

Clergy Criteria for Emmaus and Chrysalis (updated on July 26, 2024)

(These updated criteria replace and supersede information on clergy qualifications found in The Upper Room publications on Emmaus and 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 individuals 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 assists in selecting those to serve on Emmaus/Chrysalis teams. The Community Spiritual Director shall be recognized as a competent spiritual leader within their church or denomination and by other church leaders in the area. This person should also represent the best Emmaus/Chrysalis has to offer.

Only individuals 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).

Or,

- are UMC Associate Clergy Members.

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 able to secure an elder, deacon, or Associate Member 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 have completed an undergraduate degree and The United Methodist Church (UMC) Basic Course of Study Program and the Advanced Course of Program (or the equivalent in other churches or denominations).

Or,

- are United Methodist Associate Clergy Members or Licensed Local Pastors.

Note: Licensed Local Pastors and Provisional Elders are not authorized to consecrate the elements of Holy Communion in Emmaus and Chrysalis settings.

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