



CAMP/RETREAT MEMO

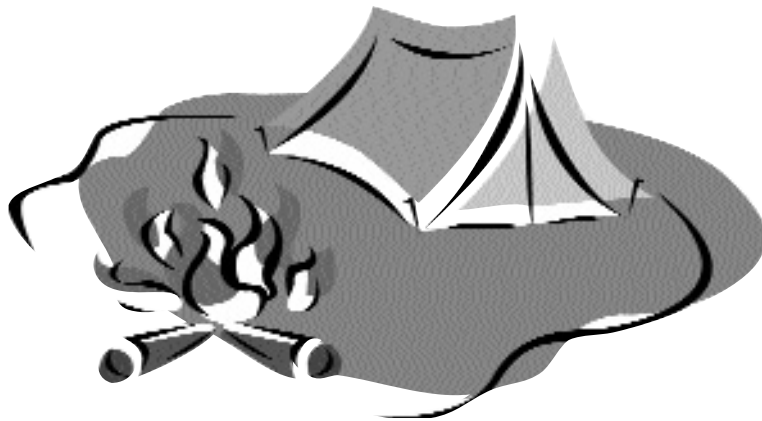
Decisions of Faith & Calls to Ministry

The Important Role of Camps & Retreats

This spring I wrote an article for the Camp/Retreat Leader E-mail Network. It was sparked by a series of recent contacts initiated by bishops, district superintendents, lay leaders, clergy, general agency staff, and a number of you now serving in camp/retreat ministry. These conversations resulted in the recognition that the camp retreat experience is particularly relevant in responding to one of the most important dilemmas of our time: The need for Christian spiritual leaders within the church and within society as a whole currently outpaces the number of persons preparing for spiritual leadership.

Some of our greatest advocates urge us now to fully appreciate the pivotal contribution of camp/retreat settings and experiences. Journeying out of our normal routines and rhythms heightens the possibility of learning and living differently. This includes unmatched opportunities to discern new ways that God may be calling persons to live and serve based squarely on the love of Christ. In the spring article I promised to provide some reflections on decisions of faith and calls to ministry that you can use in your staff training. Lifting up these two themes will help staff and volunteers to be sensitive and proactive when opportunities arise to help persons consider God's direction for their lives.

Let's begin with some definitions. **Decisions of faith** are formed within a growing trust in the love of Christ to the point that we make daily choices to seek God's guidance in shaping who we are becoming and in setting our priorities. We seek to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, rather than being directed by fleeting desires. **Calls to Ministry** highlight long-term commitments to service that meet a true need in the world. They could be calls to ordained ministry as an Elder or Deacon, or calls to help make a difference as a layperson through a vocation or an avocation. Callings, in some way,



involve a measure of spiritual leadership in guiding, helping, and healing. Callings are as varied as the needs and hurts of people and of all of creation.

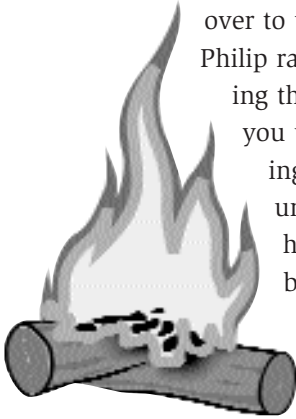
A good way to approach these topics is to study Scripture to see what we can learn about decisions of faith and callings. I will only lift up three passages under each topic, as a sampling (all NRSV). For more ideas about encouraging people in a life of faith, see *Twists of Faith* and *Spiritual Preparation for Christian Leadership* (pp. 9-10 of this newsletter). The intention of this article is to engage the imagination of your staff about how to encourage decisions of faith and explore calls to ministry through the relationships and experiences you offer.

Decisions of Faith

Discussing the Scriptures

Acts 8:27-36: . . . Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go

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over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”

Insight: Reading and discussing the scriptures is one way for us to hear and respond to God. Philip was open to the nudges of the Spirit to step out with courage and to begin a conversation with the Ethiopian. Philip connected with what the Ethiopian was already interested in. That conversation led the eunuch to make his own profound decision of faith, to become baptized, to live as a child of God.

