

Clergy Criteria for Emmaus and Chrysalis
(updated on April 25, 2008)

(These updated criteria replace and supersede the section on clergy qualifications found on pages 29-31 of *The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus* (2nd. edition), and on pages 63-66 of the *Upper Room Handbook on Chrysalis*).

Clergy persons are critical elements in The Walk to Emmaus and in Chrysalis. The two programs depend on the partnership between laity and clergy. This partnership is a model that can be used in churches to enhance the ministry of the church.

It is important to have a thorough understanding of the role of the clergy in Emmaus and Chrysalis. In addition, it is important to have clarity about what is expected of the clergy who serve Emmaus and Chrysalis. It is also important to have a good understanding of how men and women are recognized as clergy and those things that qualify them to be called clergy. Below you will find the qualifications for the various clergy positions in Emmaus and Chrysalis.

Community Spiritual Director

The ministry and mission of The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus and The Upper Room Chrysalis depend on the Community Spiritual Director for leadership and oversight of the spiritual life of the community. The Community Spiritual Director serves as the moral, ethical, and spiritual conscience of the Board, the community and the teams. The Community Spiritual Director assists the Board in the development and nurture of clergy leaders and also assists in selecting those to serve on Emmaus/Chrysalis teams. The Community Spiritual Director shall be recognized as a competent spiritual leader within his or her church or denomination and by other church leaders in the area. This person should also represent the best Emmaus/Chrysalis has to offer.

Only persons who meet all the following criteria can serve as the Community Spiritual Director. Those who:

- are ordained as UMC elders or the equivalent in other denominations/churches who have completed a four year undergraduate degree and have received a Master of Divinity degree from a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS, www.ats.edu);

Or,

- are ordained as UMC elders or the equivalent in other denominations/churches who have completed an undergraduate degree and The United Methodist Church (UMC) Basic Course of Study Program, and the Advanced Course of Study Program, (or the equivalent in other churches or denominations). **(The description of the UMC Basic and Advance Course of Study Program is attached.)**

In addition the following criteria must be met:

- able to maintain theological balance and be sensitive to the variety of perspectives in this ecumenical setting.

- have showed commitment to the Upper Room Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis models as stated in the Letters of Agreement.
- have served as Weekend Spiritual Director.
- are actively engaged in full-time professional ministry (or retired while in good standing).
- are able to be a role model of a servant leader in a team environment.
- are able to guide and coordinate the full participation of other clergy.
- are authorized to consecrate the elements of Holy Communion in Emmaus and Chrysalis settings.

Weekend Spiritual Director

The Weekend Spiritual Director (WSD) is the primary clergy leader of the Emmaus or Chrysalis event. The Weekend Spiritual Director is selected by the Board of Directors with the recommendation of the Emmaus or Chrysalis Community Spiritual Director. The WSD is responsible to the board as the spiritual leader of the Walk, Flight or Journey. As with the Lay Director, the weekend Spiritual Director must have sufficient experience, training, and ability for the job.

Only persons who meet the following criteria can serve under this category. Those who:

- are ordained as UMC elders or the equivalent in other denominations/churches who have completed a four year undergraduate degree and have received an Master of Divinity degree from a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS, www.ats.edu);

Or,

- are ordained as UMC elders or the equivalent in other denominations/churches who who have completed an undergraduate degree and The United Methodist Church (UMC) Basic Course of Study Program and the Advanced Course of Study Program (or the equivalent in other churches or denominations). **(The description of the UMC Basic and Advance Course of Study Program is attached.)**

Or,

- are United Methodist Licensed Local Pastors; or, their equivalent in other churches or denominations, who are current in their Course of Study or seminary; or, who have completed their Course of Study Program or seminary, are serving a local church under the appointment of the Bishop, or other supervisory body or person, and who are not ordained. These persons need to secure written authorization from the Bishop, District Superintendent, or supervisory body to consecrate the elements of Holy Communion in Emmaus or Chrysalis settings. This letter of authorization must be on file with the local Community Spiritual Director, and the Emmaus/Chrysalis International Office prior to serving as the WSD. This letter must be renewed annually (or for each walk, journey or flight if the authorization is event specific).

