

Sponsor Guidelines
for Closer Walk of Upper New York
(Formerly known as North Central New York Walk to Emmaus)

(Remove this sheet before giving application to candidate)

Sponsors:

1. **Pray for guidance:** Speak to God about your candidate before you speak to him/her. Ask God if he/she is ready for the Walk, if it is time to discuss Closer Walk with him/her, and if you should invite him/her. Ask God to guide your discussion time and give you a humble and enthusiastic spirit.
2. Live the message of the weekend; know the goals and methods of Closer Walk.
3. Know the needs of your candidate.
4. Make sure your candidate is going because he/she wants to and not just as a favor to you.
5. Discuss with the Candidate that his/her weekend has been paid for by past Candidates and that he/she is encouraged to "Pay it Forward" as well. Give present cost of weekend.
6. Transport your candidate to and from the weekend site.
7. Support your candidate during the weekend.
8. Continue to be in contact with your candidate in the 4th Day.
9. Help your candidate to find a permanent Small Group (Grouping).
10. Invite/bring your candidate to monthly Ultreya.
11. For detailed sponsor information, contact the current Registrar or your local Ultreya leader.

Candidates:

1. Should have a desire to grow as a Christian.
2. Should have an attitude of listening, friendship and a disposition that includes change.
3. Be willing to participate in a community of believers.
4. Should understand Closer Walk is not just a weekend but is a way of Christian living.
5. Should have no psychological or emotional problems that would prevent their participation in the Weekend and interaction with others.
6. Should be mature, responsible and able to make his or her own decisions.
7. **May be single, married, or divorced.** Since Closer Walk is an experience to be shared, even though the weekends are separate, **married couples are encouraged to make the same set of weekends. If both are going on the same set of weekends, both applications should be submitted together. No one is denied acceptance due to a spouse not wanting to go on a weekend.**

Procedures:

1. Explain Closer Walk Weekend and Post-Weekend opportunities (i.e. Grouping, Ultreya, and Reunion). Answer any questions and help candidates complete the application form (both husband and wife if married). All blanks on the application must be completed.
2. Fill out the Sponsor's portion of the application and mail both Sponsor's and Candidate's application to the Registrar (see below). Send NO money with the application.
3. Take the Pastor's portion of the candidate's application and addressed, stamped envelope to candidate's pastor to complete and mail. Pastor's recommendation is fully confidential.

Mail all applications to:

Lisa Edger
101 Philo Rd. W.
Elmira, NY 14903
607.738.8574
laedger@stny.rr.com

Closer Walk of Upper New York
(Formerly known as North Central New York Walk to Emmaus)

The Closer Walk is scriptural based on Luke 24:13 f.f. Its goal is to model three days of Christian living. The model is lived out in as cloistered an environment as possible so that the team and candidates can for three days give all their attention to the Closer Walk.

The weekend consists of 15 talks (10 by lay persons, 5 by clergy). The talks move in a progression to help us understand, and experience God's Grace. There is an emphasis on Sacramental grace. The weekend also consists of joyous singing, super meals, and a lot of "clean" jokes and fellowship.

The candidate is encouraged to go back to their local church, family, and community and model a new life in Christ. Men and women have separate weekends because there is a unique openness and strength that comes in all men or women sharing. The movement began as Cursillo over 50 years ago for men only to strengthen men in the church. In recent years women's weekends have begun. For married couples, men should attend first because history teaches us that if it is not that way, many husbands may not ever attend. This would defeat the goal of reaching the men of the church. **This is not a hard and fast rule – Married women may attend a weekend before their husbands.** Single men and women age 21 or over are welcome. Divorced and separated persons are also welcome. All post weekend events are men and women together.

The Closer Walk evolved from Walk to Emmaus, which is a national movement of the United Methodist Church related to the Upper Room, and is an ecumenical movement. Closer Walk is ecumenical in its openness to accept any Christian from any church who seriously wants to deepen their walk with Christ. Such persons will be welcome as candidates and will be fully accepted. There is no labeling in the Closer Walk.

It is a very busy three days beginning at 7:00 pm Thursday and ending about 9:00 pm Sunday. Candidates must stay on site the entire weekend. **Therefore, persons of fragile health, or persons with serious emotional problems should not attempt a weekend.** Where health or other problems do exist it should be clearly stated on the application so that the team can be prepared. All applications are confidential and are destroyed after the weekend.

Applications are attached.

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"The opinions, views or doctrine of the "church facility" used by Closer Walk of Upper New York do not necessarily reflect the beliefs, viewpoints or opinions of The Closer Walk Upper New York".

Closer Walk supports the stance of the United Methodist Church as expressed in the United Methodist book of Discipline and the United Methodist Book of Resolutions.

Closer Walk of Upper New York recognizes that the Body of Christ is composed of many members. Our prayer and our goal is that Christ is represented through the Closer Walk community. The Closer Walk community is a community of love and support so that the members of the Body of Christ may grow in love for each other and for the Kingdom of God. 5/2012

Closer Walk of Upper New York Application Form (completed with sponsor)
(Formerly known as North Central New York Walk to Emmaus)

The Closer Walk of Upper New York is an ecumenical movement. It provides a method of living, through which one's spirituality may be developed, lived, and shared in any area of human life where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to God in an ongoing manner. The 3-day weekend experience is a joyous introduction into a grouping and supporting community of friends in Christ - men and women who are working to Christianize their environments. Closer Walk is designed to make it possible to live what is fundamental for being a Christian to live in union with Christ and desire to bring others to Christ.

Sponsor's Name (please print) _____ Phone Number (_____) _____

Candidate's Name (please print) _____

Nickname (if used) _____ Spouse's Name _____

Mailing Address _____
Street/PO Box _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Age _____ Occupation _____

Home Church _____

Church Involvement _____

Community Activities/Hobbies _____

Has the Follow-up program been explained to you? _____

Do you have any health problems or physical limitations that we should be aware of?
(Please Explain) _____

Do you have any dietary restrictions, allergies or other needs that we should be advised of?
(Please Explain) _____

Remember - All applications are confidential and are destroyed after the weekend.

Do you have friends or know others who have attended a 4th day weekend such as Closer Walk / Emmaus / Cursillo / Chrysallis / YAC / Via de Cristo weekend?

Name _____ Name _____

Closer Walk is an experience intended to be shared. For this reason, husbands and wives are each asked to fill out separate applications and send them together although there are separate weekends for men and women.

***Please Note:** This is only an application for a Closer Walk Weekend. You will be sent a letter as soon as possible confirming the date and location of a specific Closer Walk Weekend opening.

Candidate's Signature

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PASTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Name of Candidate _____

Pastor's Name _____ Parish _____

Address _____ Phone (_____) _____

Email Address _____

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The weekend is a strenuous one and should not be attempted by someone with psychological or emotional problems. Therefore, we request your *confidential* remarks and recommendations, or non-recommendation, of this candidate. Thank you for your assistance.

How long have you known this person? _____ In what capacity? _____

In what ways has this person been actively involved in his/her church? _____

To the best of your knowledge, is there any spiritual, emotional or psychological issue, including possible family or marital difficulties, which might make participation in the weekend *at this time* a concern?

Explain: _____

Other comments or concerns:

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Pastor's Signature