

CAMP/RETREAT MEMO

National United Methodist Camp/Retreat Leaders' Gathering

Snow Mountain Ranch, near Winter Park, CO

Mark your calendar today! January 26-30, 2001

All camp/retreat staff and volunteers are invited to this premier training and spiritual renewal event. The theme, "Powerful Partnerships," draws us to the heart of camp/retreat ministry. We will explore our partnership with God in Christian faith formation, our partnership with the earth, and our partnership with others who address needs beyond the boundaries of our camp/retreat sites.

This event promises to be one of the best national gatherings ever. We are blessed to have outstanding plenary leaders who will stimulate our thinking and our spirits. Snow Mountain Ranch, a fantastic site operated by the YMCA, is located in the stunning natural environment of the Rocky Mountains. It is a wonderland of outdoor winter activity. The extensive Chaplains' program at Snow Mountain Ranch is led by a United Methodist camp/retreat leader who is eager to share a host of meaningful ideas and processes developed for staff and guests. Those interested in site operation aspects of camp/retreat ministry will find Snow Mountain Ranch a great place to learn.

Come meet the following plenary leaders, people of deep faith excited about the mission of camp/retreat ministry.



Preachers

Bishop Ed Paup, currently serving in the Oregon-Idaho Conference and one of the Bishops convinced of the importance of camp/retreat ministry. A passionate advocate of camp/retreat ministry, he is very approachable; you will enjoy his peaceful, caring presence and leadership.

Kevin Witt, National Director of United Methodist Camp/Retreat Ministry and co-author of *Twists of Faith*. Kevin will address the question "Who are we?" in a worship service centered on Tending the Common Ground.

Bible Study for Life

Ron Foster and Kenda Creasy Dean, co-authors of the very popular new book, *The Godbearing Life*. Intriguing Bible study leaders, they will inspire us to remember and live out of the core of our power and identity as Christian spiritual leaders.

Music & Worship

Jim and Jean Strathdee, gifted music leaders and songwriters who understand how music and worship shape people's lives. They are very familiar with camp/retreat settings and music and worship in outdoor settings.

Keynote Presenters

Ron Delbene has dedicated his life to helping people connect more deeply with God. He will lead us in a session for our own growth as spiritual leaders. A popular retreat leader, he is the author of many important books, e.g., *Breath of Life*, *Hunger of the Heart*, *Alone with God*, and *Finding God in the Midst of Life*.

Mary Elizabeth Moore, a distinguished theologian and educator with deep roots in camp/retreat ministry. Mary Elizabeth, author of *Ministering with the Earth*, calls us not only to care for the earth, but to engage with the earth in ministry.

continued on page 2

Nat'l United Methodist Camp/ Retreat Leaders' Gathering

continued from page 1

Kelvin Sauls, a dynamic speaker with soul-moving insights into touching people's lives. He will speak to us about ways to be in service to the world through camp/retreat ministry.

In addition to the unparalleled opportunity to learn informally from your peers across the U.S., there will be meaningful seminars, e.g., Food Service, Facility/Maintenance Management, Staff & Volunteer Development and Nurture, Teaching Winter Survival and Winter Ecology, Leading Nordic Activities, Today's Youth and Faith, Spiritual Self-Care, Being a Common Ground Center, Leading Music in Camp/Retreat Settings, Accomplishing Our Mission in Christian Hospitality, Director Training, Effective Camp/Retreat Boards and Committees, Partnering with Local Churches and Annual Conferences, In Search of Meaning, Abuse and Harassment Prevention, Programming for Adults and Families, Partnering with Ethnic Leaders and Communities, Risk Management and Standards, Serving Participants with Special Needs, Teaching Curriculum Development and Event Planning, The Bible in Camp/Retreat Ministries, Healthcare Providers, Eye-Opening Technology, Mission and Outreach through Camp/Retreat Ministry, Developing Programs and Resources in Environmental Justice, and Reduce-Reuse-Recycle.

Leaders from across the U.S. will describe "powerful partnerships" they have established that have made a huge difference in expanding and

increasing the effectiveness of their camp/retreat ministries. You won't want to miss hearing about these creative ideas!

A wonderful community event is being planned that will enable participants to get out and enjoy this gorgeous outdoor setting or to relax and enjoy the company of friends new and old.

Registration fees and housing: The registration/program fee will be \$220-\$250/person with discounts for children. Costs for lodging and meals will be paid directly to Snow Mountain Ranch and will be in the \$165-\$260 range for 4 nights and 11 meals, depending on accommodations chosen and number of persons per room. Those who bring teams or who are willing to lodge with 4 or more persons may be able to get an even lower rate for room and board. Participants will fly into Denver. Bus transportation will be available and is recommended (an additional fee that will be listed in the brochure).