Led by the Spirit

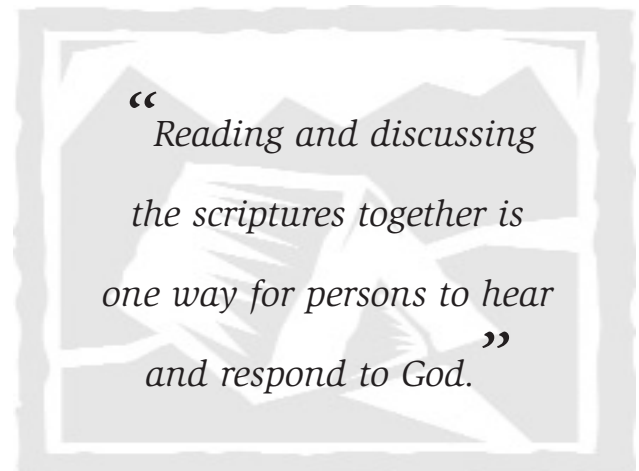
Galatians 5:22-25: By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh [life apart from God] with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Insight: Decisions of faith involve inviting the Holy Spirit to shape our very being – who we are becoming and how we relate. If the Holy Spirit is the source of life, then it is important to be guided by the Spirit. How do our programs and teachable moments help persons learn to listen for the direction of God? If we open ourselves to be transformed


by the Spirit, then our lives will produce love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, etc. When this is missing, the existence we choose is often marred by the opposites of these fruits of the Spirit. It is a natural reminder to seek the Source of Life, and not to depend solely on our own insights. In making decisions of faith, what would produce the fruits of the spirit in the long run?

Questions & Real-Life Situations

John 8:2-12: Early in the morning [Jesus] came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.” Again



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“
Calls to Ministry highlight long-term commitments to service that meet a true need in the world.”

Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Insight: The way Jesus responded to and asked questions made people reflect more deeply on situations and on God’s desire or will. Jesus’ grace and honesty play a powerful role in his spiritual leadership. Repeatedly, combining real-life situations with poignant questions leads to decisions of faith.

Calls to Ministry

For the Common Good

1 Corinthians 12:4-11: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

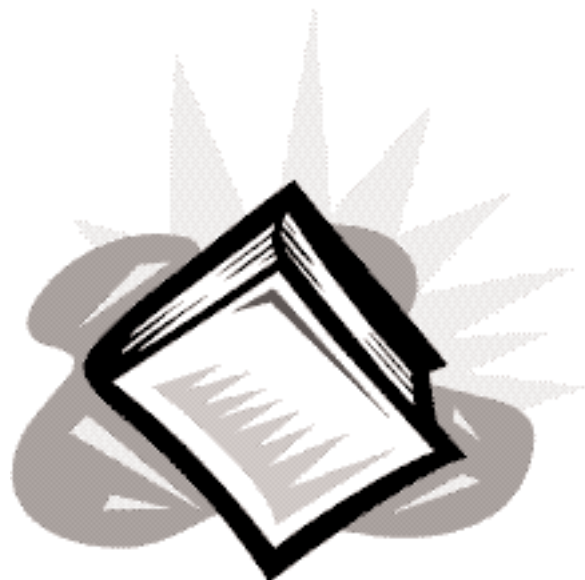
Insight: Pay attention to aspects of personality, interests, character, and skill that people display at camp or on retreat. This may be a significant clue to what God has given them to contribute toward making a difference in the world. They may have never

thought about these attributes as gifts from God “for the common good.” This recognition may inspire them to listen more attentively for calls to ministry and to explore how they might ease suffering or bring good where it is needed throughout their lives.

For a Time Such As This

Esther 4:10-16: Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law – all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.” When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.”

Insight: Some calls to ministry arise as a result of a societal injustice. In Esther’s case, her influence



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Share Our Worlds - Help Needed

Share Our Worlds brings United Methodist- and Methodist-related young adults from around the world to serve as summer staff in United Methodist Camp/Retreat Centers across the U.S.



The reviews/evaluations from the first two summers highlight the positive impact of the friendships that developed among participants and guests from diverse cultures and homelands. The inroads to better understanding and appreciation last far beyond the summer. The persons recruited from other nations are committed persons of Christian faith who not only lead activities, but also provide spiritual leadership as a role model of the faith — an element unique to Share Our Worlds. The international staff speak English as well as their native languages and have skills that enable them to contribute significantly to the camp/retreat center team. These leaders take what they have learned back to their homelands to incorporate camp/retreat ministry in ways that make sense in their setting. In sum, it’s been an extremely valuable experience for all involved.

