

## *THE WALK TO EMMAUS*

### For The Development of Christian Leaders

The focus of The New York Annual Conference Walk to Emmaus Community is not on itself, but on the local church. The objective of the “Walk” is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action, in their homes, churches, places of work and communities. The weekend is a 3-day (72 hours) experience that begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday evening.

The Gospel of St. Luke relates the story of the risen Christ appearing to two who were walking along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). This passage provides the image for the weekend that calls for and renews Christian discipleship.

Two friends were walking together. They were sharing their deepest hearts' concerns. The risen Christ joined them as they walked explaining the scriptures and how it was written that Christ would suffer to save us from our sins. This experience on the road was a heart-warming experience as the risen Christ walked and talked with them. The illuminating climax of the experience was when Christ took the bread and said the blessing, then broke it and gave it to them. The two had their eyes opened and they recognized him as the risen Christ.

The Walk to Emmaus is a way of life that begins with the weekend experience. The “Walk” is with friends and the scriptures are explained in such a way as to bring light and understanding to our needs. For many, it will be a heart-warming experience. Some will share so deeply in worship and Holy Communion that their eyes will be opened to see the risen Christ. Pilgrims will study, discuss and experience God's grace in community. The context will be in 15 presentations led by lay and clergy and around the theme of God's grace and how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and expresses itself in the world. This grace will become personal in small communities through a unique approach to table group discussions. Those attending the weekend personally experience God's grace through prayers and acts of service in a loving support community.

One of the primary strengths of The Walk To Emmaus is the follow-up activities.

There are two expectations of a person following his or her "Walk":

1. Expand his/her own inner spiritual life.
2. Become a more active disciple of Christ in the World through his/her church.

Emmaus is not, and has no intention of becoming a church substitute. Our emphasis is always on the expectations enumerated above.

### **Statement of Faith**

We believe in the inspired Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, as our authority of faith.

We believe in the Holy Trinity. One God manifested in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is our Father, Creator and Sustainer of all life. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He is the only way to the Father because of His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension. The Holy Spirit's ministry is to convict, indwell, and empower every Christian.

We believe man (Genesis 5:1-2) was created in God's image, but through Adam's fall, we inherit a sinful nature. Personal salvation is attained only through acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Personal Savior. Discipleship, growth, and accountability in Christ and the Church are necessary for every Christian.

We believe in God's prevenient, justifying and sanctifying grace which draws us into divine relationship, which must be claimed as an act of faith, and is perfected through the power of the Holy Spirit. Baptism and Holy Communion are the outward and visible signs of this inward and spiritual grace.

We believe that the local church is Christ's witness to the world. We believe The Walk to Emmaus Community supports the local church by nurturing and encouraging dedicated Christian leaders by promoting unity, inspiration, and fellowship in Christ.

### **Sponsorship**

Each individual that is invited to attend an Emmaus Weekend is sponsored by an individual who has previously attended an Emmaus Weekend (or Tres Dias, Cursillo or similar weekend). These individuals will arrange for transportation to and from the weekend, pray for the person making the weekend, and provide any needed follow-up after the weekend. This is not a commitment which is taken lightly but undertaken only after prayer.

### **Serving On A Subsequent Weekend**

Individuals who have attended an Emmaus (or Tres Dias, Cursillo or similar weekend) may be asked to serve as a team member on a subsequent weekend. This too is bathed in prayer and committed to our Lord.

Ordained clergy are also invited to serve on Emmaus Weekends. Like anyone else, they must have previously attended an Emmaus Weekend (or Tres, Cursillo or similar weekend) as a pilgrim. If you have an interest in serving our Lord in this manner and have not made a weekend, I would be glad to speak further with you about this matter.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor John

Rev. John V. Roy

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