Or,

- are Upper Room Certified Clergy (see Upper Room Certification Process attached).

In addition the following criteria must be met:

- able to maintain theological balance and be sensitive to the variety of perspectives in this ecumenical setting.
- Being willing to serve on a team, working in concert and cooperation with the weekend Lay Director, and abiding by The Upper Room model for Emmaus and Chrysalis as presented in the most recent editions of the Handbooks, the Manuals, and the other official documents.
- Being actively engaged in professional ministry (or retired in good standing from professional ministry).
- Having served at least once for the entire three days as an Assistant Spiritual Director under the leadership of someone who has served at least once as a Weekend Spiritual Director.
- Have given a minimum of two of the five clergy talks other than the Emmaus Means of Grace talk, or the Chrysalis God's Gifts to You talk.
- Being authorized to consecrate the elements of Holy Communion in Emmaus or Chrysalis settings.

Assistant Spiritual Directors

The Team Selection Committee and the Community Spiritual Director select prospective Assistant Spiritual Directors for the weekend. Assistant Spiritual Directors will assist the Weekend Spiritual Director in the clergy duties for the Emmaus/Chrysalis event.

Only persons who meet the following criteria can serve as Assistant Spiritual Directors. Those who are:

- qualified to serve as Weekend Spiritual Director.

Or,

- licensed for Pastoral Ministry, including Full and Part-Time local Pastors, Student Local Pastors, Commissioned Probationary Elders and Deacons, and Associate Members, who are under appointment or subject to appointment, and who are current in their Basic Course of Study or approved ATS seminary (or the equivalent in another church/denomination).

Or,

- UMC ordained Deacons.

Or,

- Upper Room Certified Clergy (see Upper Room Certification Process attached).

In addition the following criteria must be met:

- Being able to maintain theological balance and be sensitive to the variety of perspectives in this ecumenical setting.
- Being willing to serve on a team, working in concert and cooperation with the weekend Lay Director, and abiding by The Upper Room model for Emmaus and Chrysalis as presented in the most recent editions of the Handbooks, the Manuals, and the other official documents.
- Being actively engaged in professional ministry (or retired in good standing from professional ministry).

Note: The United Methodist Church has the category of Certified Lay Ministers. These persons are laypersons and therefore are not eligible to serve in any clergy capacity in Emmaus or Chrysalis. This same standard applies to churches and other denominations with similar categories.

Additional considerations:

Using persons who do not meet the above-mentioned criteria is not wise. It compromises Chrysalis/Emmaus standards for clergy leadership and undermines the sacramental role of the weekend Spiritual Director. Moreover, practices such as assigning Holy Communion services to Assistant Spiritual Directors or having Assistant Spiritual Directors consecrate the Communion elements for the weekend Spiritual Director can lead to questions in the minds of participants about clergy qualifications of a weekend Spiritual Director and to confusion about the significance of genuine clergy leadership in Emmaus/Chrysalis. While such practices may simplify clergy selection in the short term, it will undermine the role of the clergy and diminish the relationship of Emmaus/Chrysalis with historic and established church.

Some Emmaus and Chrysalis Boards face difficult decisions regarding who can serve as a Spiritual Director. Some persons' relationship with the church may not be clearly defined as clergy or laity. Some who serve in pastoral roles in the church or with young people may not be clergy. Others may be licensed to preach, ordained in their own denomination, or ordained by a local church but lack the educational and pastoral preparation expected of clergy in mainstream denominations as well as in Emmaus and Chrysalis. Still others may present credentials stating they are clergy, but the credentials have been obtained through a non-accredited source. These matters must be approached by the Board with Christian love and respect for the persons involved while upholding the clergy criteria and integrity of the Emmaus and Chrysalis programs.

Several aspects of Chrysalis and Emmaus need to be kept in mind as persons are being considered as Spiritual Directors.

