

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Georgia Walk to Emmaus was held on April 15, 2025 at Park Avenue in Valdosta. Chair Tony Gunter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

The following members were present : Tony Gunter, Stan Lankford, Melissa Kostyu, Pablo Campa, Carole Nelson, Michelle Epps, Kim Daly, Dustin Merriman, Joe Corbett and Madison Webb.

Call to Order/ Prayer/Welcome

Tony Gunter opened the meeting in prayer.

Mike Mobely shared faith under pressure. James 1:6 Let faith do its work so that you become mature.

Secretaries minutes: All members were emailed a copy of the April, 2025 minutes to review prior to the meeting. After review and request for changes and or additions, Michelle Epps made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Melissa Hughes seconded the motion. Upon a vote by show of hands, the motion carried and the Minutes were approved. The minutes will be submitted to Melissa Kostyu for upload to the SGWTE website.

Treasurer's report:

Income Operating Account

March Gathering deposit \$233.00

Pilgrims deposits check\$ 530.00

Online \$621.93

Total Deposits \$1151.93

Expenses Operating Account

2609 reimburse liesha Lawrence for table decor \$ 181.87

2611 upper room registration #135 \$650.00

2612 upper room registration #136 \$825.00

2613 Camp Tygart Deposit Mens walk #137 \$1700.00

2614 Camp Tygart Womans #138 \$1700.00

Total expenses \$5056.87

\$9470.90 current Balance

Scholarship Account

Deposits 6/4 2.00 total is \$2.00

Expenses 5/30 dormant fee charge\$ 5.00 total is \$5.00

Balance \$15468.43

Richard Trawick fund balance \$1070.00

Melissa Kostyu motioned to accept the treasurer's report as submitted; Melissa Hughes seconded the motion. Upon a verbal vote, the motion was carried.

Old Business:

Michelle: emailed 48 communities concerning a new skit for the Emmaus Walks and received only 2 responses.

North Georgia : Skits are tailored to Lay director. They do a different skit every walk.

Randy and Michelle created a skit.

It involves the music team with an Old McDonald theme.

Tony stated that we will keep researching and consider it at a future board meeting.

Update for attendance for the Spring walk 2026: currently we have 21 men and 34 women applications for spring 2026 walk.

Michelle stated we need to emphasise sponsorship and applications

Michele Epps left the meeting

Stan Lankford presented information on the Gatherings: Kathy is organizing the walks. The next gathering is

Aug 23 in Cairo GA.

The following gathering will be October 25 at Camp Tygart in the Pipkin center and Tabernacle and take an offering for payment. The kitchen would be used as well.

January 24th Nashville Methodist (global) to coincide with the Chrysalis walk. This way the community can support candlelight.

March 21st will be the gathering for Follow up from the spring walks.

We should each respectively reach out to our church to garner support

Proposed format for Camp Tygart: worship in the Tabernacle, childcare possibly in the Pipkin Center.

New business

Katherine trickett stepped down from the 2026 Ladies Lay Director Position
Laura Huff was voted as replacement for the 2026 Ladies Walk via electronic submission.

We are looking for

Lay director for 2027 Ladies Walk

Abiding by upper room tenets

Melissa Hughes stated considerations for choosing a candidate for lay director will include working through the tenets and reaching out to all possible candidates based on experience.

Possibly the ability for LD to choose their ALD needs to cease to build for future ALD positions.

Stan Lankford made a motion to invite Melissa Kostyu to be Lay director (Spring 2027) after Laura Huff. Mike Mobley seconded. A vote was taken None opposed the motion was carried and the motion was approved.

The effort is to set up progressive servanthood

Discussion for consideration of a walk for fall 26 will be held at a future board meeting.

Upcoming elections will be held for the board.

Officer elections will be held in January

If people are interested in an executive board position, contact Tony Gunter.

Recommendations will be received and nominations will be voted on. We will ask the community for nominations for upcoming Board positions for 2026-2029 class.

Prayerfully consider who should receive a nomination to work on the Emmaus board as well as members as large.

Melissa Hughes will send out an email about progressive servanthood. This will help to inform potential community members on team selection.

There is still a deficit with potential Clergy. Patti Minton is encouraging sponsoring Clergy. A request was made for us to inquire in our local churches. A consideration was discussed for clergy to attend outside this local community.

Committee Reports

Agape: not present

Candlelight: Kim will order materials for a 2 walk cycle.

Community Trainer:

Clean up: We are looking for someone who does not have a responsibility to take charge of cleaning up. (Mike Daly) was mentioned. A team of 10 people needs to be available for Spring of 2026.

Clergy: There is a great deal of difficulty with availability of Clergy for walks.

Face to Face: Carole Nelson Sept 10-13 2025 are the dates for an upcoming encounter. The team is full. F2F 2026 will be held in Grady County. Currently 13 women and 2 men will be attending. We need to invite people to fill up the weekend. 42 total pilgrims would be excellent. A minimum of 20.

Candlelight is 2:30 on Friday September 12th and 2:30 is closing Saturday.

Our purpose of Emmaus is to strengthen the local church. Carole asks that we help to get people sponsored. Tony asks that we share the event on social media.

Gatherings: Already covered

Kitchen Buying:

Kitchen Coordinator:

LD Coordinator/ Boxes:

Music:

Prayer Vigil: Stewart Ward is taking over prayer vigil.

Pre Walk Coordinator

Registrar: Michelle Epps left earlier.

Team Selection: Melissa Hughes stated a great job was done by team selection. She has struggled to get access to sheets for information. Electronic responses have also been shared with Madison Webb. We need to continue to encourage people to apply to work

Technology: Website is updated for upcoming walks. The certificate for the website needs to be updated. No fee increases for credit card purchases.

Worship: Pete stated we are ready for upcoming walks.

Closing of Meeting

Tony Gunter closed in prayer

The next meeting is in September 15th at Park Avenue at 7pm

There being no further business Mike Mobely closed the meeting in prayer. Stan Lankford made a motion to adjourn the meeting Melissa Hughes seconded the motion. Upon a vote by a show of Hands, the motion unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Kostyu

Secretary