

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

- Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation* (New Directions, 2007)
- James H. Forest, *Living with Wisdom: A Life of Thomas Merton* (Orbis Books, 2008)

This Event is Part of The Upper Room Ministries, The Academy for Spiritual Formation



Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

The Center is located just ten miles west of Little Rock. It was founded in 1937 as a place for youth and adults to gather and experience creation in community with one another. The property spans over 1200 acres and is far enough away from town to feel secluded, yet just fifteen minutes from Little Rock.

The center is home to nature trails, fields, forests and streams, and an outdoor prayer labyrinth which provides a wonderful setting for meditation, personal reflection, and prayer. Accessories include fiber optic wireless internet access throughout all meeting rooms and lodging. Rocking chairs for porching are available to enjoy before or after delicious meals.

2023 AR/LA/MS 5-Day Academy Team

Craig Davis
Catherine Long
Dede Roberts
Janet Gingerich
Susan Meadors
Roy Smith
Mechelle Stockett



**2023 AR/LA/MS
Five Day Academy for
Spiritual Formation
Sunday, April 16 – Friday, April 21**



A Deeper Yearning: Healing Hearts and Transforming Lives

*Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center
1720 Ferncliff Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72223
(501) 821-3063*

THE FACULTY



Rev. Grace Imathiu, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church, Evanston, Illinois has also served churches in Kenya as a church planter; a superintendent minister overseeing 68 rural churches in Nkubu; and an urban minister to an ecumenical congregation in Nairobi with strong outreach to the neighboring slums of Kawangware. Grace loves people and has a passion and gift for inspiring and nurturing communities of faith to live out loud the prophetic story of Jesus. For Grace, the quintessential expression of the resurrected Lord's presence is a community whose very DNA is a radical hospitality which births a loving and healthy tension that is ideological, theological, racial, ethnic and cultural. For Rev. Imathiu, "the world is her parish." As an African married to a European and is raising an American son, she is committed to advocating for the inclusion of all people. She has preached in Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Togo, Liberia, Denmark, Australia, Malaysia, Brazil, and all throughout the United States. Grace will be leading our Bible study for the week.



Dr. Loyd Allen recently retired as the Sylvan Hills Professor of Church History and Spiritual Formation at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology and is a spiritual director and retreat leader. He has been serving as faculty of the Academy since 2002. He delights in varieties of Christian spirituality that emerge in different times and places of 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 of Christian spirituality traditions throughout his life. Dr. Allen teaches Christian spirituality like a traveler telling stories about the places he has been or wants to go. In his teaching sessions, "Thomas Merton and the True Self," he will seek to make plain the contemporary value of the True Self for spiritual formation as it relates to God, creation, contemplation, and community.

THE ACADEMY DAILY RHYTHM

- **Begins Sunday, April 16, 2023**
Registration will begin at 3:00 p.m.
Dinner and orientation at 6:00 p.m.
- **Daily Schedule, Monday – Thursday**

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| 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 | |

except on Thursday evening.
- **Concludes Friday, April 21 before Lunch**

THE COST

The Registration fee includes lodging, meals, lectures, and materials. Registration for a single occupancy is \$700 per person. Due to COVID protocols we are unable to offer double occupancy. After April 1, rates are \$750 per person. Limited scholarships are available.

Registration must be accompanied by a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Final payment is due April 3, 2023.

For answers to your questions:

LA Catherine Long clong91@gmail.com

AR Roy Smith roy.smith@arumc.org

MS Susan Meadors shmeadors@icloud.com

REGISTRATION

AR/LA/MS 5-Day Academy April 16-21, 2023

Please register online at:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/5dayacademy>

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 "AR/LA/MS 5-Day Academy" and mail to:

Roy Smith
1101 North Mississippi Street
Little Rock, AR 72207

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.