

Who Should Attend?

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is an ecumenical retreat for laity and clergy who desire to deepen their relationship with God through an intentional balanced daily rhythm of prayer, worship, study, and reflection. Each day includes teaching, rest and relaxation, silence, prayer, Eucharist and small group experiences.

The Leadership Team

Retreat Leader: Rev. Dale Clem
Rev. Ted Amey
Kevin Carter
Rev. Kelly Clem
Hanna Schock
Rev. Steve West

Sponsors

The Upper Room
Academy for Spiritual Formation
Alabama-West Florida Conference of the UMC
Episcopal Diocese of Alabama
North Alabama Conference of the UMC

Cost: \$750

To register, go to:

www.umcna.org/4DaySFAcademy

For more information contact Rev. Dale Clem: dale.clem@umcna.org

Camp Sumatanga and Conference Center

3616 Sumatanga Road
Gallant, Alabama 35972
256-538-9860
www.sumatanga.org

The Himalayan word for “place of rest and vision” is “Sumatanga.” Surrounded by woods, mountains, lakes and streams, away from the interruptions of everyday life. Camp Sumatanga is an ideal retreat location for hiking and exploration. Visitors to Sumatanga can rest from their burdens, and listen to God in the silence of 1700 acres of natural beauty. Seventy-Five years ago, the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church began building this camp which has hosted tens of thousands of pilgrims. The camp has a 55-acre lake, outdoor labyrinth, hiking and biking trails, game fields, playground, fire pits, as well as volleyball and basketball courts. Both 2-year, and 5-Day Academies for Spiritual Formation have been held at Sumatanga since the mid 1980s.



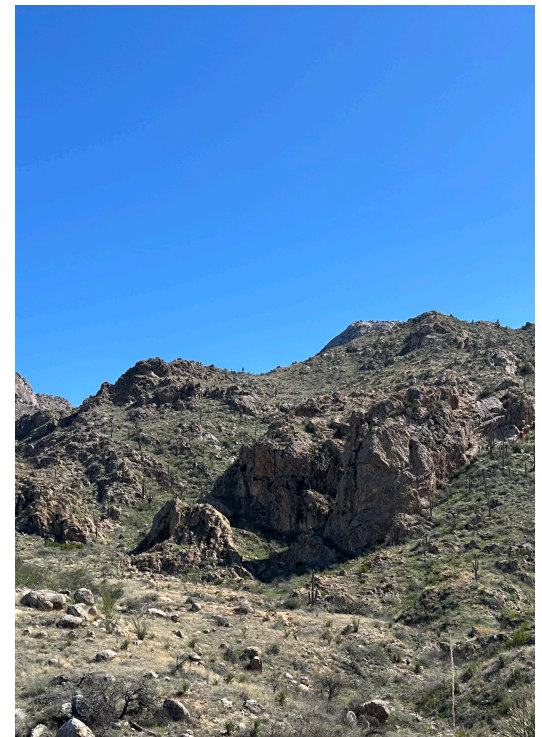
Welcoming the Wilderness

4-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation
October 7-11, 2024 Camp Sumatanga

To Register, go to:

www.umcna.org/4DaySFAcademy

“We all need to allow ourselves to be led into our own wildernesses, there, to be taught what we most need to know and to be healed where we most need it.”
(Gerald May, *Wisdom of Wilderness* p. xxiii.)



The Mission

The Academy for Spiritual Formation creates transformative space for people to be in communion with God, self, others, and creation for the sake of the world.

Rhythm of the Day

Morning Prayer
Breakfast
First Faculty lecture
Hour of silence/reflection
30 minutes of discussion with faculty
Community Time
Lunch
Free Time
Second Faculty lecture
Hour of silence/reflection
30 minutes of discussion with faculty
Break
Eucharist
Supper
Listening Circles (small groups)
Night Prayer
The Great Silence



Our theme is “Welcoming the Wilderness.” As Dr. Peacock says, “This is a time of invitation, indeed, a welcome into the wilderness probably not planned or imagined but nevertheless we are Here.” We will explore the wilderness as metaphor in scripture as well as a literal reality, and explore spiritual practices to guide us along the way. This 4-Day Academy hopes to be an oasis in the desert for those who feel discouraged, spiritually dry, questioning, tired or wherever they are on the journey. The daily themes will be: gifts, fears, stillness, healing, and hope. God tells Hosea that it is in the wilderness where God will speak to our hearts. (Hosea 2:14) The Academy provides an environment where we can listen to God.



Rev. Dr. Larry Peacock

Larry is a United Methodist pastor, retreat leader, and spiritual director. He is the former Director of the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Portland, Oregon, and Rolling Ridge Retreat Center in North Andover, Mass. He has participated in and offered leadership to the Academy for 35 years. He is the author of *Openings: A Daybook of Saints, Sages, Psalms and Prayer Practices* and *The Living Nativity: Preparing for Christmas with Saint Francis*.

Recommended Readings: *Openings: A Daybook of Saints, Sages, Psalms and Prayer Practices* by Larry Peacock

Church of the Wild by Victoria Loorz



Dr. Noel Forlini Burt

Noel teaches and lectures in the intersection of Bible, specifically Old Testament, and spiritual formation. She has taught at Baylor University, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and is presently is an instructor at Samford University. She is the author of *Hope in the Wilderness: Spiritual Reflections for When God Feels Far Away*, and *Encounters in the Dark: Identity Formation in the Jacob Story*.

Recommended Readings: *Hope in the Wilderness: Spiritual Reflections for When God Feels Far Away* by Noel Forlini Burt

Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality by Belden Lane