



## APPLICATION TO SERVE IN THE ROLE OF CLERGY Birmingham Emmaus Community

All persons applying to fulfill a Clergy role within the Birmingham Emmaus Community must meet and agree to the requirements, expectations, guidelines and roles set by the Board of Directors of this community and the Upper Room Ministries of the United Methodist Church as described in the supplied information.

**Please provide copy of your ordination certificate or written verification from your denomination of your ordination.**

The Qualifications and Expectations of Clergy are attached to this Application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination ordained by: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordination date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordaining Person contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Pastoral history:**

**1. Currently serving as- role:** \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information to verify this: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Previously served as – role:** \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates served: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information of person to verify: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Have you been a pilgrim on an Emmaus walk before? Y/N**

If yes: Walk # \_\_\_\_\_ Emmaus Community \_\_\_\_\_

Sat at the table of: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Have you served on Emmaus walks before? Y/N**

When \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_ Role: \_\_\_\_\_

**Why are you applying for this role?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Birmingham Emmaus Community  
108 Morris Circle, Trussville, AL 35173**



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### **How the application process works:**

1. Make your interest in this role known by completing this application and mailing it to: Birmingham Emmaus Community, 108 Morris Circle, Trussville, AL 35173. It will then be forwarded to the Board of Directors or Community Spiritual Director.
2. The information contained in these pages sets out requirements, expectations, guidelines and roles set by this community and the Upper Room Ministries of the United Methodist Church.
3. The Community Spiritual Director (CSD) will contact you directly about your interest and ability to move forward in this process.
4. The CSD, based upon this conversation, may provide you with this document and questionnaire for your completion. Note: you will need a statement of good standing of your ordination from your denomination.
5. The CSD will review your documents, and if accepted by the CSD, present your documents to the Board of Directors for review and approval/disapproval.
6. You will be notified of the Board decision.
7. Assuming approval of your application your name will be placed on the list of eligible clergy who are reviewed by the Team Selection Committee for enlistment on a particular Emmaus Walk. These enlistments are typically made a year in advance. If you are selected, you will be asked if you are willing and available to serve.

### **CLERGY QUALIFICATIONS and EXPECTATIONS**

#### ***Ordination Requirement***

In Emmaus Ministries, the Upper Room/ Emmaus organizations do not ordain clergy.

Each denomination, congregation, or church tradition has different requirements to ordain or “license” clergy, which must be examined by the board on an individual basis.

The Emmaus Board identifies educational completion, the course of study work, seminars, and other sources of growing in the knowledge of the Bible and God’s work when reviewing an application for anyone wishing to serve as clergy in Emmaus Ministries.

The board, under the direction of the Community Spiritual Director, personally examines potential clergy team members and inquires about the following:

1. By whom and how were they examined and, in their tradition, “licensed” and/or ordained? When did this examination occur?
2. How does this person evidence engagement in deliberate discipleship (such as seminars, courses of study, college training, etc.)?
3. Why does this person desire to be a servant in a clergy role in Emmaus Ministries?

#### ***Sacramental Authority***

Emmaus Spiritual Directors will have many settings in which they will need to serve the sacrament of Holy Communion. Therefore, authorization for the service of Holy Communion is designated by the agency to whom



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this person is accountable. The body who has designated this person as “clergy” needs to state parameters of serving the sacrament.

### *Ministerial Accountability*

Persons serving as clergy in the Emmaus community shall be formally accountable in performing their ministerial roles. These persons must maintain good standing within their denominational ministerial structure and with local Community Emmaus Board

Therefore, persons interested in serving in the role of clergy in the Emmaus community must obtain a statement of good standing from an individual’s denomination or overseeing authority regarding their current status in good standing and submit that statement to the board.

To ensure the way a clergyperson is serving out the call within the Emmaus Community, he or she is also accountable to the Community Board which has the authority to question, guide, and even dismiss the person from serving within the ministry. If needed, the board may appoint an official mentor to whom the clergy reports and is accountable. This mentor updates the board as necessary.

### **General role of EVENT ASSISTANT SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**

To model and develop teamwork and servanthood. Persons accomplish this as they:

1. assist the event Spiritual Director in the clergy duties for the event.
2. model a servant heart.
3. Assist event Spiritual Director
4. Attends team orientation
5. Presents assigned talks
6. Listens to participants after Candlelight

As a member of clergy in the Emmaus Community, you understand that:

#### **A. Theological Balance**

The Team Selection Committee strives for a sound balance of theological orientations and religious styles on teams. Team members may reflect a diverse set of Christian perspectives, but they must also create an atmosphere of openness and unity for all participants. Teams dominated by any one Christian perspective or denomination do not represent the diversity and unity of the church universal.