Don't miss this experience! Watch your mail for the detailed brochure coming to you later this summer. Let us know of other names we should add to the mailing list to receive a brochure. Invite your colleagues and friends in camp/retreat ministry! It will be a powerful, renewing experience. For further information, contact Connie Schmutz, Event Registrar, toll-free (877) 899-2781 Ext. 7134, cshmutz@gbod.org. You may also contact Kevin Witt, kwitt@gbod.org or ktwjel@aol.com.

The launch of the first Camp/Retreat Ministry Certification Course is planned to coincide with the National Event. (See the following article.)

New Camp/Retreat Ministry Certification

First Course to be Launched January 2001 — Send for further info today!

Camp/Retreat Center Ministries is being affirmed by The United Methodist Church as a vitally important avenue for faith formation and societal change. The preparation of camp/retreat leaders, both staff and key volunteers, is gaining increasing support. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry is in the final stages of approval for the newest leadership certification offered by The United Methodist Church—Camp/Retreat Ministry Certification! Although final approval is pending, the proposals have been positively received and support is strong.

The design of the certification courses has been a truly collaborative partnership. Drew Theological School, the General Board of Discipleship, the General

Board of Higher Education, and representatives of the National Camp/Retreat Committee worked to hone the certification courses so they will be extremely relevant to the core of camp/retreat ministry. Last fall, the certification process and course requirements were presented to camp/retreat leaders in the field, which resulted in some significant changes that make certification even more beneficial to camp/retreat staff and volunteers who seek to be certified.

This is the first consistent, academically and denominationally recognized educational process that significantly addresses the three core aspects of Camp/Retreat Ministry: Nurturing Faith, Ecological/

Social Integrity, Ministry of Camp/Retreat Center Management. We are blessed to have an avenue of learning for those who want to explore camp/retreat ministry as a possible new vocation, and an avenue for profound



continuing education that will benefit those already serving as staff or long-term volunteers. Drew has taken the lead in offering the initial certification courses, which can be taken in a non-degree track for certification only or for certification as part of a more extensive degree program, including masters degrees or a D.Min. degree.

The Camp/Retreat Ministry Certification itself consists of the following:

1. Completion of three required core courses: Faith Formation and Christian Living, The Theology and Ecology of Common Ground, and the Ministry of Camp/Retreat Center Management.
2. Students then take two elective courses from the following areas of study: United Methodist Studies (required if not previously taken), Biblical Foundations for Camp/Retreat Ministry; Developing Christian Camp/Retreat Curriculum and Events; Developing Environmental/Social Justice Programs and Resources; Partnering with Ethnic Leaders and Communities; Fundraising and Financing for Camp/Retreat Ministries; and Volunteer and Staff Hiring, Training and Supervision for Nonprofit Organizations. A brochure is being developed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and Drew Theological School that explains other prerequisites and requirements for earning Certification in Camp/Retreat Ministry. This is an amazing new opportunity! All of us should consider participating, as it will

enhance camp/retreat ministry nationwide, as well as our own personal growth.

The first course is scheduled to be offered in conjunction with our next National United

Methodist Camp/Retreat

Leaders' Gathering at Snow Mountain Ranch, January 2001. The certification will be launched with the Faith Formation and Christian Living Course. In addition, Drew is developing at least one (and eventually two) online courses. This is so supportive of our unique situations. The education of camp/retreat leaders is part of a larger endeavor by Drew called Common Ground, specifically focusing on preparing spiritual leaders who will engage congregations and communities in ministries of environmental and social justice from a deep grounding in Christian faith.

I believe that entering the certification process will be a defining experience and I urge camp/retreat ministry leaders to seek certification. I will be doing so myself, as I still have much to learn. This is a unique opportunity for us all. It is important for us to participate, so that certification continues to have a strong base of students and will be available as we prepare leaders long into the future. Many people have worked for decades to see this dream realized and I am grateful for all those who held the vision and helped make it happen. Sign up today for certification. Please spread the word far and wide; urge current leaders and persons wishing to enter camp/retreat ministries to take advantage of the benefit certification has to offer in learning and in leadership recognition among your peers. See you in class!

Kevin Witt, National Director,
United Methodist Camp/Retreat Ministries

Don't Delay!

Persons must apply with the General Board of Higher Education before they can take courses for certification credit. Contact the following offices for further information.

