-Fi is being expanded so Gwen can remotely adjust thermostats at King’s Retreat and the White House. The Wi-Fi password will be changed monthly.

Training – Hilary Berman--May 2021— As Submitted

Weekend Communications – Suzanne Ayers—May 2021—No Report

Assistant Community Lay Director – Kendel Nickens—No Report

Community Lay Director – Martha Lee Sanders

Board Members who are rolling off at the end of this year need to be thinking about a replacement. A Nominating Committee will be created and will meet over the Summer. The June Board meeting will be held in person at Mt. Pisgah.

CLOSING PRAYER: Shua led us in a devotion and closing prayer.

MEETING ADJOURNED: A motion was made and seconded that we close the meeting. We voted and all were in favor. The meeting ended at 8:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 1 meeting will be held at 7pm at Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church, address: 2850 Old Alabama Rd, Johns Creek, GA 30022, also a Zoom Meeting link will be provided at later date.

JUNE DEVOTION & PRAYER: Daisy Watson

Respectfully submitted: Martha Lee Sanders, May 31, 2021

FUTURE DEVOTIONS & PRAYER

August Devotion & Prayer: Steve Busey

September Devotion & Prayer: Craig Hawkins

October Devotion & Prayer: Dave Wilkins

November Devotion & Prayer: OPEN

December Devotion & Prayer: Tara Thompson