

A Journey into the Heart of Christ: Spiritual Healing and Justice

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April 29, 2021



By Arizona Five Day Academy and The Upper Room

The brokenness and grief from the pandemic, coupled with the dismaying “scourge of racism”(1) expressed this last year, have left many of us feeling depleted and alone. As Christians, we need resources to “resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves”(2) and one such resource is Arizona’s Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation October 24-29 (2021) at the Redemptorist Renewal Center near Tucson.

Sponsored by the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church, this year’s Five Day Academy features two outstanding faculty presenters. The Rev. Dr. Vance P. Ross is Senior Pastor of Central UMC in Atlanta, Georgia. Formerly on the staff of the General Board of Discipleship/UMC Discipleship Ministries, Vance is a contributor to the recent publication, *I’m Black, I’m Christian, I’m Methodist*. The Rev. Dr. Hwa-Young Chong is Senior Pastor of the Community UMC of Napierville, Illinois. Currently serving as president of the Korean-American pastor’s task force on cross-cultural/cross-racial appointments for the UMC, she is also part-time adjunct faculty at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary in Evanston. She is the author of the book *In Search of God’s Power in Broken Bodies: A Theology of Maum*.

Developed by The Upper Room in 1983, “the Academy” is a highly respected program for lay and clergy leaders committed to growing in their relationship with God. Since 1995, the Desert Southwest Conference has offered a Five Day Academy every other year, providing stimulation and respite with new insights and energy. This year’s Five Day Academy will be led by a leadership team of five talented people: Marylou Adame, Jerry Haas, Doug Handlong, Judy Holloway, and Gail Parson.

This retreat is being planned as an in-person event (not remote), pending approval by the Conference and The Upper Room regarding pandemic concerns. Some mitigation measures may still be in effect, including mask-wearing and social distancing.

The total cost of the Academy (includes lodging, meals, tuition but not books) is \$975 if you register before August 15, 2021. A \$200 deposit is required with your registration. Single accommodations **only**, except for members of the same household, for whom the rate is \$875. After August 15, the rate goes up to \$100 (\$1075 for singles; \$975 for household members who share a room). More information and registration are available through the Conference webpage <http://az5dayacademy.org>. Contact Cynthia Holly () if you need assistance registering.

For scholarship assistance, clergy may contact the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Laity may want to contact United Methodist Women or your local church. Some additional scholarship assistance is available for laypersons from the Desert Southwest Conference by contacting Rev. Jerry Haas ().

Team members include Rev. Marylou Adame (); Judy Holloway (); Gail Parson (); and Rev. Doug Handlong ().

More information about The Academy for Spiritual Formation is available through The Upper Room's website: <https://academy.upperroom.org/>

1. From the Council of Bishops letter dated June 2020.
2. From "The Baptismal Covenant I" in the United Methodist Hymnal, p. 34