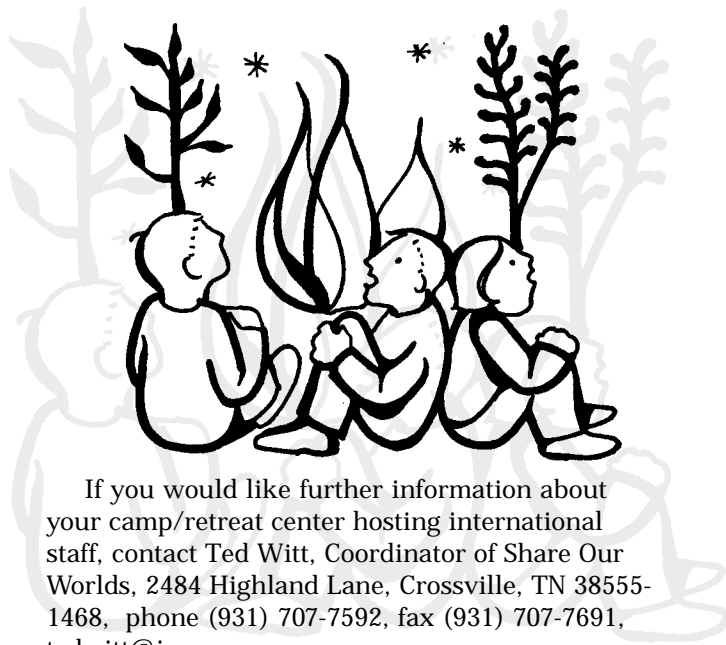
Section of Deacons and Diaconal Ministries
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
P. O. Box 34007 • Nashville, TN 37203-0007
Phone: (615) 340-7375 • Fax: (615) 340-7377

Kevin Witt, Camp/Retreat Ministries, General Board of Discipleship
P. O. Box 340003 • Nashville, TN 37203-0003
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"Share Our Worlds" Approved by State Dept.

After nearly a year of very hard work and expense, the U. S. State Department has approved the General Board of Discipleship as a J-1 Visa Sponsor for International Camp/Retreat Counselors. This terrific news means that we will be able to fully launch the Share Our Worlds program in the summer of 2001. Because of the extremely late notice of approval, we are limiting the number of international counselors in 2000 to nine students from Africa University.

Share Our Worlds will bring United Methodist and Methodist young adults from around the world to serve as summer staff in United Methodist Camp/Retreat Centers across the US. This program provides unique opportunities for participants and guests to develop friendships with United Methodists from other nations. Those recruited from other nations will be committed persons of Christian faith who are able to witness to and teach about faith in Christ and about living the love of God. They will be proficient in English and possess skills that enable them to contribute as leaders in a camp/retreat setting.



If you would like further information about your camp/retreat center hosting international staff, contact Ted Witt, Coordinator of Share Our Worlds, 2484 Highland Lane, Crossville, TN 38555-1468, phone (931) 707-7592, fax (931) 707-7691, tedwitt@juno.com.

It's Working for Us

South Central Jurisdiction Camp/Retreat Leader Gathering

Recently, the South Central Jurisdiction camp/retreat leaders gathered at Camp Comeca in Nebraska. The theme, "Pulling the Pieces Together," moved director/managers, volunteers, program coordinators, maintenance personnel, food service staff, board members, and conference staff to be there as "family" for each other and to rejoice. The event provided opportunities and strategies for pausing from the business of camp/retreat ministry to seek God and nurture oneself. If we're going to give, we must be filled so that we have something to offer. Participants had such a rich experience with this format/focus, there are now plans to focus on this type of theme every other event!

The leadership was excellent! Rev. Dave Fowler reminded folks in his sermon that "we are sometimes so busy sowing the seed that we forget to get out and drive the combine every once in a while!" Diana Walz taught us how to slow down and truly enjoy life —



to walk on sacred ground. Kathy Trotter and Charles Wallace reminded us how to relate more effectively, to attend to things when they are small so they don't overwhelm us later, and that, taking time to care for our ourselves and our loved ones will help us care for our campers, guests, environment, and facilities. Rev. Rosemary Brown had us laughing and crying at the same time, remembering why we do what we do.

In addition, we did get a little business done. Annette Wren was elected to a 4-year term on the National Camp/Retreat Committee and Chic Garner to a 2-year term. Lee Walz, Terri Ford, and Judy Eychner were elected to the 2002 Event Design Team.

Thank you to Camp Comeca for the wonderful Christian hospitality.

The next South Central Jurisdiction Camp/Retreat Leader Gathering will take place January 28-31, 2002, at Mt. Sequoyah, AR.

Partners in Discipleship: Camp and Retreat Ministries

Kevin Witt

This year hundreds of thousands of people of all ages will eagerly journey to places reserved by The United Methodist Church as sacred common ground. In the midst of natural settings, these environments of Christian hospitality and learning open people's souls and minds in unique ways. The true stories of lives changed for the better

have been so consistent and so numerous that local churches conferences, and individuals have caught a vision. Born from that vision and the grace of God are close to 300 United Methodist Camp/Retreat Centers spread far and wide. What draws so many seekers? What are they looking for and finding in our midst? What is it about the mission of United Methodist Camp/Retreat Ministry and the settings themselves that remains so relevant and fulfilling?

