



SECTION 5— EVENT PRAYER CHAPEL COORDINATOR

The Prayer Chapel Coordinator has the responsibility for prayer support for the entire Emmaus event. Prayer is a vital part of our growth as Christians, and it is an essential part of the training and preparation for an Emmaus event. Continuous prayer enhances the spiritual environment for the Emmaus experience.

Organized prayer takes place through the Prayer Chapel and the event's prayer vigil. The Prayer Chapel Coordinator solicits prayer support for the speakers, participants, and team; sets up a room for use as a Prayer Chapel during the event; leads the support servants in meditation and prayer times when convenient and appropriate, or enlists the assistance of a nonconference room clergy person to provide this support. The Prayer Chapel Coordinator may choose to appoint one or two assistants to participate with him or her in the Prayer Chapel during the event to pray for the speakers or the participants and any prayer requests received during the event.

During the event, Community members may go to the Prayer Chapel before a talk and pray briefly with the speaker in preparation for a talk. They remain in prayer during the talk to support the speaker—this is prayer agape. Prayer Chapel agape is a powerful and dynamic way for members of the Emmaus Community to support the event by offering their prayers and presence on behalf of the speakers, the Conference Room Team, and the participants. The Prayer Chapel Coordinator also participates in this prayer time with each speaker.

The Prayer Chapel Coordinator designates a room at the Emmaus site for use as a Prayer Chapel. Throughout the event, people come unnoticed to the Prayer Chapel to pray for the speakers; to participate in the event's prayer vigil; and to pray for the participants, the Conference Room Team, and everyone serving behind the scenes. Those who pray remain unnoticed throughout the event. *The Prayer Chapel is not the same space as the chapel or sanctuary where participants worship during the event.* The designated Prayer Chapel is away from the participants' flow of traffic.

The Event Prayer Chapel Coordinator and all assistants attend the orientation session held before the first Conference Room Team meeting. All support assistants attend any meetings called by the Event Prayer Chapel Coordinator. These meetings help the servants learn and practice their individual roles for supporting the Emmaus event, prayerfully support one another, and gain understanding about the boundaries of their service.

The Prayer Chapel Coordinator sets up and maintains the Prayer Chapel throughout the event. In the Prayer Chapel, set up an area with a large cross (with participants' neck crosses hung on it), a candle, a Bible, two hand crosses for speakers, and anything else that will make the room conducive to prayer. Devotional material and aids to prayer can help persons who are unaccustomed to praying for extended periods (see "Prayer Prompts for the Prayer Chapel" in the Sample Letters and Handouts section in this manual). If using background music, play it at a low volume; some persons have difficulty concentrating on prayer with any kind of noise. Display the participants' neck crosses in the Prayer Chapel throughout the event to provide a prayer focus on behalf of the participants. Also provide lists of participants' and Conference Room Team members' names.

RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE THE EVENT

- ___ Enlist as many people from the Emmaus Community as possible to pray for the team members and participants throughout the event.
- ___ Encourage those who pray to come to the Prayer Chapel at the event site and pray for speakers at the specified time. If they cannot come to the event site, ask them to pray wherever they are during the time of the talk.
- ___ Prepare charts with the names of the talks, the speakers, and the date and times after the selection of the Conference Room Team.
- ___ Ask speakers to name persons from whom they would like support and to solicit the attendance of Emmaus Community members.
- ___ Send those persons a card or letter requesting their prayers and presence for the speaker at the designated time.
- ___ Provide Prayer Chapel agape for the speakers and participants through the behind-the-scenes support servants if holding the event in more remote areas.
- ___ Make arrangements with a Fourth Day clergyperson to provide Communion one time during the event for the support servants, if desired.

RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

- ___ Set up and maintain the Prayer Chapel throughout the Emmaus event as described earlier in this section.
- ___ Arrange the cross, Bible, two hand crosses for speakers, candle, etc.
- ___ Designate, with the help of an assistant to the event lay team leader, a separate room for the table chapel visits may take place.
- ___ Place charts with speakers' names and talk times in the agape room, the Prayer Chapel, and other appropriate places.

RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE EVENT

- ___ See that the large cross with the participants' neck crosses gets moved to the Prayer Chapel after Sponsors' Hour.
- ___ Arrange a convenient time to pray with other support servants.
- ___ Keep a record of any assistants who have helped you in the Prayer Chapel.
- ___ Put the hand cross in each speaker's hand prior to his/her talk.
- ___ Be present for prayer with each speaker before, during, and after the talk.
- ___ Return the hand cross to its place on the table.
- ___ Do not reveal any names associated with prayer requests that come to the Prayer Chapel. Display the requests and destroy them after the event.
- ___ Be available to assist in other behind-the-scenes areas when needed and make sure someone is praying in the Prayer Chapel.
- ___ Place a hand cross (or two hand crosses) on the lectern at Closing.
- ___ Return other hand crosses and items used to create the Prayer Chapel (except for your own personal items) to the person responsible for supplies.
- ___ Provide the Prayer chair with a list of assistants who helped.

PRAYER VIGIL

The local Emmaus Community provides prayer support for the event, participants, and team by organizing and staffing a prayer vigil. With the Prayer Chapel Coordinator's encouragement, Community members sign up on a chart for the event time slots during which they will pray. Accountability groups can participate by taking a block of time.

Members of the local Emmaus Community staff the entire prayer vigil. The Community may ask other Emmaus communities around the world to hold a second prayer vigil. This effort supplements but never replaces the local Community prayer vigil. This prayer supplement ensures that prayer surrounds the event for its duration. The vigil represents real prayer on the part of those who sign up, not just the appearance of prayer. Prayer vigil servants may, if they desire, come to the event site to pray in the Prayer Chapel at their chosen times or may pray wherever they are during their assigned time slot.

For live-in events (such as Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis, etc.), the prayer vigil covers the entire 72-hour period, including times when the participants and team are sleeping. For these events, staff lock the event site facilities from late night to early morning; therefore, the prayer chapel is not accessible to prayer vigil servants at those times.

Event leaders share the prayer vigil chart with the event participants at some point during the event. The prayer vigil chart gives the participants a tangible sign of the loving support of many on their behalf, especially when they see the names of persons who have pledged to interrupt their schedules (possibly including getting up at various hours of the night) to pray for them.

- ___ Make a poster showing thirty-minute time slots for the Emmaus event (from the start through the end of Closing for a live-in event or covering each of the sessions for a non-live-in event).
- ___ Bring the poster to Emmaus Gatherings preceding the event so Community members can choose times and sign their names in the chosen time slots.
- ___ Recruit other Community members to fill any remaining time.
- ___ Obtain a complete roster of your Emmaus Community to use when calling. Call on new members from recent events as well as homebound Community members.
- ___ Involve Fourth Day Community members in outlying areas of the local Community. These groups may agree to accept time blocks to be filled by members of their local group. (Be sure to get specific names for each person filling a slot.)
- ___ Recruit several people to do the calling, especially if you have many empty time slots. Fill the remaining slots at Send-Off or ask persons who come to the Prayer Chapel to volunteer their time in prayer.
- ___ Bring the poster with the prayer vigil time slots completely filled to the event clergy team leader [Spiritual Director] at the start of the event.



SECTION 6— PRAYER PROMPTS FOR THE PRAYER CHAPEL

Revise to fit the circumstances of the Walk and your community.

Begin your prayer vigil by asking God to clear your mind of all outside distractions. Place your thoughts and spirit with the people and the event you are asking God to bless. Be silent for a few seconds and begin to sense God's presence with you. Pray as if you are talking to your best friend—you are!

Ask for the Spirit's blessing of the buildings, grounds, and all items used to bring those present to an awareness of God.

