

The Academy for Spiritual Formation

- A disciplined Christian community emphasizing holistic spirituality – nurturing body, mind, and spirit. It is intended for both clergy and laypersons who hunger for rich spiritual experiences.
- A retreat following the rhythm of study, prayer, rest, and community.
- A setting where morning and evening prayer and Holy Communion frame each day.
- A place to discover Christianity's rich, spiritual heritage through worship, learning, and fellowship.
- A time and place for learning, discerning, and sharing our spiritual journeys with others.
- A time of learning new ways to deepen our relationship with God and learning how to live as faithful witnesses of God's love in this world.

Recommended reading for the Academy

- Amy Oden, *Right Here, Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness*
- Richard Rohr, *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*
- Thomas Keating, *Meditations on the Parables of Jesus*

This Event is Sponsored by:

The Upper Room
United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana
UMC Conferences of AR, LA, MS
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of MS

AR/LA/MS 5-Day Academy Team

Craig Davis	Elise Eslinger
Catherine Long	Susan Meadors
Roy Smith	Mechelle Stockett



THE WESLEY CENTER

The Center is located within a two-hour drive of most metropolitan cities in Louisiana and only fifteen miles from the Alexandria International Airport. The property has the feel of seclusion, but the conveniences of “town” are just a few miles away.

The nature trails, 32-acre lake, and outdoor prayer labyrinth provide a wonderful setting for meditation, personal reflection, and prayer. Accessories include campus-wide wireless internet accessibility, fitness center, and sports field. Delicious meals accentuate their southern hospitality.



**2022 AR/LA/MS
Five Day Academy for
Spiritual Formation
Sunday, May 1 – Friday, May 6**



**Seeing Anew . . .
Living Forward**

**THE WESLEY CENTER
2350 Methodist Parkway
Woodworth, LA 71485
(318) 449-4500**

THE FACULTY



Amy Oden, *Right Here, Right Now: Christian Mindfulness*

Dr. Amy Oden is Visiting Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality at Saint Paul School of Theology. She has served on the faculties of Oklahoma City University and Wesley Theological Seminary where she also served as Dean. Amy's scholarship illuminates ancient wisdom for contemporary life, including books on women's writings, welcoming the stranger and most recently, *Right Here, Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness* (Abingdon Press, 2017). Her passion is to introduce spiritual practices that can ground and nourish lives for justice in the world. "We will explore mindfulness practice in the Christian tradition and its application today."



Jerry Webber, "The Parables as Spiritual Guides"

Jerry is a teacher, spiritual guide, writer, and retreat leader. After 16 years as a Senior Pastor, he founded The Center for Christian Spirituality at Chapelwood United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas as an intentional ministry of spiritual formation and contemplative life. He served as lead pastor and spiritual guide of The Center for 18 years. In 2018, he transitioned into the next season of life, continuing to companion people who desire a deepening connection with God that makes a difference in the world. He now offers guidance to congregations and persons in contemplative life through spiritual direction, speaking, writing, and consulting. Jerry resides with his wife Paula in Bella Vista, Arkansas, where he enjoys spending time outdoors, reading and writing poetry, and his grandchildren.



Elise Eslinger, Worship Leader

Elise is one of the foremost leaders, teachers, writers and consultants in Worship, Music and Spiritual Formation. Editor of the Upper Room *Worshipbook* and writer of many of the resources in the book, Elise will be leading our worship during this Five-Day Academy. She and her husband Dick live in Townsend, Tennessee.

THE ACADEMY DAILY RHYTHM

- Begins Sunday, May 1, 2022.
Registration will begin at 3:00 p.m.
Dinner and orientation at 6:00 p.m.
- Daily Schedule, Monday – Thursday
Morning prayer 7:30 am
Breakfast 8:00 am
Morning Session 9:00 am
Silent Reflection Time 10:00 am
Plenary Sharing 11:00 am
Community Sharing 11:45 am
Lunch and Free Time 12:30 pm
Afternoon Session 2:15 pm
Silent Reflection Time 3:15 pm
Plenary Sharing 4:15 pm
Holy Communion 5:15 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm
Listening Circles 7:15 pm
Transition to Worship 8:45 pm
Night Prayer 9:00 pm
The Great Silence until Morning Prayer
- Concludes Friday, May 6 before Lunch

THE COST

The Registration fee includes lodging, meals, lectures, and materials. Registration for a single occupancy is \$650 per person. Due to COVID Protocols we are unable to offer double occupancy. After April 1, rates are \$700 per person.

Registration must be accompanied by a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Final payment is due by May 1, 2022.

For answers to your questions:
LA Catherine Long clong91@gmail.com
AR Roy Smith roy.smith@arumc.org
MS Mechelle Stockett
mechelle.stockett@gmail.com

REGISTRATION

AR/LA/MS 5-Day Academy May 1-6, 2022

Please register online at: <https://thewesleycenter.com>

Be Prepared to provide the following information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check all that apply:

Male Female Clergy Laity

Leadership Team Faculty

Church Name _____

Denomination _____

Name on name tag _____

Email _____

Special Housing, Mobility, Dietary needs _____

Academy Experience _____

If you prefer to pay by check, make check payable to "The Wesley Center" and add "AR/LA/MS 5-Day Academy" in the check memo and mail to:

Roseanne Borland
c/o The Wesley Center
2350 Methodist Parkway
Woodworth LA 71485

When you register be prepared to provide your \$100 non-refundable deposit fee or payment-in-full. You are not registered until your deposit is received.