

## **Some Thoughts on Keeping Faith with the Manuals**

Note: Taken from the preface, [The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus](#).

Adherence to The Upper Room's Emmaus manuals is important to the Emmaus movement, for the church, for The Upper Room and for the people who are sponsored to go on Walks.

The manuals provide the following:

1. They provide quality assurance to achieve excellence in presenting the essentials of Christianity, as Emmaus is designed to do.
2. They prevent Emmaus from being remade after the likeness of various leaders. Emmaus is not leader-centered ... it is ordinary Christians working together under objective manuals for a proven model.
3. They assure that Emmaus, no matter where it is conducted, will be a common and trustworthy experience.
4. They set forth a model of theological harmony. A Walk is a tightly woven event ... every part has a purpose; anything added or removed, diminishes the whole.
5. They serve as a check on our inclination to innovate. Changes accommodate the team...not the pilgrims.
6. They free leaders to focus on the pilgrims and to trust the Holy Spirit...not their own creativity. Independent leaders set a dangerous precedent ... the manuals serve as the plumb line that keeps each walk centered.
7. They free the Board and teams to focus on the preparation for Walks and on Fourth-Day challenges, not on design of the 3-day event.
8. They warrant adherence simply because the Still Water's Community annually enters into a covenant with the Upper Room ... to follow the manual — for preparation, implementation and follow-up to the Walks.

“The direction of change in a community's Walk to Emmaus three days should always be toward the standard model, not away from it.”