The General Board of Discipleship, General Board of Global Ministries, and National Camp/Retreat Committee have given generously to help launch Share Our Worlds. The ministry now needs to develop support from other sources to move toward financial self-sufficiency. Share Our Worlds strives to keep costs to the counselors from outside the US to a minimum, since they are coming to serve us and are our guests. Currently, the counselors are responsible for expenses related to travel visas and transportation to the airport. This translates into a large sum of money for many participants who come from economically poorer nations.

Due to the cost of international travel, special orientation sessions, transportation from Chicago to the camp/retreat site, special insurance, etc., expenses for the host site in the US are typically greater than they would be for hiring a local young adult. Host sites are asked to contribute \$1700 to Share Our Worlds, the cost of transportation from the airport to the campsite, and a \$300 stipend.

Share Our Worlds Giving Partners

You can become a Giving Partner by helping with some of the many expenses associated with this vital ministry. Here are some opportunities to help with the 25-30 International Staff who are recruited each year.

Roundtrip airfare for one counselor	\$800-\$1700	Special Participant Insurance	\$150 each
Bibles for each participant	\$25 each	Project Coordinators Annual Stipend	\$6000
Staff T-shirts	\$20 each	Manuals	\$300
Orientation Room & Board	\$110 each	(Sending Partners/Host Sites/Participant)	
End of Summer Evaluation & Debriefing	\$70 each	Office Expenses and Travel for Coordinator	\$3000
Closing Banquet	\$20 each	Gift to Endowment Fund	Any

Here's the problem. Some of the roundtrip airfares were as high as \$1686 from some countries. Since Share Our Worlds only receives \$1700 from a host site, many expenses, such as orientation, the Share Our Worlds Director funding, expenses related to State Dept requirements, etc., are not fully funded. As the start-up subsidies are reduced, we want to avoid putting the full financial load on the host sites; we don't want to discourage them from hosting international counselors because of the added expenses. The benefits of the program are so powerful, we need to find a way to balance the finances.

Those of you reading this newsletter or people/groups you know may find great meaning in contributing and helping to undergird this powerful exchange program which enhances our Camp/Retreat Ministries so much across the US. Please see the following Share Our Worlds Giving Partners

Form and prayerfully consider this opportunity as part of your annual giving. Thank you so much!

For further information about your camp/retreat center hosting international staff or about making contributions, contact Ted Witt, Coordinator, Share Our Worlds: 2484 Highland Lane, Crossville, TN 38555-1468, phone 931-707-7592, fax 931-707-7691, tedwitt@u-c.net.

If you, or an individual or group you know, would like to become a Share Our Worlds Giving Partner, please complete the form below. Mail it with your check made payable to the General Board of Discipleship to the address on the form. If you are unable to make a financial contribution, please lift the ministry in your prayers. Thanks so much for supporting a cutting-edge addition to United Methodist Camp/Retreat Ministry. With your help, so many lives will be enriched in God's name.



Share Our Worlds Giving Partners

Yes, I want to become a "Giving Partner" with Share Our Worlds. Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ that I would like to designate for the following project: _____.

In addition to this gift, I pledge my prayer support for the counselors, the campers they serve, and the camp/ retreat ministries that host them.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mail this form and your check (made payable to the General Board of Discipleship) to:

**Share Our Worlds
Ted R. Witt
2484 Highland Lane, Crossville, TN 38555-1468
Phone: 931/707-7592 • Fax: 931/707-7691 • tedwitt@u-c.net**

The Role of Creation in Faith Formation: Avoiding the Pantheism Controversy

When we draw the attention of participants and guests to God's creation as a way to hear the Word of God or to know God better, some may assume that we are encouraging people to worship nature itself. This could not be further from the truth, but it is important to understand and appreciate the concern. Pantheism is the worship of creatures and/or human beings. Biblical writers vigorously warn that this is total folly.

Avoid this unnecessary controversy (that may corrode people's confidence in your camp/retreat ministry and environmental education) by being clear about the theological foundations for what you are doing. The goal is not, however, to avoid experiences with and within the natural world. That would be a great loss indeed for Christian faith formation. Those most concerned about pantheism often begin with a deep regard for scripture, so an effective dialogue explaining outdoor Christian education often demonstrates the biblical basis of our ministry. We must make the distinction between pantheism and the worthy recognition that creation is sacred because it is a voice that speaks of God and it is an environment that draws folks closer to God. It is a good gift.

