

Retreat Schedule

Sunday

5:00 p.m. Welcome, Registration and Gathering
6:00 p.m. *Evensong**
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Large Community Gathering: One
9:00 p.m. *Compline*

Monday

8:00 a.m. *Matins*
8:30 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Large Community Gathering: Two
10:30 a.m. Break
11:00 a.m. Small Community Gathering: One
12:00 p.m. *Sext*
12:30 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Silence and Solitude
6:00 p.m. *Evensong*
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Large Community Gathering: Three
9:00 p.m. *Compline*

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. *Matins*
8:30 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Large Community Gathering: Four
10:30 a.m. Break
11:00 a.m. Small Community Gathering: Two
12:00 p.m. *Sext*
12:30 p.m. Departure

*In the fourteen and fifteenth century, monastic spirituality set a pattern for prayer that was followed from morning until evening. While the original pattern involved eight movements, four (*Matins*, *Sext*, *Evensong*, and *Compline*) are included in the schedule. These will be times of worship: prayer, Scripture, responses, and singing.

The Texts

Some of the texts used during "The Deeper Journey" experience include...

Scripture

A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants
(Rueben P. Job and Norman Shawchuck; The Upper Room)

Sacred Rhythms and An Invitation to Solitude and Silence (Ruth Haley Barton; IVP)

Coming Home to Your True Self (Albert Haase; IVP)

The Deeper Journey, Invitation to a Journey, and Shaped by the Word, Robert Mulholland; IVP)

Where to Apply

For additional information or to apply, contact...
Ben Becksvort; Regional Leader
2850 Kalamazoo SE; Grand Rapids, MI 49560
(616-224-0753; becksvob@crcna.org)

Scholarship Opportunities

Pastor Church Relations

(Deadline: November 1, April 1, August 1)
www.crcna.org/site_uploads/uploads/pcr/continuinged.doc
(616-224-0746)

Peer Learning Grants (Lilly Funded)

(Deadline: May 1 and/or November 1)
www.crcna.org/pastoralexcellence
Lis Van Harten, Project Administrator
(616-224-0805; vanhartl@crcna.org)

St. Francis Center Mini-Grants

Mary Tardif, SFE Administrator
(866-669-8321; mtardif@StFrancis.ws)

The Deeper Journey Leadership Team

Ben Becksvort, Grand Rapids, MI

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The DEEPER JOURNEY

An Invitation to Greater Intimacy
with God for Ministry Leaders

March 2009 - January 2011

St. Francis Retreat Center
DeWitt, Michigan

A Ministry of Great Lakes Region of the
Christian Reformed Church

THE DEEPER JOURNEY

A two-year Journey into Greater Intimacy with God

Challenge

...to provide an environment that nurtures and nourishes the hearts and souls of pastors and ministry leaders

Invitees

- ◆ pastors, church staff, ministry leaders and their spouses
- ◆ those searching for a deeper, more intimate relationship with God
- ◆ those feeling the pressures and weight of ministry and are in need of respite
- ◆ those longing to integrate the spiritual disciplines into the rhythm of their daily lives
- ◆ those desiring to reaffirm and nurture their calling to spiritual leadership
- ◆ those seeking a safe community where they can be supported, encouraged and held accountable on their spiritual journey
- ◆ those responsible for assisting and leading others along their spiritual journeys

Format

The Deeper Journey is a two-year commitment to attend eight "three-day" retreats; to actively participate in a large community, in a small group community, and in communal worship; and to practice the disciplines and the rhythms between retreats.

Each retreat will focus on one primary theme, discipline or spiritual practice with significant time set aside for solitude, silence, and rest.

Small group communities will meet twice during each retreat and one additional time between each retreat at a location and time to be determined by the small group.

"Come unto me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

—Jesus
(Matthew 11:28-29)

Themes

The Deeper Journey will encourage participants to encounter God and deepen their intimacy with the Father, the Son and the Spirit through the exploration of ancient practices and disciplines, including:

**Community
Discernment and Examen
Prayer
Retreating
Rule of Life
Sabbath Rest
Scripture
Self-examination and Confession
Solitude and Silence
Spiritual Direction
Worship**

Dates

**March 29-31, 2009
June 28-30, 2009
September 20-22, 2009
January 10-12, 2010
March 21-23, 2010
June 27-29, 2010
September 26-28, 2010
January 9-11, 2011**

Location

All retreats will be held near Lansing, MI, at the
**St. Francis Retreat Center
703 East Main Street
DeWitt, Michigan**

Cost

\$200 non-refundable registration fee

(due by March 15)

\$250 per retreat

(due 10 days before each retreat)

(Cost includes a private room for two nights, all meals, tuition, texts and course materials.)

(While we recommend each person have their own room, those staying in a room with their full-paying spouse may attend for half price, or \$125 per retreat)

**(Scholarship assistance may be available)
(See back panel of this brochure)**

Being involved in this community has enabled me to take significant steps forward in developing my relationship with God as well as adding a new dimension to my ministry in my church.

-Jon

It has been a humbling and joyful journey. I have discovered a rhythm of disciplines and regular practices that will sustain my soul for the long-haul of ministry.

-Gregg

I constantly compromised my time with God for the demands of ministry. This changes everything!

-Doug

As I have searched for the deepest longing of my heart, I am discovering in more and more ways my desire to be a friend of God.

-Bob

My involvement in these quarterly retreats has introduced me to principles and practices which I have been able to incorporate into the rhythm of my life and ministry.

-Jack

I came to the retreat physically, emotionally and spiritually tired because of the challenges of ministry the previous weeks. During the retreat, I experienced wonderful rest, renewal and reflection times. The Lord has renewed my strength.

-Bill

