



**Introductory *Circle of Trust* Retreat for
Clergy and Leaders of all Faiths
Based on the work of Parker J. Palmer**

**Mountain Top Retreat Center, Bozeman, MT
November 15 -17, 2010**

The power of silence and being together ecumenically.

Time to be listened to deeply.

Clarifying how to be present in non-destructive ways.

A new way to think about (and) experience pastoral care.

Help (to) go forth with integrity concerning my vocation and life.

A better sense of next steps professionally.

Time to look at and be within myself.

Very spiritual, prodding and formational.

New friends, connections and an understanding of parish ministry in rural Montana.

A calm, deep, well-run journey.

These important “take-aways” were identified by clergy who participated in one of the first two Montana Courage to Lead for Clergy Introductory Retreats. For our third introductory retreat this November, we are extending invitations to *all clergy and leaders of all faiths, and we hope you will join us in creating an interfaith circle of trust.* While in retreat, we will re-discover the deep connection between soul and role in the professional and personal lives of faith leaders. We will also explore paths to renew and sustain leaders’ spiritual resources and contribute to the vitality of congregational life.

A cohort of up to 28 faith leaders will engage in large-group, small-group and solitary activities to explore and share inner journeys. Media such as personal story telling, poetry and teaching tales from various wisdom traditions will inform the process. 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.

Following the retreat, participants who wish to may join a several-session teleconference “virtual book group” based on Dr. Parker J. Palmer’s book, *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*. The facilitated telephone groups will continue work with formational practices learned in the retreat and deepen the sense of community created there – and they will be unlike any other conference call you have participated in!

We invite you to join us for this third introductory Courage to Lead for Clergy Retreat being held at **Mountain Top Retreat, 14 miles south of Bozeman, MT, November 15 - 17, 2010, beginning at 3:00 p.m., Monday, November 17, 2010 and ending at noon Wednesday, November 17**. Retreat sponsors include Montana Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Disciples of Christ in Montana; Yellowstone Conference, United Methodist Church; and Montana Wyoming Conference, United Church of Christ; and Montana Courage to Lead.

†††

Renewing personal identity, professional integrity and vocational vitality are the heart of the unique Courage to Lead retreat program created for pastors and other serving professionals by highly skilled facilitators under the guidance of Dr. Parker J. Palmer over the past decade.

A Courage to Lead *circle of trust retreat* is an opportunity for participants to engage “alone together” at a deep level with true self and unique calling. “Real lives” are not separate from what occurs in a circle of trust retreat, and most past participants say that the experience has a great impact on their personal and professional lives. In *A Hidden Wholeness*, Dr. Palmer explains the unique goal of the circle of trust retreat: creating safe space for the soul to participate.

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.

†††

RETREAT LEADERSHIP

John A. Fenner John prepared for formation facilitation with Parker Palmer and the Center for Courage and Renewal (CCR) in 2003. He is currently program director for the CCR’s Courage to Lead for Clergy and Congregational Leaders. He is a nonprofit consultant whose work includes mediation, dialogue facilitation, anti-racism training, organizational and community change processes, and leadership formation facilitation.

As a Senior Associate with the Everyday Democracy since 1999, he has organized community wide dialogue projects using the Study Circle model around topics such as Education, Growth and Development, Racism, Rural Poverty and Youth Issues. John works with Everyday Democracy around the country to train dialogue facilitators. Between 1989

and 2006, John served as Executive Director of the Center for Dialogue, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to the promotion of peaceful communities and positive change in individuals and organizations.

John is married to Claire and father to 13-year-old Colin and lives in Brevard, NC.

Chris Love has been a Courage and Renewal facilitator since 2005. She has designed and facilitated Courage to Lead retreats for clergy, school leaders, teachers, health professionals, and non-profit professionals. As an independent consultant specializing in appreciative inquiry, world cafe and other positive methodologies, Chris offers visioning, teambuilding, leadership formation and organization development to non-profits. She has led congregational retreats and many professional development sessions for the University of Montana.

Also a facilitator for the Reflect: Community Readings and Conversations project of Humanities Montana, Chris leads conversations that focus first on a short, thought-provoking readings and gradually open up onto larger questions about civic engagement, service, and community values. She holds a B.A. from the College of William and Mary, an M.A. in Humanities from University of Richmond and an M.S. in Organization Development from American University. She lives in Corvallis, MT with her husband Ron and has two adult children, Oliver and Megan.

LOCATION AND COST

The November 15 - 17, 2010 retreat will be held at Mountain Top Retreat 14 miles south of Bozeman, MT. This is 20-acre facility on the shoulder of Wheeler Mountain with ample hiking opportunity (www.mountainopretreat.org). The retreat is limited to 28 participants, and programs often fill well before deadline.

The participant fee for this retreat and virtual book group follow-up sessions is \$160, plus travel, thanks to generous grants from Disciples of Christ, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist denominations in Montana, as well as from the Center for Courage and Renewal through the Lilly Endowment. This fee includes retreat program and facilitation, materials, meals, linens and shared lodging onsite, as well as facilitation and materials for virtual book group follow-up sessions. The fee does not include participant travel. *A limited number of single room accommodations are available at an extra fee of \$20 on a first-come, first-served basis.*

- **The November 15 – 17 retreat registration deadline is October 15, 2010.**

To assure participation, please register early.

TO REGISTER:

A registration form follows on page 4. For more information contact: Chris Love at 406-961-8846 or at ctloveanr@aol.com.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR A FUTURE RETREAT SERIES!

A “Hybrid” Courage to Lead Retreat Series involving two in-person retreats in Spring and Fall, 2011 and two brief “virtual retreat” teleconference call series in Summer 2011 and Winter, 2012, is coming up! **In-person retreats will be held March 2-4, 2011 at Cane Ridge West in Lincoln, MT and Nov. 12-14, 2011 at Mountain Top Retreat in Bozeman.** Please mark these dates on your calendar! More information will be forthcoming.

COURAGE TO LEAD FOR CLERGY NOV 15-17, 2010 RETREAT REGISTRATION

An Introductory Retreat for Clergy and Leaders of All Faiths

I wish to attend the November 15 – 17, 2010 Retreat at Mountain Top Retreat, Bozeman, MT

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Numbers: H _____ W _____

E-mail: _____ Fax _____

Special Dietary Needs (if any) _____

Vegetarian options will be available. *Participants with unusual dietary needs should plan to bring along any special needed foods.*

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.

Program Costs: (Fees do not include travel to the retreat.)

\$160 includes program fee, linens, **shared room** and board, retreat facilitation, materials, a copy of *A Hidden Wholeness* for follow-up virtual book groups.

\$180 includes program fee, linens, **single room** and board, retreat facilitation, materials, and a copy of *A Hidden Wholeness* for follow-up virtual book groups.

Please check one:

I prefer a Shared Room at \$160.

I request a Single Room (subject to availability) at \$180.

Please make checks payable to:

MT-WY UCC Courage to Lead Fund.

Space is limited to 28 participants. To assure fullest consideration, please register early. Detailed information will be sent after receipt of registration and upon acceptance into the program.

Please send your registration form, personal statement, and a check for \$160 (\$180 for Single Room request) payable to MT-WY UCC Courage to Lead Fund to:

Elaine Black

**Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference, United Church of Christ,
2016 Alderson Ave., Billings, MT 59102**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR NOV, 2010 RETREAT IS OCT 15, 2010
EARLY REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED!**

Please call Chris Love at 406-961-8846 or email ctloveanr@aol.com with questions.