One biblical excerpt that clarifies key issues is Romans 1:19-25:

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world [God's] eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things [God] has made. So they are without excuse; for though they knew God, they did not honor [God] as God or give thanks to [the Creator], but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools; and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles ... they exchanged the

truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for-ever! Amen.

In the very passage in which Paul denounces pantheism, he strongly affirms that the creation, which God has made, is a channel to know the Maker and to understand aspects of God's eternal presence and power. Paul does not shy away from saying that the natural world helps reveal and connect us with our Creator. He argues forcefully, however, that just because a creature may serve as a vehicle for God's self-revelation, this does not mean that it is to be equated with the fullness God. Therefore, nature or a creature within nature, human or otherwise, should never be worshiped and served as the Divine. Even the earth as a whole, the sun, the moon, etc., are creatures not Creator; but they are holy because they are expressions of God. The Holy Spirit may dwell in us as human beings, for example, so God speaks and loves through us. We are vessels of the One Who Made Us. We, therefore, recognize and honor the One that formed us – the God whose divine life force is within us and within the rest of creation.

Jesus himself represents the zenith of God coming into our midst in the form of a creature – a human being – to extend grace and to renew relationships with the whole world in an utterly profound and special way. As Christians, we understand the uniqueness of the Christ who so fittingly was called "Emmanuel – God with us." God has been about communicating with us and being among us since the commencement of time.

Here are just two passages that serve as illustrations.

John 1:1-5, 14, 16:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light



shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Psalm 19:1-4: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

It is no accident that Christian camp/retreat centers are located in beautiful, natural places. The church recognized very early how often journeys, retreats, and activities outdoors open persons to faith and lifestyles of faithfulness. These settings provide unparalleled environments for faith formation. Why is this? It is true that people are away from their normal routine and other distractions, but it goes far deeper than that. The creation itself actually speaks of God. "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world." Have we not heard these inspiring voices when we actually seek God in the wilderness?

This is because the voice of nature comes from the very "Word" of God. If every part of the nature comes into existence through the Word, then God is saying something in each one. As the Christian teacher Meister Eckhart so eloquently reflected centuries ago, "Every creature is a word from God and a word about God."

This awareness has particular meaning for Christians, because the same Word that made all things is also the Word that lived among us in Jesus. "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory. ... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." Christ was, and continues to be, involved in the ongoing creativity of God. Nature and our own existence within it are tied to Christ's mission. In a very real way, meditating upon God within pristine environments can be a judicious spiritual practice – an avenue provided by God that cooperates with Christ in enabling us to hear and comprehend what God is saying. "I love you, so love one another." Wesley brilliantly named such disciplines and pathways of faith a *means of grace*.

In their zeal to discourage "pantheism" some religious leaders, perhaps unknowingly, go overboard by teaching a kind of passive, if not overt, rejection of creation. Nature from this point of view is treated as an enemy or at best as a temporary

resource for human consumption, rather than a sacred expression and message of God. This denial of holy ground arises from an incomplete reading of scripture, from my point of view.

From the scripture passages examined here, we learn that every aspect of God's creation is a divine communication, sparked with the life force of God, declaring God's glory. Let us develop the heart and the ears to hear. What wisdom is God teaching us through the various organisms and elements around us? This way of listening adds another holy habit to the repertoire of spiritual practices, e.g., public and private prayer, searching the scriptures, corporate worship, doing good, avoiding harm, forming Christian community, faith-full conversation. It may be a discipline unfamiliar to many in modern society, but it has deep roots extending back in our Christian traditions to St. Francis and others. Our society truly needs to reclaim this.

Our primary calling as Christian Camp/Retreat Centers is to lead experiences that help participants relate to God and appreciate the many dimensions of God's grace. We must be acutely aware that loss of diversity in nature is eroding a tremendous avenue that God has given us in fulfilling our purpose. If every species is a particular word from God, we who are people of faith must be especially diligent in caring for all species and encouraging the preservation of God's messages and messengers. Each species that we as human beings cause to die is a word from God that disappears — a word meant to declare the glory of God. Among the many good reasons for being faithful stewards and protectors of the earth, this ranks among the most poignant.

Unless we are well established in the wisdom of our faith, we risk being drawn to the cacophony of messages designed to make us feel something is missing in our lives. Be savvy. An egocentric set of beliefs is infiltrating our psyches, especially those of us born and raised in wealthy countries. Material gain and human comfort are the 'promised land'; economic growth is posited as the solution to the world's problems. A strong economy is equated with "progress."

