

Face to Face Encounter

Sponsorship Instructions

The Face to Face Committee would like to thank you for agreeing to be a sponsor to a pilgrim to Encounter #8 to be held at Faith Global Methodist Church, located at 1574 St. Rt. 96E., Ashland, OH 44805. The Encounter dates are July 9, 11, 18, and 20.

Your responsibility will begin with extending an Encounter Application to a pilgrim that hopefully you have a relationship with. If it is someone you do not know that well, it is suggested that you meet to get to know each other and understand what the pilgrim is looking to get out of this experience. With the knowledge of the content of the program, you are free to answer almost any question they may ask to make them feel comfortable with the Encounter. (The one exception remains the personal agape letters the pilgrim will receive during the last session.)

In order to be a sponsor, you will have had to experience a Walk or Flight weekend in the past. While it is helpful to have personally experienced an Encounter yourself, this is not necessary. If you have not experienced an Encounter yourself, you are welcome to view the general video description produced by the Upper Room Ministries at www.upperroom.com and select Face to Face. You may want to look at this video together with your pilgrim.

The Encounter seeks to invite men and women, ages 60 and older, to experience a renewed relationship with Jesus Christ covering subjects such as discipleship, mission, grief, and end-of-life issues enhanced with material specifically targeting the challenges of living fully and dying well. During the Encounter, the pilgrim will hear and discuss 14 talks including one presented by a Chaplain entitled "Coping in Tough Times." While many of the talks are similar to one used during an Emmaus Weekend, the Encounter talks will emphasize how the talk subjects apply to a person more mature in their faith within the context of the life of an older adult.

Your role will continue with your need to complete Section #2 of the Application and make sure the application gets forwarded to the Encounter Registrar to the address listed on the Application. If you need to acquire an additional application

or a replacement, you can download copies directly from the Heart to Ohio Emmaus website: www.heartofohioemmaus.org. The application will need to be accompanied with the \$75.00 fee which it is suggested that the pilgrim make the payment.

The pilgrim will be responsible to transport themselves to the Encounter location. They should be informed that the Encounter dress is casual and all the material needed to participate will be supplied including snacks and meals.

One of the most important and similar responsibilities as sponsor will be to obtain the personal agape letters and attend the candlelight event (held at the end of the 3rd weekday session – see the time and instructions posted on the Community FB page and Prayer Network.) If you cannot attend, it will be important to have a co-sponsor attend in your place.

Regarding the personal agape letters: If you are not acquainted with the pilgrim – know a key contact member of the pilgrim’s family - it will be important to obtain that information through a friend or by asking the pilgrim for a contact person without revealing the reason – to obtain letters. These letters will need to be in the hands of the Agape Chairperson for the Encounter by the end of the 3rd session. After the person is registered, the Registrar will send you a formatted sample agape letter that you can use.

It is also your responsibility to check to see if there are any personal family needs of the pilgrim that can be addressed in their absence from their family remains the same all the while probably less as they are only going to be away approximately eight hours at a time. At a minimum, you should continue to hold the pilgrim in prayer during the Encounter

If you have any questions regarding your role as a sponsor, you can contact Carl Schaefer, Face to Face Spiritual Director at 740-815-0974, Donna Baker, Encounter Registrar at 614-378-6212 or Evy Buchanan, Encounter Agape Chair at 419-989-7711.

Prepared by Carl Schaefer

Face to Face Spiritual Director