Our Mission in Camp/Retreat Ministry





God spoke and all life was born into community—every creature came into being as a word from God and about God. That same creative Word tented with us in Jesus Christ to restore us to loving relationships. In camp/retreat settings we can experience again the voice of God and learn to participate more faithfully in the community of life.

continued on page 6

Partners in Discipleship: Camp and Retreat Ministries

continued from page 5

Nearly all United Methodist Camp/Retreat Ministries endeavor to create environments of Christian hospitality and learning designed to help persons:

-  Affirm and expand their faith in God and live more fully as followers of Jesus Christ;
-  Develop lifestyles of loving interdependence with one another and all creation;
-  Grow as effective leaders who engage others in meaningful endeavors that address real need;
-  Find renewal and positive direction for their lives.

Based on these goals, Camp/Retreat Ministry seeks to meet real needs of people and organizations, e.g. the longing to know God, nurture for Christian disciples and spiritual leaders, enhancement of community, care for the earth, and support for groups that serve the world.

Longing to Know God

A vast spiritual hunger exists in our society. It appears, for example, in the great resurgence of interest in Native American and other spiritual paths that highlight care for the earth and the oneness of all things. Books such as *Conversations with God* and *The Celestine Prophecy* have topped bestseller lists across the nation. Educators in science, business, and other fields include language that connects spiritual truths with their work. Who would have imagined that a book called *Jesus, CEO* would be so popular among business leaders?

Millions upon millions of people yearn for God and for a spiritual center. With the explosion of the Information Age, many no longer consider the church to be their sole source of information about God. Earnest seekers can explore theological understandings from a vast array of perspectives, including Christianity. Faith communities that simply talk about God, especially in language that has lost its connection with modern life, have little to offer. People want to experience the love of Christ.

Christian camp/retreat centers provide sacred common ground for seekers and local churches. Congregations have long understood that a unique benefit of camps/retreats is their experiential nature; persons can remove themselves from the distractions of daily life to immerse themselves in a search for God. Seekers often resonate with less formal, natural settings. These places of peace, adventure, and fun serve as an

excellent entry point into the life of the church and the practice of spiritual pathways that lead to experiences of God. Even those who feel alienated from the church will often participate in camps and retreats. Parents who are not currently taking or sending their children to church will often send them to camp — an important beginning.

The focus on Christian hospitality and the creation of loving friendships among people who may be new to each other produces a tangible experience of God's love. Partnerships between Camp/Retreat Ministry and local congregations provide the essential link that invites persons into an ongoing, supportive faith community.



Nurturing Disciples and Spiritual Leaders

Camps and retreats play a significant role in nurturing people who are already Christians and active in local churches. Children and youth naturally come to mind, since this is a key age level served, especially at summer camps and on youth retreats. However, at a host of locations, adults are the fastest growing population served by retreat ministry and newly developing camp experiences designed specifically for them. For many annual conferences, the participation in camps and retreats makes it one of the largest cooperative ministries among churches.

Volunteers and staff at camps/retreats are most often members of United Methodist congregations. In some regions, the number of volunteers involved in this faith formation effort every year is staggering. Some annual conference camp/retreat ministries recruit and train 500-700 persons annually to serve thousands of children, youth, and adults. The substantial number of participants and leaders across the denomination speaks to the vitality and meaning of these experiences. Matthew 28:19-20 expresses the common mission at the heart of the partnership between local congregations and United Methodist camp/retreat centers:

Go therefore and make disciples . . .

teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age

We teach people what it means to follow the way of Christ, to know they are loved, then to embody that love wherever they go. Our camp/retreat ministry has a long history of active learning; people actively

participate in an experience together, then reflect on what it teaches them about Christian faith and living. The action/reflection process works extremely well in outdoor settings. Experiential learning keeps interest high, as participants engage their entire beings in the learning. For example, a group may do a trust fall, then bring alive a discussion of what it means to “bear one another’s burdens.”

Retreats and camps also balance activity with renewal modeled by Jesus, who stepped away from his day-to-day work to go into natural settings to meet with God and explore the deeper meanings of his life (Mark 1:1-13, Matt. 14:23, Matt. 26:36-46, Luke 6:12). Practicing the ebb and flow of prayerful action and contemplation often produces a lasting ability to apply Christian faith to real-life situations.

Camp/retreat experiences become defining moments that set direction for our lives and leadership. We are encouraged to develop as leaders. We are asked to consider deeply and to make faith decisions about the kind of person we will be and what we will do with our lives. For many pastors and laypersons, these experiences are pivotal to calls for ministry within their communities, relationships, and workplaces.