These values assume that we can actually own the earth — its resources and its creatures — and do with them as we please. But if the earth has been 'given' to us in any sense, it is so that we can care for it on behalf of God. Remember Psalm 24:1&2:

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for [God] has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

As a community of faith, what we have to offer is another definition of progress – living the love of Christ, a servant leader for all of creation. We hear another voice, a deeper wisdom speaking life itself.

Camp/Retreat Ministry Certification: An Unparalleled Learning Opportunity

In recognition of the importance of camp/retreat ministry as a specialized area of service, the United Methodist Church established a new certification open to laity and clergy. An excellent example of collaborative partnership among Drew Theological School, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and representatives of the National Camp/Retreat Committee produced certification courses and requirements that are extremely relevant to the core of camp/retreat ministry. Additional review by camp/retreat leaders in the field resulted in significant changes that make certification even more beneficial.

This is the first consistent, academically and denominationally recognized educational process that significantly addresses three main themes of Camp/Retreat Ministry: Nurturing Faith and Christian Leadership, Ecological and Social Integrity and the Ministry of Camp/Retreat Center Management. We are greatly blessed to have an avenue of learning for those who want to explore camp/retreat ministry as a possible new vocation or avocation, as well as an avenue for profound continuing education that will enhance the skill and faith of those already serving as staff or long-term volunteers. Drew Theological School has taken the lead in offering the full complement of courses necessary for certification. Certification can be taken in a non-degree track, or as part of a more extensive degree program, such as an M.Div. or D.Min. degree.

I think it is important for those who may want to enter camp/retreat ministry as a vocation to keep in mind that Drew now offers all the required courses for certification. Please, spread the word to those considering ordained ministry as Elders or Deacons, if they desire to include camp/retreat ministry in their preparation. Drew is one of seminaries to check out. In the future, some of the courses may be offered by other seminaries. Courses offerings are determined by the seminary itself. In the meantime, Drew Theological School already has made an extraordinary commitment to the preparation of those of us in camp/retreat ministry.

Keep in mind that persons who want to take Certification Courses must first enroll with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and then go through the process to become an eligible student at whatever seminary is offering a course. Even if you don't plan to take a course immediately, it is advised that you complete these two initial steps so that you won't be delayed and possibly miss a course deadline because these steps have not been completed in advance. I encourage all of you to participate in the certification. I am finding it a wonderful experience myself. Even though I have many years of camp/retreat ministry experience, I am learning and growing a lot. Those interested in finding out more about Camp/Retreat Ministry Certification requirements and processes can contact:

Section of Deacons and Diaconal Ministries

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
PO Box 34007
Nashville, TN 37203-0007
sddm@gbhem.org
Phone: 615-340-7375

Drew Theological School

Common Ground Office
Madison, NJ 07940
cground@drew.edu
Phone: 973-408-3622

Camp/Retreat Ministry Certification Course Schedule

2001

Volunteer and Staff Hiring, Training and Supervision

2-credit elective, October 9, 7:00 pm - October 14, noon
Camp Epworth, High Falls, NY

An online course in United Methodist Studies is projected to be available in 2002.

2002

The Ecology and Theology of Common Ground

3-credit core course, 2:00 pm January 10 - 2:00 pm
January 17

Drew Theological School Madison, NJ

Biblical Foundations of Camp/Retreat Ministry

2-credit elective, March 10-15, 2002 (tentative)
Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville, TN

Fund-Raising and Financing for Not-for-Profit Ministries

2-credit elective, Mid-October, 2002 ((tentative), New Mexico

2003

Ministry of Camp/Retreat Center Management

3-credit core, January 26-February 2, 2003

Asimolar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA
*Prior to and included in the National UM Camp/Retreat
Leaders' Gathering*

Partnering with Ethnic Leaders & Communities

2-credit elective, March 9-14, 2002

Drew Theological School, Madison, NJ

Developing Christian Camp/Retreat Curriculum & Events

2-credit elective, October 12-17, 2003 ((tentative)

Camp Magruder, Oregon Coast

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with the powerful (the king) enabled her to act on behalf of the people. Mordecai's requests and the needs of the people moved her beyond her own fear to speak out and to work to change a law that would cause great destruction. What social issues and needs touch the hearts of particular participants at camps or on retreats? An affinity with those who are suffering may, also, be a call to ministry.

