

# Rainbow Bend

Special Edition: Letter to the 4th Day Community



*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." | Corinthians 13:4-7*

Sometimes life surprises me. Just when you think you are on the right path you come to a fork ... that forks! Oops! You have to stand back a moment, say a prayer and follow God's grace the best you can. Your CBEC Board has found itself in a bit of that position.

For several years now we have believed that our Journey to Damascus brothers and sisters were eligible to serve on Walk teams. Originally, we understood that to be eligible to serve on a Walk team, or sponsor someone to be a Pilgrim on a Walk, the Journey person would have to first be a Pilgrim on a Walk. Now we find ourselves in the position of having to return to that original understanding. Specifically, to be eligible to be a team member on a Walk or sponsor a Pilgrim on a Walk, a person must have had their Pilgrim experience on a 3 Day Event identified as a Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Via de Cristo, Tres Dias, Kairos, Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Chrysalis Journey and Chrysalis Flight. The Journey to Damascus does not as yet have the recognition necessary.

Backtracking is really tough. It has touched our Board, the Chrysalis Board and Walk teams in the midst of their planning and preparation. The Lay Director for Men's Walk #1614, Bill Beck, who comes out of the Catholic community but has served toward progressive leadership on many Walks (including his Pilgrim Walk) decided to resign from the position of Lay Director for that Walk because he felt he could not in good conscience continue when some team members were no longer eligible to serve.

Dicky Valdez, also from the Catholic community (and had his Pilgrim Walk on a WTE) has stepped in with the rest of the team of Walk #1614 to serve as the Lay Director. So much grace has flowed from this team who has made the choice to be held together because of their commitment to the future Pilgrims on Walk #1614.

September Men's Walk #1627's Lay Director, Brent Chesney, has decided that he will delay being a Lay Director at this time but plans to serve in the future. Blessing all of us, Bill Beck has stepped into the Lay Director position for Walk #1627. Bill shows his commitment to the ministry of Emmaus and to this community, both Journey and Emmaus. His heart for the community (and the life changing experience of many who experience the 3 day event) and his willingness to serve have been God's voice of calm, preparing the way before us.

The Journey to Damascus Board and members of the community have shown us such tender loving grace and are standing with us, committed to the mutually supportive relationship we are blessed with. We share many things: the use of the same event venue at Queen of Peace, the *Rainbow Bend* newsletter, that together we can afford, attendance at Candlelight for both 3 day events and most of all the lives of Pilgrims who meet God and are called to leadership in their home churches.

Your CBEC Board asks forgiveness of our community for this misunderstanding. We take full responsibility for the situation we find ourselves in. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." We are trusting God and Christ in our community that we will not be overwhelmed or consumed and that, only as He can, He will use it for good.

We have two amazing Boards (Journey to Damascus and Walk to Emmaus) who are deeply committed to Christ and our fellowship. Both Communities, while separate but supportive of each other, will continue to seek to lead Pilgrims to a deeper walk with Christ.

Judi Storms, CBEC Lay Director