Enhancing Community

Fundamental changes in our society make community building imperative. In the U.S., we have moved from a front-porch culture to a back-deck existence. We know our neighbors less and less as we get busier and busier. Families frequently leave their communities of origin, ending up far from relatives and friends. And our population is the most diverse in U.S. history. All over the world, the reality is setting in that we are mutually interdependent members of the global community. Religious groups have an immense responsibility to lead the way in bringing people together in love, cooperation, and support.

One notable dimension of camp/retreat ministry is its consistency in giving a group of people the vision, sensitivity, and tools to become a caring community for each other. Remarkably, many of the participants have never met one another before or do not know one another well. Some folks are quite different from one another. Very few settings in today’s world invite strangers to live 24 hours a day together with the goal of becoming a loving community. That explains, in part, why camp/retreat communities have such lasting impact.

In some cases, camp/retreat events help families know and appreciate each other more. Christian hospitality occurs through a deep connection with the Holy Spirit, for it is the Spirit that produces “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” These fruits of

the Spirit are at the heart of family. Camp/retreat experiences demonstrate that such relationships are possible and call people to the ministry of community building wherever they return to live.

Caring for the Earth

The degradation of the earth is a wake-up call to humanity, if we will hear it. Whatever happens to the earth will happen to human beings; God established fundamental ties and interdependence within creation as a whole. People do not stand outside creation; they are part of it. Religious leaders and faith communities must partner with scientists to create understanding of the human impact on and responsibility for the earth. Human consumption, waste, and overpopulation threaten the very fabric of existence on this planet. Under such burdens, other species are disappearing at alarming rates.

The spiritual, biblical roots of our faith speak powerfully about the sacredness of creation and make it crystal clear that earth care is part of discipleship. The creation belongs to God, not to humanity. The value of all creatures goes far beyond simply “using” them. Human beings are responsible for caring for God’s creation (Gen. 1, Psalm 24:1-2). The natural world is sacred. The wild things are holy words of God (John 1:1-5, Psalm 19:1-4, Job 12:7-10). God’s intention is that the earth will share the freedom of the “children of God.” The earth suffers when we do

continued on page 8



Partners in Discipleship: Camp and Retreat Ministries

continued from page 7

not show an attitude of “meekness,” and we end up suffering too (Isa. 24:4-8, Matt. 5:5, Mark 16:15, Rom. 8:19-25). The earth depends on the people of God to step forward and reveal ourselves, then to lead the society to be stewards of creation.

The location of United Methodist Camp/Retreat Centers makes them ideal for teaching discipleship, earth care, and environmental sensitivity. Those who come receive peace, beauty, and healing in return from the earth and the Holy Spirit. Finally, it is important to prepare spiritual leaders who will return to their local churches and communities inspired to involve others in eco-ministries that will benefit generations to come.

Support for Groups Who Serve the World

Nonprofit groups of all kinds now seek out our camp/retreat centers. Much investment has gone into quality, year-round retreat centers designed to serve groups from local churches, religiously affiliated organizations, educational institutions, social service agencies, extended families, and others. More than an investment in buildings, it is ultimately an investment in changed lives. All the groups we host share one thing: They exist to make life better in the world and to address real need. We partner to help that happen.

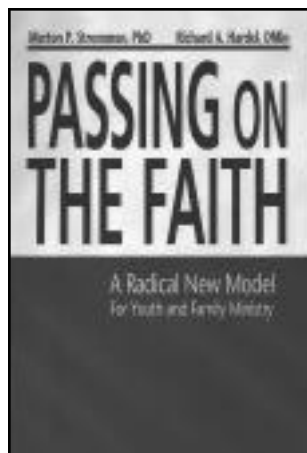
Nonprofit groups travel to our environments of Christian hospitality to develop and implement life-changing programs, to train leaders, to gather for visioning and planning, and to retreat for renewal and inspiration. We extend nurturing hospitality for them because we understand them to be partners in healing, justice, and personal, spiritual growth.

continued on page 9

Resource Review

PASSING ON THE FAITH

A Radical New Model for Youth and Family Ministry
By Merton P. Strommen and Richard A. Hardel



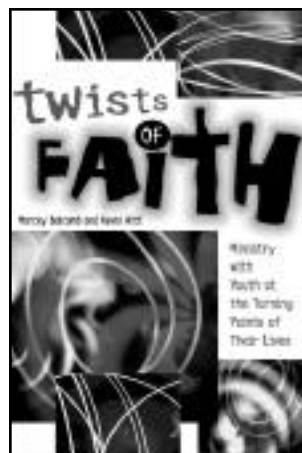
Parents, pastors, camp/retreat leaders, youth leaders, and community leaders will cheer the arrival of this book. It offers wise, well documented affirmation that places family at the forefront of faith formation among youth. This is a comprehensive approach for effective youth

and family ministry. The partnership among families, local faith communities, and church-related ministries produces truly effective, long-term pathways for youth to grow closer to God.