#### **B. Male and Female Clergy on Teams**

Team Selection Committees intentionally recruit both men and women clergy among the clergy speakers on teams for both men’s and women’s events. This rationale represents the reality of pastoral leadership for both men and women in the church universal today. The Office recommends that the Spiritual Director be the same gender as participants.

#### **C. Commitment to Follow-up**

From the outset, Emmaus Ministries designed its programs to be more than the event itself. It includes follow-up opportunities aimed at strengthening Christians’ relationships with one another, supporting their growth as disciples, and encouraging their discipleship in the world through their Christian community.



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Emmaus Ministries continues to encourage persons to live as disciples through spiritual small groups (called group reunions or Next Steps groups) for mutual encouragement, continued spiritual growth, and accountability. The local Emmaus Ministries Community (and guests) come together regularly to fellowship and celebrate God's grace. These opportunities to share together in worship, prayer, and fellowship at the Emmaus Community level are called Gatherings.

The goal of Emmaus Ministries is to give persons the means to persevere in grace for the rest of their lives. **The Assistant Spiritual Leader** role assists the event clergy team leader when called upon and serves as a spiritual guide to the event participants. Each prepares a talk for the event.

### Progressive Servanthood

The design of Emmaus Ministries team structure fosters a progression of responsibility and an increasing level of leadership for each individual. When selecting individuals for team positions, the committee carefully considers each person's leadership experience and the leadership experience of the team as a whole. When done well, this process will ensure that all team members build their experience and gain new leadership abilities.

This attitude of progressive servanthood is balanced with the specific gifts and preparedness of an individual to determine where he or she is best suited to serve. An individual who speaks well publicly may be well-suited to speak during the event but may not yet have the organizational abilities to move up to an event team leader position. Such an individual receives the opportunity to develop his or her organizational abilities while also using the gift of speaking. Conversely, an individual who has only served as a music leader but who has speaking or organizational abilities need not be constrained to serving only in a music role. Many positions benefit greatly from specific gifts and abilities, but all individuals may have an opportunity to serve in a progression of responsibilities as they grow.

In the team selection process, the committee keeps in mind that the focus of progressive servanthood is on persons' spiritual formation rather than the position they fill. People can experience great spiritual maturation and never serve on an event team—a great gain to the body of Christ. Conversely, people who serve in multiple roles of increasing responsibility on an event team but move no farther along on their spiritual journey will have missed the more important opportunity. Event leaders pay close attention to their own spiritual journey and empower others to do the same. After all, Emmaus Ministries exists to empower leaders to be the hands and feet of Christ, regardless of the team positions they fill.

### D. Laity and Clergy Involvement in Partnership

Emmaus Ministries makes laity and clergy partners in ministry. The intent is balance rather than dominance by either laity or clergy. The design fosters and models a partnership between clergy and laity in the work of the church, and both groups benefit from participation in this experience. Leadership roles on events and in the Community require both laity and clergy.

### E. Involvement of Many Clergy

An event team has many clergy members, which offers several advantages:

1. Many share the workload of the numerous talks and spiritual responsibilities. Each clergy member typically takes time to prepare one talk well and is then free to give attention to the participants.
2. Participants hear the message of grace from the perspective and experience of many different clergy.



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### **Birmingham Emmaus Community**

3. More clergy can be involved in the Community and trained more quickly, since not all are required to stay for the entire event. This expands the pool of available and experienced clergy for future teams.
4. For Walk to Emmaus, at least two clergy remain in residence for the entire event: the Spiritual Director and one Assistant Spiritual Director.
5. The other assistants present one talk and are encouraged to remain for as much of the event as possible. The Spiritual Director may ask one or more assistants to help with the event's clergy meditations and Communion, and other times as needed.

#### **There are three clergy roles in the Emmaus Community:**

1. Community Spiritual Director – a member of the Board of Directors and responsible for overseeing the spiritual needs of the community and recruiting and interviewing potential future Spiritual Directors.
2. Event Spiritual Director – responsible for supporting the 3-day Emmaus Walk event preparation and weekend and overseeing the activities of the Event Assistant Spiritual Directors during the Event.
3. Event Assistant Spiritual Directors – supports the activities of the Event weekend, supports the Event Spiritual Director and Event Lay Director. Is called upon to give one of the spiritual talks and be available to pilgrims following. This is the beginning role for new clergy in the community.
4. All clergy begin their Emmaus clergy servant journey as Even Assistant Spiritual Directors

One progresses thru this hierarchy based upon progressive participation in walks and with the Board of Director approvals.