

Walk to Emmaus Conference Room Communication

This communication is meant to inform the Emmaus Community about a new challenge for our Ministry, and an appeal to prayerfully consider how you may be able to assist.

The owners of the building across from Camp Lakeview known to us as the “Conference Room” have decided they will no longer rent the building after our fall walks. The building is not owned by Lakeview and has been reserved and rented separately for each Walk. The Emmaus Board has been aware of this possibility for some time, but the final decision came to us in mid June.

Since being made aware of this possibility, the Board has looked at several alternatives. As we reviewed our options, the leadership of Lakeview Ministries made us aware of a long term plan to build a large multi-use Rec Center at camp adjacent to the current Dining Hall. This building isn’t anticipated to be completed for use for at least two years. In the meantime, we need a space for our Conference Room starting in the spring of 2025 and Lakeview has also suggested a possible solution for the near future until the Rec Center is completed.

This proposal is to renovate the Shelter House at the bottom of the hill, across from the horse barn, into a space that would be sufficient for our Conference Room. The proposal includes constructing exterior walls to enclose the space, upgrading lighting and electrical, adding a first story bathroom, and HVAC. We believe this will provide a sufficient short term solution to this need and will provide the additional benefit of allowing camp to be in control of all reservation needs rather than having to coordinate and contract with two separate organizations.

The Board recommends staying at Camp Lakeview and pursuing this plan as our first option. A list of needs for the space has been reviewed with Lakeview’s leaders, and skilled Tradesmen from the Emmaus community have reviewed the space with camp leadership and discussed recommendations. The camp has already started construction design and estimating so we can understand the budget needed for the project.

As this is a project that Lakeview Ministries hadn’t anticipated as part of their budget, funding for the project has yet to be worked out. Lakeview is requesting that the Emmaus community prayerfully consider how we may be able to assist in supporting these improvements. More information will be shared shortly for ways we can help to make this project a success in the short time before the spring Walks. This information will be shared in the monthly Newsletter and shared at the monthly Gatherings.

If you are willing to provide for the needs of this project, please reach out to a board member. Construction assistance should be directed to Dave Goodner, Michelle Weintraut or Mark Kelley by going to the website. www.columbusinemmaus.org and click on the board member tab and choose the name or contact one directly if you have his/her information.

We will keep you informed in the monthly newsletter and gatherings.

Dave Goodner, Columbus Area Emmaus Community Lay Director