

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Georgia Walk to Emmaus was held on Oct 27, 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, Kim Daly, Kathy Roberson, Dustin Merriman, Stewart Ward, Madison Webb, Melissa Hughes, John Holt
Mike Mobley, and Joe Corbett

Call to Order/ Prayer/Welcome

Tony Gunter opened the meeting in prayer.

Mike Mobley shared Ecc 3 for everything there is a season. Waiting is difficult. Trusting in God's timing means giving up your own timing for His results. He sees the bigger picture. When we trust, we let go of anxiety. A prayer for those waiting on God timing was given by Mike Mobley

New Business:

Secretaries minutes: All members were emailed a copy of the September, 2025 minutes to review prior to the meeting. After review and request for changes and or additions, Mike Mobley made a motion to accept the minutes as written. John Holt 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

October Gathering deposit \$1064.00 raised for Camp Tygart and we were going to match \$500.00 A check will be given to Camp Tygart for a min \$1564.00

Old Emmaus Golf Cart was donated back to the Community.

Donations to the Richard Trawick Fund in the amount of 825.00 will be deposited in January

Face to Face

\$3420.00 Team and Pilgrim deposits

Expenses

Total expenses

\$1455.44 Spent Purchasing

\$ 125.14 Agape

\$ 925.00 Upper room Costs (37) pilgrim

\$ 2505.58 total current expenses

914.42 positive balance

INS Policy pending

Kitchen expenses pending

Cleaning expenses are pending

Deposits Account

\$120.00 from Trawick used for Face to Face

\$ 825.00 pending move to Trawick Account

\$1080.00 pilgrim deposits

\$300.00 Team deposits

\$782.88 online deposits

Total deposits

\$3107.88

Expenses

checks

2615 \$125.14 kathy mcgraw agape

2616 \$3856.00 insurance 10/14/25/-10/14/26

Cc \$ 21.82 face to face

\$4002.96 total expenses

\$8739.45 current operating balance

Scholarship Account

Expenses \$120.00 3 face to face transfer

fund balance \$15361.57

RT balance \$1070.00

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

Old Business:

Registration numbers

Michelle Epps: via phone

28 men signed up 2 fully qualified

31 women signed up

For the spring 2026

This is a decrease in women's numbers from the previous discussion.

Team Selection Update

13 men's teams conference room applications
30 women's teams conference room applications
Kitchen 5 mens applications
Kitchen 11 womans applications
1 clergy

Team Selection will be Dec 1st

Clergy applications were discussed for the upcoming walks. At this time there is one application. Applicants need to meet upper room qualifications. Board manual states that the board approves spiritual directors. It has been long held that we support Lay directors who have a relationship with the spiritual director. Efforts are made to maintain an ecumenical team.

Currently approximately 10 clergy in the community are qualified to serve as spiritual director. (This criteria was mentioned in the meeting and may not be an exhaustive list)

- 1. Spiritual directors need to be actively involved in ministry.**
- 2. They have to have proper credentials per Upper Room.**
- 3. 4 hour clergy training at least once.**

Candidates need to contact the Spiritual Community Director.

Tony will reach out to Lay Directors and encourage them to call the Community Spiritual Director concerning choices for spiritual directors for Spring walks.

A vote was taken to have an Emmaus Walk Fall of 2026

Considerations:

Current pilgrim numbers do not support a fall walk

Numbers are higher than normal at this point in the walk cycle.

Current team applications do not support a fall walk

In order to support Face to Face being held in Cairo, and the future Men's lay director, a fall walk would not be advisable.

A suggestion to reevaluate in March 2026 was mentioned, however annual planning would be challenging if the vote was postponed.

A suggestion to alternate spring and fall walks to make accommodations for those who can only attend in the fall was mentioned.

Community sponsorship training goal has not been met.

Declining gathering attendance by teams indicates the health of the 4th day community.

Music teams are hard to fill.

One important factor that was mentioned is that we need to act on faith with the Holy Spirit. One point that was made is, if even only 2 pilgrims show up, is it still a work worth doing? Are dates for Fall still open at Camp Tygart?

A motion was made by show of hands by Tony Gunter a Fall walk should be held 2026. 7 votes for a fall walk were counted and 7 votes were against. The motion did not carry.

Kathy Roberson made a motion for a fall walk for 2027. Melissa Huges seconded the motion A vote was taken, a majority vote approved the motion. A fall walk will be held Fall 2027.

New business:

Walks are well attended and numbers are increasing. Gathering participation is increasing.

Dates for Spring 2027 walks need to be moved due to the Easter weekend and Palm Sunday Conflict.

Sept 23-26 are the potential dates for Face to Face.

More community involvement is the goal for the community.

John Holt, Melissa Hughes, Melissa Kostyu, Patti Minton, Jarrod Brogdon, Larry Hauser and Tony Gunter are rolling off the board.

Joe Corbett, Dustin Merriman, Pablo Campa and Madison Canada have been added to the board. Welcome to the Board!

Executive positions will be elected in January 2026.

The new board chair will nominate at large members for the board.

John Holt outlined his wishes for the golf cart to Camp Tygart. He would also like to allow Jerry at Trygart to be able to use it outside walks, while making it available to Chrysalis as well.

Committee Reports

Agape:

Candlelight:

Community Trainer: Looking for a community trainer to teach and be a point of contact for sponsors.

Clean up: Stan Lankford no updates

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

Face to Face: Carole Nelson Gathering was well attended. 12 pm Nov 7 at Gateway baptist is the next follow up.

Gatherings: Jerry is the Gathering cleanup liaison.

Kitchen Buying: Bob Burns was a great help at the gathering.

Kitchen Coordinator:
LD Coordinator/ Boxes:
Music:

Prayer Vigil: Vigils have been requested for the spring walks.
Pre Walk Coordinator:

Registrar:
Send Off: A community member needs to be elected in January.
Team Selection: A great job was done by team selection. Madison is being trained.
Technology: Board Covenants due in Ministry Manager have been uploaded.
Worship:

Tony Gunter closed the meeting in prayer. Dustin Merriman made a motion to adjourn and John Holt seconded the motion, There being no further business. Upon a vote by a show of Hands, the motion unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held in January 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Kostyu

Secretary
Confirmed 11/2025