

5 DAY ACADEMY THE SECRET OF JOY

CANYON CAMP
NOVEMBER 8-13, 2020

ABOUT THE FIVE DAY ACADEMY:

The Academy rhythm is an experience of community living in the monastic tradition. The nature of the Academy requires full-time participation. The rhythm of the day is punctuated by:

- Worship - morning, afternoon & evening
 - Presentations - morning and afternoon
 - Periods of silence - morning and afternoon
 - The Great Silence - overnight
 - Listening Circles - evening
 - Meals - in community
 - Free time for rest, walking, hiking, conversation, reading, relaxing, etc.
- Begins Sunday November 8 at 5:15 pm
Ends with lunch on Friday, November 13



FEES:

Lodge Double\$525

Lodge Single\$625

Cabins\$480

(limited single rooms available)

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Members of the Oklahoma Conference UMC and OIMC lay and clergy may request a grant of \$100. Others are encouraged to seek assistance from local and denominational sources, such as women's and men's groups or continuing education funds.

TO REGISTER:

Online:

<https://okumc-reg.brtapp.com/SpiritualFormationAcademy2020>

By Mail: Mail a copy of the registration form at the bottom of this flyer and a \$100 deposit to: Academy for Spiritual Formation, Megan Decastro, 1501 NW 24th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73106-3635.

Make checks payable to: "Annual Conference Council,"

Check memo: "Spiritual Academy."

Note: Final payment due by October 8, 2020.

THE SECRET OF JOY

abide in me... that your joy may be complete

(John 15:11)

These are anxious times, when it's difficult to be at our best with each other or at peace with ourselves, given the difficulties, divisions and uncertainties that loom so large. Yet some people in our time and in difficult times past have lived with buoyant joy, deep faith, and astounding courage...despite the outer circumstances. What's their secret? How can we more fully respond to Jesus' invitation to life in all its fullness? We'll explore this and more through times of faculty presentations, periods of silence for prayer and contemplation, shared meals and conversations, listening circle time, thrice daily worship, and relaxation time, all in the majestic beauty of the red rock canyons of Canyon Camp.

5 DAY ACADEMY

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FACULTY:

Our faculty for this academy include:

Rabbi Chava Bahle who will be presenting on the topic *"The Hebrew Spirituality of Jesus, His Teachers, and Their Disciples"*, and Dr. Loyd Allen, presenting on the topic *"Thomas Merton and the True Self"*.

Rabbi Bahle is the first Jewish person to earn a D.Min from Catholic Theological Union of Chicago, and has worked in interfaith ministries, especially with families. Dr. Allen is Sylvan Hills Professor of Church History and Spiritual Formation at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology. He is also a spiritual director and a retreat and pilgrimage leader.

MORE ABOUT THE FACULTY & THEIR TOPICS:

Rabbi Chava Bahle, presenting on the topic The Hebrew Spirituality of Jesus, His Teachers, and Their Disciples. Jesus was raised and educated in a tradition that values the art of inquiry. Much attention is paid to Jesus and his disciples, but who were his teachers? How did Rabbi Jesus (in his earthly rabbinic) arrive at his teachings and ways of thinking about life and text? The rabbinic academies continued to develop for centuries after Jesus, to our own day. How might Jewish mysticism, mitzvot and midrash inform our own practices? From the point of view of Hebrew spirituality, who are we, and why are we here? How do we understand God, human nature and our purpose, through Jesus' home tradition of Judaism? Rabbi Chava's course will approach these questions, and a few others. Fasten your seat belts. A rabbi in Renewal Judaism, Chava Bahle is also ordained as a Maggid, a Jewish inspirational preacher and storyteller. She is the first Jewish person to earn a D.Min. from Catholic Theological Union of Chicago. The focus of that work is interreligious dialogue. She has served several pulpits, including being first Rabbi to serve as the senior spiritual leader of a Unitarian Universalist congregation. She is a Rabbi Emerita of Chicago's Jewish Catholic Family School, which brings together families where one parent is Jewish, the other Catholic, raising their children in both traditions. She works as an independent scholar, writer, community organizer and singing mystic. She lives in rural northern Michigan with her husband Carl; together they serve as staff for their cat, Minnie Purrl.



Dr. Loyd Allen will present on the topic: Thomas Merton and the True Self. Thomas Merton, perhaps the most influential Catholic writer of the 20th century, was the primary force behind the renewal of Christian contemplation in his era. Merton coined the terms True Self/False Self now common in Christian discourse. In his presentations, Dr. Allen will seek to make plain the contemporary value of the True Self for spiritual formation as it relates to God, creation, contemplation, and community. Dr. Allen is Sylvan Hills Professor of Church History and Spiritual Formation at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology, as well as a spiritual director and retreat leader. He has been serving as faculty for the Academy since 2002. He delights in the varieties of Christian spirituality that emerge in different times and places over the span of Christian history. Though most of his adult life has been spent ministering among Baptists in the South, he was baptized in a small Methodist church, which shared facilities with a Presbyterian congregation. Married to Libby, whose family is devoutly Roman Catholic, he has continued to broaden his knowledge and experience of Christian spirituality traditions throughout his life. He spent a sabbatical learning about and experiencing the Celtic spirituality heritage of Wales, and has led numerous pilgrimages to Israel. Dr. Allen teaches Christian spirituality like a traveler telling stories about the places he has been or wants to go.



RECOMMENDED READING:

Judith M. Kunst, *The Burning Word: A Christian Encounter with Jewish Midrash* (Paraclete Press) (may be found used at sites like Amazon)
 Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins, *The Wisdom of Judaism: An Introduction to the Values of the Talmud* (Jewish Lights Publishing) (may be found used at sites like Amazon)
 James H. Forest, *Living with Wisdom: Life of Thomas Merton* (Orbis Books, 2008)
 Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation* (New Directions, 2007)

To register, fill out the attached form and send with a \$100 deposit to: Academy for Spiritual Formation attn: Megan DeCastro, 1501 NW 24th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73106-3635. Make checks payable to: "Annual Conference Council," Check memo: "Spiritual Academy."

APPLICATION/ REGISTRATION FORM

Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation
 November 8-13, 2020, Canyon Camp, Hinton, OK

3 Continuing Education credits

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Myers-Briggs Type if known _____

Church where you serve or attend _____

Please check the following that apply:

male

female

clergy

lay

20-29

30-39

40-49

50-59

60-69

70+

Preferred accommodations:

lodge, double \$525

lodge, single \$625

cabin \$480

I would like the OKUMC/OIMC scholarship

I would like to donate toward scholarships. (you will receive a donation letter)

Roommate preference if double: name: _____

(roommates need to submit their registration together)

Special dietary or mobility restrictions : _____

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Co-Retreat Leaders: Kathy Leithner and Susan Southall

Worship: Ginger Howl; Pianist: Wes Howl

Listening Circles: Mary Irby

Hospitality: Marilyn Hugon

Sponsored by The Upper Room and The Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church

Registrar: Megan DeCastro