Available from St. Mary's Press, (800) 533-8095 and online bookstores, e.g., www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com etc. ISBN 0-88489-606-4

TWISTS OF FAITH

Ministry with Youth at the Turning Points of Their Lives
By Marcey Balcomb and Kevin Witt



This timely, provocative book helps parents, camp counselors, youth workers, and mentors learn to help youth connect more deeply with God through the changes and transitions of their own lives. It draws adults who care about youth to the core of youth ministry by helping them engage

teenagers in experiential learning to deepen their faith. Making decisions, experiencing loss and crisis, finding meaning and purpose in life, sustaining healthy relationships, etc. provide unmatched, fertile ground for seeking God and the way of love. Be there when it really matters. Teachable moments occur often during adolescence; adults with relationships of trust and respect among youth can help them reflect on their experiences in light of faith. You can walk with youth along pathways that transform twists of fate into twists of faith.

Available from Discipleship Resources (800) 685-4370 or online at www.discipleshipresources.org. \$19.95. ISBN 0-88177-251-8

By supporting these groups and their purposes, The United Methodist Church extends its love to people and places far beyond what we will ever know. Thanks be to God for sacred common ground where people can receive the blessings of the Spirit so they can go forth to be a blessing.

Camp/Retreat Ministry and the General Board of Discipleship: Partners in Discipleship

The General Board of Discipleship feels privileged and honored to be in partnership with the leaders of camp/retreat ministries. The General Board:

- 🌲 Encourages and helps equip camp/retreat ministry staff to lead ministries that will be avenues to “making disciples” and developing spiritual leadership.
- 🌲 Works collaboratively with Drew Theological School, the National Camp/Retreat Committee, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry,

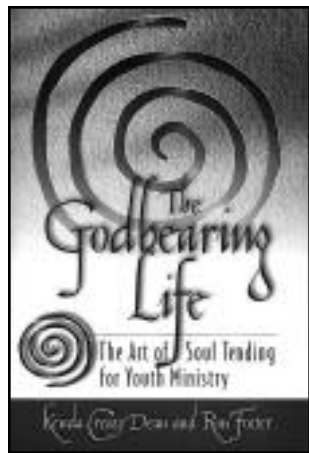
and other organizations to provide and/or promote national gatherings and training opportunities for leaders of camp/retreat ministry. These events provide spiritual renewal and skill training for what has become a complex and crucial set of ministry responsibilities.

- 🌲 Links with interdenominational and professional camp/retreat ministry associations to glean the most effective practices, developments, and resources within the field to share with United Methodist leaders.
- 🌲 Provides consultations and mission/visioning processes for centers doing futuring. In addition, the National Director of United Methodist Camp/Retreat Ministry supports and assists conference and center directors.
- 🌲 Helps make it possible for international staff who come from Methodist settings worldwide to serve as Camp/Retreat staff in the U.S. The insight,

continued on page 10

THE GODBEARING LIFE

The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry
By Kenda Creasy Dean and Ron Foster



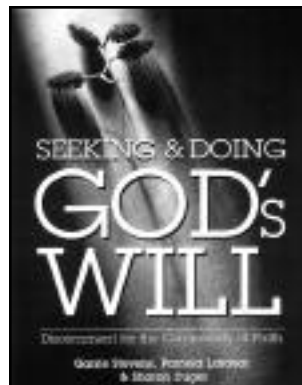
This newly published book has tapped into a widespread yearning for a resource that deals directly with the primary need for God in the lives of teenagers and those who minister among them. Dean and Foster are prophets in the best sense, telling the whole challenging, hope-filled story of

youth ministry. From the first page, this book breathes with a passion for God and a love for teenagers. It goes a long way toward putting “ministry” back in youth ministry. The Godbearing Life draws the focus away from our rootless preoccupation with techniques and programs to the essential role of helping youth embrace Jesus Christ and find direction for their lives. It is considered by many to be the modern, foundational resource for youth ministry.

Available from Upper Room Books (800) 972-0433 or online at www.upperroom.org. \$14.95. ISBN 0-8358-0858-0

SEEKING & DOING GOD’S WILL

Discernment for the Community of Faith
By Sharon Duger, Pamela Lardear, Garrie Stevens



Seeking & Doing God’s Will helps leadership teams seek God’s guidance as they make decisions and vision for the future. As an alternative to “Robert’s Rules of Order,” this discernment model, based on the Wesleyan Quadrilateral of scripture, tradition, reason,


and experience, includes: 1. Reasons to use the Quadrilateral as a framework for discernment; 2. Guidelines on when and how to use the discernment model; 3. Information on how to conduct each movement (scripture, tradition, reason, experience) of the process; 4. Suggestions on leadership selection and how to design a discernment experience based on years of testing with congregations, extension ministries, and conferences. This book is designed for any ministry team that wants to seriously listen for the voice of God and follow the way of Christ as an integral part of decision making and strategic planning.