- *Persons who are recognized as clergy within their local church may not always be qualified and equipped for the role of Spiritual Directors in Emmaus and Chrysalis.* For this reason, the selection of clergy for Spiritual Director roles cannot be decided simply on the basis of whether or not someone is considered clergy in his or her denomination or tradition. The burden rests with the local Emmaus or Chrysalis Board, Emmaus or Chrysalis Community Spiritual Director, and the Team Selection Committee to seek out the clergy who have the training, experience, pastoral sensitivity, theological depth, ecumenical breadth, and Christian maturity needed for spiritual leadership in Emmaus or Chrysalis.
- *Emmaus or Chrysalis Boards and Community Spiritual Directors also are responsible for providing the appropriate training needed for clergy to become potential Spiritual Directors in Emmaus and Chrysalis.* The International Emmaus/Chrysalis Office has Clergy Regional Representatives who stand ready and willing to assist the local board.
- *While clergy from various churches or denominations who have attended Emmaus may in principle be considered to serve on Chrysalis and Emmaus teams, not all clergy bring an outlook on God's grace, the Christian life, or sacraments that is representative of the Emmaus or Chrysalis model.* The

Chrysalis and Emmaus movements are shaped from within the biblical and theological mainstream of the church as reflected in the United Methodist and Wesleyan tradition.

- *In Emmaus and in Chrysalis, teams are selected with the expectation that Spiritual Directors and Assistant Spiritual Directors meet the Emmaus and Chrysalis clergy criteria reflective of clergy in the United Methodist Church and other mainstream denominations, as described in the preceding paragraphs.* Assigning the role of Spiritual Director to gifted persons who have little formal theological and pastoral training; or, whose standing as clergy is questionable, undermines the ministry of Emmaus and Chrysalis. It causes other clergy to lose confidence in the local board, and sets a poor precedent for team selection.
- *Team members and participants should be able to recognize and respect the Spiritual Directors as clergy.* If the person's ordination or clergy standing is questionable in the minds of the team and/or participants, then that person's presence as Spiritual Director will detract from the Emmaus or Chrysalis event.
- *Every clergy and layperson serving on a team has specific roles and responsibilities. No one should be jealous about a particular role.* The clergy-laity partnership must be lived and demonstrated.
- *No person, lay or clergy, has the right to serve in any capacity in Emmaus or Chrysalis, even if all the criteria are met.* Service is never a right, but always a response to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Emmaus/Chrysalis Board.
- *Clergy serving in Emmaus/Chrysalis must have been a pilgrim in Emmaus/Chrysalis or a recognized Fourth-Day movement.* In order to be an effective servant leader, one must have experience in a recognized Fourth-Day model (a list of recognized expressions of the Fourth-Day movement is available from the Clergy or Lay Regional Representative or the International Office).

Emmaus and Chrysalis team is a ministry partnership between clergy and laity. That partnership represents these persons' equality before God as baptized members of the body of Christ; while, at the same time honoring their distinctive roles in the ministry of the church. This relationship is lost if communities become lax about the criteria for selecting Spiritual Directors. Chrysalis and Emmaus both seek to overcome clergy domination of Christian ministry by moving laypersons forward as the front line of ministry in the world through intentional partnership and mutual respect--not by diminishing the historic and essential role of the clergy. Emmaus and Chrysalis leaders should never discount the role of clergy or convey an anti-clergy attitude. Those persons who are unwilling to honor the ministry partnership and the validity of clergy leadership should not be selected as leaders for Emmaus and Chrysalis.

Implementation plan for the clergy criteria (in the U.S.A. and U.S. Territories only):

The updated clergy criteria document was distributed to all Community Spiritual Directors and Community Lay Directors in November of 2006 with the request that the community begin to move toward these clergy standards on January 1, 2007 and provide feedback to the Clergy Regional Representatives and the International Spiritual Director in the process. The expectation at that time was that all Emmaus and Chrysalis Boards would be in compliance with these qualifications by January 1, 2008.

- (1) We give thanks to God and celebrate the fact that many Emmaus/Chrysalis boards and communities have met these expectations and are moving forward without difficulty.
- (2) We have learned that some boards and communities are unable to be in compliance by January 1, 2008. Therefore, a process is now in place that will allow for a grace period to be established through direct conversation between the local Community Spiritual Director and the Clergy Regional Representative.
- (3) Boards needing clarification on the implementation of these qualifications should contact their Clergy Regional Representative for consultation and advice. **(Please refer to a complete list of Lay and Clergy Regional Representatives for Emmaus & Chrysalis posted in our web pages).**