Ordained Ministry

1 Timothy 4:12–16: Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I

arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Insight: Timothy's call was to ordained ministry — a lifetime vocation to help the church be the people of God. Pastors must model Christian discipleship and help other Christians grow in faith and Christian practice. There is a ministry within and

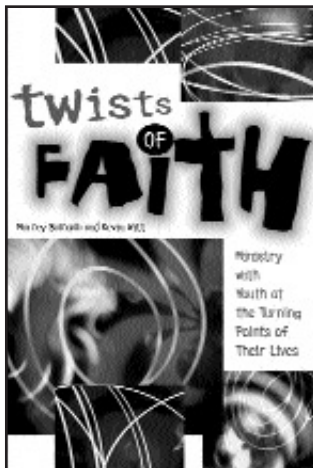
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Resource Review

TWISTS OF FAITH

Ministry with Youth at the Turning Points of Their Lives

By Marcey Balcomb & Kevin Witt



Twists of Faith is a timely, provocative book that helps camp counselors, parents, youth workers, and mentors learn how to help youth connect more deeply with God through the changes and transitions of their own lives. This encourages adults to engage teenagers in experiential learning to

deepen their faith. Making decisions, loss and crisis, finding meaning and purpose in life, sustaining healthy relationships, etc., provide fertile ground for forming faith. Be there when it matters.

Teachable moments occur with great frequency during adolescence; mentors with relationships of trust and respect among youth play essential roles in helping them reflect on their experiences in light of God. We can walk with youth along pathways that transform twists of fate into twists of faith.

Available from Discipleship Resources, 800-685-4370,

www.discipleshipresources.org

\$19.95; ISBN 0-88177-251-8

Also available from Cokesbury, 800-672-1789.

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES PROGRAM LEADERSHIP MANUAL



Leaders of Christian camps and conferences need training in a variety of issues and skills. This manual is designed to help them in the task of training and facilitating the ministry of others. Topics include key theological, biblical, and educational issues. Three educational modules follow every training article written by experienced practitioners in the field.

Each module is designed for use with a different audience: counselors, program directors/deans, and camp/retreat professionals/judicatory staff/boards. Training topics include: Christian Worship in Outdoor Settings, Meditation, Experiential Bible Study, Faith Formation, Sharing the Faith Story, Stewardship, Building Intentional Community, Enhancing Self-Esteem, Depression and Loneliness, Abuse Prevention, Serving Diverse People, Conflict Management, Leading Recreation Ministry, Environmental Education, Trip Camping, Initiative Games, High and Low Ropes Courses, Choosing and Using Curriculum, Human Development and Program Progression, Evaluation.

National Council of Churches of Christ Committee on Outdoor Ministries: \$99.50 + \$10 shipping & handling.

Available from Cokesbury, 800-672-1789.

Decisions of Faith *continued from page 9*

beyond the church that prepares persons to more fully seek and follow God through a life of Christian service and love. It is crucial for the church to have Elders and Deacons who lead the church. Today, we are not doing an adequate job identifying, recruiting, and preparing persons for ordained ministry, especially young adults. (Note: Timothy was a young adult). How can camp/retreat ministry present the opportunity to enter ordained ministries more proactively, so people can hear and respond as God calls them? (For more information, go to www.gbhem.org/ministry.html.)

National United Methodist Camp/Retreat Ministry Contacts

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

Connie Schmutz, Administrative Assistant, Cschmutz@gbod.org

General Board of Discipleship National Camp/Retreat Ministry Office

PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003, tollfree 877/899-2780, Ext. 7134

www.gbod.org/camping/default.html

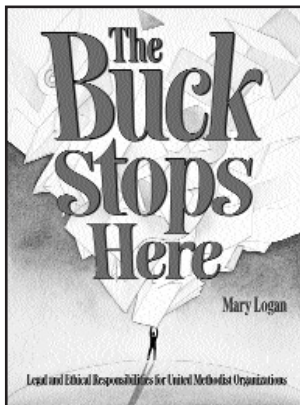
To sign up for the Camp/Retreat Leader E-mail Network, contact ktwjel@aol.com or National UM Camp/Retreat Committee Chairperson John Farmer, John@campdonlee.org