Pray for the [Lay Director or Team Leader], if not by name, by duty. He or she must walk in God's Spirit to address any task that may arise.

Pray for the [Assistant Lay Directors, Assistant Team Leaders, or Coaches] that they may have the courage to sustain the purity of the event and not allow personalities to keep them from fulfilling their promises to God.

Pray that the [Spiritual Director] and Assistants be instruments of God's Spirit.

Pray that the speakers remember whom they represent, that they lay down self and glorify God.

Pray for the talks, for the messages given and received, that all may hear according to need.

Pray for the musicians, that their music may bring God's message and soothe troubled souls.

Pray for the participants:

- the ones who cannot leave their thoughts behind
- the ones uneasy in the setting
- the ones who cannot sleep
- the ones looking for magic, not miracles
- the ones who are open and receiving
- for all the conditions known to God.

Pray for the [Agape, Facilities/Logistics, Kitchen, etc.] servants and all who minister in unrecognized ways.

Pray for the fun and fellowship that will warm hearts and keep the focus on God.

Pray for the Table Leaders that they do not tire. Pray for their renewed strength.

Pray for all the agape gifts, for the hands that made them and the blessing they bring.

Pray for the special times, such as chapel, agape feasts, Closing.

Pray for other Emmaus Communities.

Lastly, give all to our Lord and friend who sees and knows, asking for Jesus' blessing and presence with everyone connected to this event—not only those mentioned but also the families of the participants and leaders—and for the continued renewal of the church and Community.

Close by praising and thanking God for the opportunity given to intercede on behalf of God's children.

Amen.



SECTION 11— WALK SPONSORS' HOUR COORDINATOR

The Community hosts a Send-Off and a Sponsors' Hour for events that require each participant to have a sponsor. These are typically live-in events; for these events, the sponsors bring their participants to the event site and remain with them until all team members and participants are sent off by the gathered Community to the Conference Room to begin the event (Send-Off). The sponsors then meet for a time of prayer and worship before returning home (Sponsors' Hour).

The Event Sponsors' Hour Coordinator ensures that the Community conducts Sponsors' Hour according to board guidelines. The Coordinator will need several individuals to assist with tasks.

The Event Sponsors' Hour Coordinator and all assistants attend the orientation session held before the first Conference Room Team meeting. All support assistants attend any meetings called by the Event Sponsors' Hour Coordinator. These meetings help the servants learn and practice their individual roles for supporting the Emmaus event, prayerfully support one another, and gain understanding about the boundaries of their service.

RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE THE EVENT

- ___ Ascertain the number of participants by checking with the Registrar. Obtain the proper number of neck crosses and lanyards, plus a few extras in case of last-minute registrations.
- ___ Find out which room in the facility will be used for Sponsors' Hour.

RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE SEND-OFF

- ___ Arrange to have the large cross placed in the room where Sponsors' Hour will be held.
- ___ Place the neck crosses on the lanyards, and distribute them on a table at the front of the room for easy access by the sponsors.
- ___ Have one copy per person if using an order of worship or other handout.

The leader keeps Sponsors' Hour brief; *hour* is simply a term used to describe this time. Sponsors will enter the chapel in an attitude of prayer. The leader opens the service with prayer. As the leader calls each participant's name, the sponsor places the participant's cross

on the large cross. After delivering the participant's cross, the sponsor may choose to kneel and pray for the participant. If a sponsor cannot attend Sponsors' Hour, he or she finds a substitute. If no one present accepts the participant's cross, assign a Community member to deliver it to the large cross. The leader encourages Fourth-Day community members to attend Sponsors' Hour in case they are needed for this task.

After delivering all the crosses, those in attendance may sing a song and close the ceremony with prayer. After the service, the crosses will be moved by the Sponsors' Hour Coordinator to the Prayer Chapel and will remain there until the Closing service. In the Prayer Chapel, Community members pray for the participants by name throughout the event.