Available from Discipleship Resources (800) 685-4370 or online at www.discipleshipresources.org. \$15.95. ISBN 0-88177-232-1

Partners in Discipleship: Camp and Retreat Ministries

continued from page 9

understanding, and mutual appreciation for other cultures that develops among the participants adds another important dimension to the ministry.


 Operates a leadership e-mail network, newsletter, and webpage that provides information about the ministry to the public and allows camp/retreat leaders to connect and learn.


 Creates devotionals specifically for camp/retreat leaders.


Conservation USA


Volunteer for America's Environment: A Shared Responsibility

Conservation USA is a partnership among U.S. government natural resource and land management agencies, environmental groups, and national youth organizations, including camp/retreat organizations. The public will have the opportunity to learn wise and caring stewardship of our nation's natural and cultural resources by actually working to care for our national forests, BLM lands, national parks, and waterways. When fully implemented, the goals are to:

 Provide conservation skills training and natural resource education for youth services and other organizations.

 Provide opportunities for youth and adults to undertake volunteer conservation service projects and become more effective leaders in conserving public and private natural and cultural resources.

 Promote the ethic of service and provide natural resource education through outreach and public relations.

 Provide a network of local field offices of governmental natural resource and land management agencies and private landowners to effectively utilize trained volunteers in their volunteer and education programs.

Conservation USA's mission is to teach volunteer leaders specialized skills for training and leading volunteer crews to carry out conservation projects resulting in environmental education and greater stewardship of our nation's cultural and natural resources.

The American Camping Association has taken the lead, with an impressive list of other youth and volunteer organizations, to partner with an equally impressive group of U.S. governmental agencies to launch this new avenue for us in camp/retreat ministry to involve our participants and guests in earth care.

National United Methodist
Camp/Retreat Ministry Links

NATIONAL STAFF PERSONS

Kevin Witt, National Director of Camp/Retreat Ministry, ktwjel@aol.com,

Connie Schmutz, Administrative Assistant, cschmutz@gbod.org

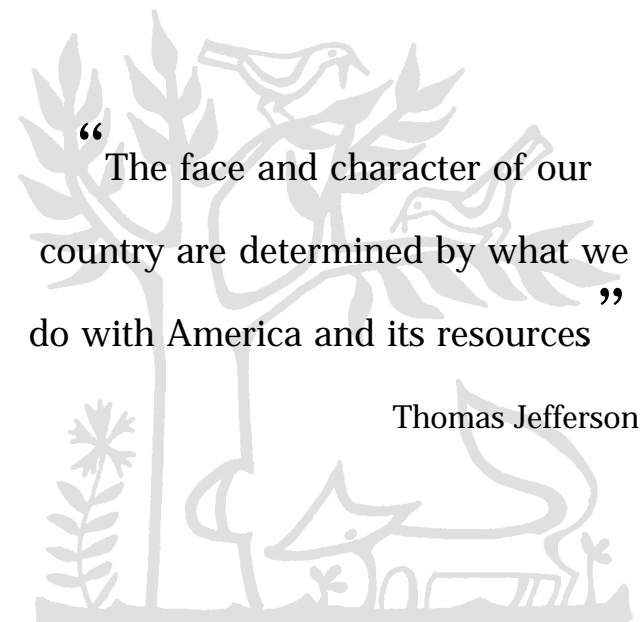
NATIONAL CAMP/RETREAT MINISTRY OFFICE

P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003;

toll-free (877) 899-2780, Ext. 7134; (615) 340-7134;

www.gbod.org/camping/default.html

To sign up for the Camp/Retreat Leader E-mail Network, email ktwjel@aol.com.



For more information about Conservation USA, contact:

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Email: khenchey@aca-camps.org

Tim Beaty
USDA, Forest Service
333 SW First Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 808-2535
Fax: 503-808-2339
Email: tbeaty@fs.fed.us

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Continuing Education & Fellowship Events

2000

OCTOBER 23-24

Personnel (Key Content Workshop)
IACCA

Geneva Park Conference Center
Ontario, Canada
Contact: Al Meyer
(315) 676-4130
alfriacca@aol.com

OCTOBER 24-29

International Association of
Conference Center Administrators
Annual Convention and Training

Geneva Park Conference Center
Ontario, Canada
Contact: Al Meyer
(315) 676-4130
alfriacca@aol.com

OCTOBER

(date to be announced)
Marketing (KCW) IACCA

Geneva Park Conference Center
Ontario, Canada
Contact: Al Meyer
(315) 676-4130
alfriacca@aol.com

NOVEMBER 1-4

34th Annual Convention & National
RV Camping Industry Expo
Association of RV Parks
and Campgrounds
Anaheim, CA—Disneyland
Contact: Mikki Leake
(703) 241-8801
arvc@erols.com

NOVEMBER 12-14

Keystone Regional Conference
of the ACA
Seven Springs Resort, Champion, PA
Contact: Michael Chauveau
(215) 886-5385
aca_keystone@ibob.com

NOVEMBER 26-29

Christian Camping International
National Convention (site 1)

The Broadmoor West,
Colorado Springs, CO
Contact: Tracy Holbrook, Registrar
(800) 922-4872
www.cciusa.org

DECEMBER 10-13

Christian Camping International
National Convention (site 2)

Hershey Lodge, PA
Contact: Registrar Tracy Holbrook
(800) 922-4872
www.cciusa.org

2001

JANUARY 24-31

U.M. Camp/Retreat Ministry
Certification Course
"Faith Formation and
Christian Living"

Snow Mountain Ranch, CO
Contact: David Berkey
(610) 666-9090, Ext. 225
dlbcamp@aol.com

JANUARY 26-30

U.M. Camp/Retreat Leader's
Training and Gathering
GBOD and National
Camp/Retreat Committee
Snow Mountain Ranch, CO
Contact: Connie Schmutz
or Kevin Witt
Toll-free (877) 899-2780, Ext. 7134
cschmutz@gbod.org or
ktwjel@aol.com

FEBRUARY 21-24

American Camping Association
National Event

Orlando, FL
Contact: Connie Coutellier
(765) 342-8456, Ext. 307
ccoutell@aca-camps.org

MARCH 15-17

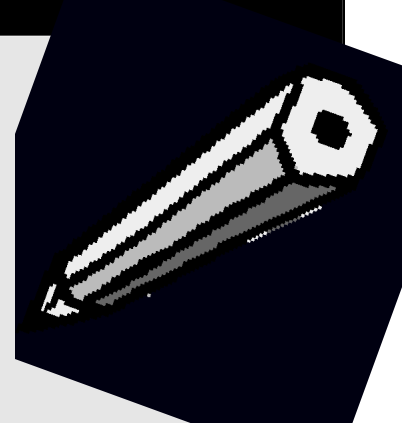
Tri-State ACA Conference
New York, NY
Contact: Connie Coutellier
(765) 342-8456, Ext. 307
ccoutell@aca-camps.org

APRIL 2-4

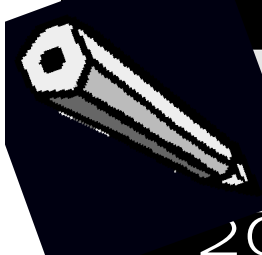
7th Annual Challenge/
Ropes Course Workshop
Jumonville Camp/Retreat Center
SW Pennsylvania
Contact: Larry Beatty
(724) 439-4912
LRBeatty@aol.com

NOVEMBER 14-17

3th Annual Convention & National
RV Camping Industry Expo
Association of RV Parks
and Campgrounds
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Contact: Mikki Leake
(703) 241-8801
arvc@erols.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
Continuing Education & Fellowship Events



2002

JANUARY 21-24

Southeast Jurisdiction
Camp/Retreat Leader Gathering
United Methodist
Camp/Retreat Leaders
Wesley Pines, MS
Contact: John Farmer
(919) 249-0497
john@donleecenter.org

JANUARY 28-31

South Central Jurisdiction
Camp/Retreat Leader Gathering
United Methodist
Camp/Retreat Leaders
Mt. Sequoyah, AR
Contact: Terri Ford
(254) 897-2247
terri@glenlake.org

FEBRUARY 20-23

American Camping Association
National Event
Washington, DC
Contact: Connie Coutellier
(765) 342-8456, Ext. 307
ccoutell@aca-camps.org

MARCH 21-23

Tri-State ACA Conference
New York, NY
Contact: Connie Coutellier
(765) 342-8456, Ext. 307
ccoutell@aca-camps.org

MARCH 20-23

Tri-State ACA Conference
New York, NY
Contact: Connie Coutellier
(765) 342-8456,
ext. 307 ccoutell@aca-camps.org

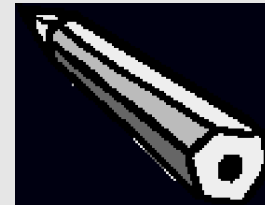
OCTOBER

(date to be announced)
Western Jurisdiction Camp
Leaders' Training
Western Jurisdiction
Camping Network
Templed Hills Camp & Retreat Center
Woodland Park, CO
Contact: Todd Bartlett
(541) 998-2633 jcumc@juno.com

2003

FEBRUARY 19-22

American Camping Association
National Event
Denver, CO
Contact: Connie Coutellier
(765) 342-8456, Ext. 307
ccoutell@aca-camps.org



The General Board of Discipleship of
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