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Policy Name: REALM use, purpose, and posting policy

Policy Summary: To identify the purpose and use of the REALM for members, pastors, staff, ministry leaders, and nonmembers.

Summary

The REALM is Emmaus' social media application that is utilized for members, pastors, staff, ministry leaders, and nonmembers to communicate and connect. Members utilize the REALM to build community (including meet-ups and events) and share life updates (including life events, prayers, praises, services, and needs). Pastors utilize the REALM for teaching in order to foster unity through guided discussion. Staff and ministry Leaders utilize the REALM for communicating, creating events, and organizing. Nonmembers use the REALM exclusively to receive information. We will look at each of these categories below and provide a definition for each.

The following policy is not an indictment on anyone's post or group of posts on the REALM. The pastors have been discussing REALM use amongst one another and with sister churches in the Omaha area. The following is a summary of our conversations regarding what REALM use will look like in the life of our church.

Member use of the REALM

Members utilize the REALM to build community and share life updates.

Build Community

- Meetings
- Events
- Service Opportunities
- Prayer Requests
- Bible Studies
- Personal Ministry Opportunities

Life Updates

- Life Updates
- Prayer Requests
- Praises
- Service Opportunities
- Offering Goods and Services
- Sharing Needs
- Scripture

What the REALM shouldn't be used for

- Posts that aim to correct, rebuke, or admonish.
- Opinion pieces or articles covering news, politics, ethics, or any other personal opinion.
- We don't want this policy to stunt REALM use, so, when in doubt, run the content of the post by a pastor.

Pastoral use of the REALM

Pastors utilize the REALM for teaching opportunities in order to foster unity through guided discussion with oversight. The REALM is a public platform that is directly connected to our members' email inboxes. In order to prevent the conflation between Emmaus Bible Church and the individual views of our members, the Pastors reserve the exclusive right to use the REALM as a public platform to communicate an agenda or teach the congregation.

While members should use the Bible to teach and admonish one another (Col. 3:16), the REALM will not be used for this purpose. Members should make it a practice to address one another in this way in their daily, interpersonal relationships. This will ensure that all of the teaching done on the REALM is consistent with Emmaus' confession of faith and mission statement.

If a member desires for the Pastors to address the congregation using this public platform, they may request that the Pastors give the topic consideration in order to address the congregation.

Teaching

- Podcasts
- Monthly Briefings
- Members' Meeting Minutes
- Missionary Updates
- Posts that include teaching, encouragement, and exhortation
- Posts exclusively intended to guide discussion on select topics
- Important Updates

Staff and Ministry Leader use of the REALM

Staff and ministry leaders utilize the REALM for communicating, creating events, and organizing.

Nonmember use of the REALM

Nonmembers use the REALM exclusively to receive information. There are two reasons that nonmembers will be restricted from posting on the REALM. First, we don't want nonmembers to have access to address the entire church until they have committed to the body. Second, we are

unsure of the beliefs and opinions of nonmembers until they complete the membership process. If a nonmember has an update or prayer request that they would like for the body to hear, they can communicate with a pastor or through their individual gospel community.

Groups on the REALM

There are five main groups on the REALM with distinct functions:

1. *Emmaus Bible Church*: Communication on this group will be exclusively for Pastors and staff to send important updates, teachings, and events.
2. *Members*: This is the primary group that our body will utilize for building community and sharing life updates.
3. *Gospel Community*: The above guidance on the use of the REALM will be up to each individual GC. Each individual GC will decide if they want their group to share articles, teachings, songs, exhortations, etc.
4. *Serving Groups*: Used for communication, coordinating, and organizing volunteers.
5. *Other Groups*: The purpose of other groups (i.e. women, men, etc.) will be at the direction of the leader of the group.