Resource Review *(continued from page 9)*

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

Legal & Ethical Responsibilities for United Methodist Organizations

By Mary Logan



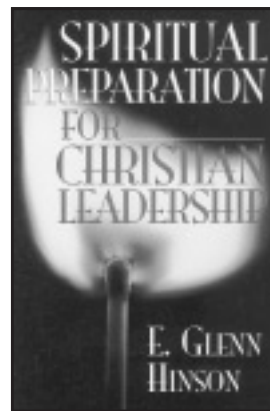
In today's world, churches and church organizations (e.g., camp/retreat centers) without a clear understanding of their legal and ethical responsibilities are very vulnerable. Lawsuits, taxation, insurance, and other issues can immobilize a group and prevent it from being able to focus

on its mission. *The Buck Stops Here* helps church groups operate in a safe, ethical, and legal way. This book is informative, to the point, and spiced with interesting examples from real-life situations. Avoiding dilemmas upfront is far easier than responding to them after the fact. Logan artfully blends fiduciary roles and tasks with Christian perspective. Great for training staff and boards.

Available from Discipleship Resources, 800-685-4370, www.discipleshipresources.org. \$9.95; ISBN 0-88177-306-9
Also available from Cokesbury, 800-672-1789.

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

By E. Glenn Hinson



In his insightful new book, Hinson convincingly demonstrates that there is no task more meaningful for people invited into leadership roles than spiritual preparation. His perspective, personal involvement, and engagement with the contemporary scene come together to make a provocative book and a clarion call.

True wisdom, practical guides, and enlightening examples are included. Our relationship with God is key; the good we can offer flows from there. By emphasizing the need for balance in a healthy Christian spirituality, the book offers new ways to sustain a growing faith in Christ that will sustain us through the rigors of leadership.

Available from Upper Room Books, 800-972-0433, www.upperroom.org. \$17.00; 10 or more, \$14.45. ISBN 0-83580-888-2

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY!

Continuing Education & Fellowship Events



2001

OCTOBER 11-14

*Western Jurisdiction
Camping Network*

*United Methodist
Camp/Retreat Leaders*

Planning Meeting Only – not an event
Camp Lodestar, CA

Contact: Colin Kerr Carpenter
916-374-1514
colinkc@calnevumc.org

NOVEMBER 6-8

*Northeast Jurisdiction
United Methodist Camp/
Retreat Leaders*

West River Center, MD
Contact: Andy Thornton
410-867-0991

westrivercenter@starpower.com

NOVEMBER 25-28

*Christian Camping Int'l USA
Nat'l Conference & Exposition*

Disney Coronado Springs Resort
Orlando, FL

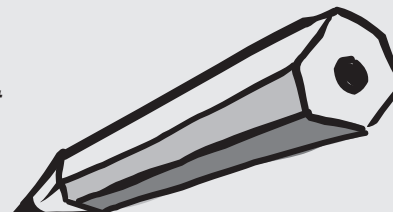
Contact: CCI/USA
719-260-9400; cciusa@cciusa.org

2002

JANUARY 23-27

*Connection 2002
Nat'l Gathering of United Methodist
Youth Workers*

Panama City Beach, FL
Contact: Connection 2002 Office
877-899-2780, Ext. 7176
connection@gbod.org



JANUARY 28-31

*South Central Jurisdiction
United Methodist Camp/
Retreat Leaders Gathering*

Mt. Sequoyah, AR
Contact: Terri Ford, 254-897-2247
terri@glenlake.org

JANUARY 28-31

*Southeast Jurisdiction
United Methodist Camp/
Retreat Leaders Gathering*

Wesley Pines, MS
Contact: John Farmer
800-535-5475
John@donleecenter.org

FEBRUARY 26-28

*North Central Jurisdiction
United Methodist Camp/
Retreat Leaders Gathering*

East Bay Camp, IL
Contact: Bruce Nelson
800-642-2267; niccamp@aol.com

FEBRUARY 20-23

*American Camping Association
(ACA) National Convention*

Washington, DC
Contact: Pat Smilley
765-342-8456, Ext. 300
psmilley@acacamps.org

MARCH 21-23

*Tri-State ACA Conference
New York, NY*

Contact: Connie Coutellier,
765-342-8456, Ext. 307
ccoutell@acacamps.org

DECEMBER 1-4

*USA Nat'l Conference
and Exposition
Vancouver, BC*

Contact: CCI/USA, P.O. