



An introductory *circle of trust* retreat for Clergy and Congregational Leaders
based on the work of Parker J. Palmer

July 28-30, 2009 • ARC Ecumenical Retreat Center, Cambridge, MN

Over the past decade under the guidance of Parker J. Palmer, highly skilled facilitators across the country have created a unique retreat-based approach to renewing personal identity, professional integrity, and vocational vitality. This approach is now being offered to a growing number of interested clergy and congregational leaders through an initiative funded in part by the Lilly Endowment.

We invite you to participate in an introductory Courage to Lead retreat for leaders from diverse religious communities. We will begin the retreat at 3 pm on July 28 and end at 3 pm on July 30. This retreat program is part of Courage & Renewal for Congregational Leaders, a multi-year, national initiative to help congregational leaders renew and sustain their own spiritual resources and to contribute to the vitality of congregational life.

In *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*, Palmer describes the importance of creating “circles of trust,” trustworthy spaces in which honest sharing and deep learning can occur:

In this culture, we know how to create spaces that invite the intellect to show up, to argue its case, to make its point. We know how to create spaces that invite the emotions to show up, to express anger or joy. We know how to create spaces that invite the will to show up, to consolidate effort and energy around a common task. And we surely know how to create spaces that invite the ego to show up, preening itself and claiming its turf! But we seem to know very little about creating spaces that invite the soul to show up, the core of ourselves, our selfhood.

In this introductory Courage to Lead retreat, a cohort of 24 clergy and congregational leaders will gather in large-group, small-group and solitary settings, to share our inner journeys via personal story-telling, poetry and teaching tales from various wisdom traditions. Guided by skilled facilitators, participants will be invited to speak honestly about their lives and work and to listen and respond to each other—and to themselves—with encouragement and compassion.

In addition to this introductory retreat, a series of four seasonal Courage to Lead retreats for clergy and congregational leaders will also be offered at the retreat location in Mundelein, Illinois. The series is intended to build up on insights and discoveries participants experienced either at an Introductory Retreat or initial Seasonal Retreat series. This additional time and support will enable clergy to fully reflect on new discoveries, consider their ramifications and integrate this new awareness more fully into his/her life. For more information on the **retreat series**, go to <http://couragerenewal.org/retreat-calendar> and click on the Courage to Lead reference on **February 2, 2010**.

RETREAT FACILITATORS

Barbara Hummel works with leaders and organizations from corporations as well as public and non-profit sectors to help them be more authentic and effective. She has also facilitated teacher, clergy, and cross-professional circles of trust over the past eight years. She has a master's in counseling, and brings the experience of being a "PK" to her strong interest and commitment to spirituality. Barbara is an active member of Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ in Madison, Wisconsin.

Barbara has been prepared by the Center for Courage and Renewal (www.couragerenewal.org).

LOCATION AND COST

The retreat will be held at the ARC Ecumenical Retreat Center (www.arcretreat.org) in Cambridge, MN, which is 55 miles north of Minneapolis. Accommodations will be single rooms. Walking trails wind through woods and wetlands. **Please use the attached registration form to register.**

Space is limited to 12 participants. Participants will be housed in single rooms. ***To assure participation, please register early.*** You will receive detailed information and directions once your application is received. **The participant fee is \$475 plus travel** and includes room and board as well as program materials. **Please note: Checks should be made payable to Wisconsin Council of Churches.**

For further information, contact the facilitator:

Barbara Hummel
bhummel@chorus.net
(608) 233-7400

Application is on the next page.



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APPLICATION FORM

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Contact Information

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Work _____ Home _____

Cell _____ E-mail _____

Personal statement: On a separate page, please let us know why you are interested in attending this retreat program, and how you hope to benefit. Briefly describe the setting in which you do your work, and a vocational question you may be holding.

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Courage to Lead for Clergy and Congregational Leaders. Your responses to the following questions will help us report to the Center for Courage & Renewal, the Lilly Foundation, and other funders. The contact information you provide will be added to the Center for Courage & Renewal database and used by the Center to inform you of upcoming opportunities. The demographic data you provide is confidential, but will be used in aggregated form.

Demographic Information

Faith Tradition

____ Buddhist
____ Christian (please specify denomination
_____)

____ Hindu
____ Indigenous
____ Jewish

____ Muslim
____ Spiritual Seeker
____ Sufi
____ Other (please specify
_____)

Ordained Clergy: _____ Layperson: _____ Other: _____

For clergy: Length of time in ministry _____
Number of years in current position _____

Congregational/Religious Affiliation _____

Average Weekly Worship Attendance _____

Role in Congregation/Religious Community (mark more than one if appropriate)

_____ Senior pastor/priest	_____ Student
_____ Assoc/ Assist pastor/priest	_____ Sunday School Teacher
_____ Church Staff	_____ Youth Leader
_____ Consultant	_____ Denominational Administrator
_____ Coach	_____
_____ Academic	_____ Other Ministry (please specify)
_____ Retreat Leader	_____
_____ Spiritual Director	_____

Age _____ 19 or younger
_____ 20 - 29
_____ 30 - 39
_____ 40 - 49
_____ 50 - 59
_____ 60 - 69
_____ 70 or older

Gender _____ Male _____ Female

Ethnicity

_____ African American
_____ Asian
_____ Hispanic/Latino/Latina
_____ Native America
_____ Northern European American
_____ Pacific Islander
_____ Other (please specify _____)

Previous Experience in a Courage Program? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, when and where? _____

Please send the application form, personal statement, and \$475 registration fee (check payable to Wisconsin Council of Churches) to:

Barbara Hummel
4026 Cherokee Drive
Madison, WI 53711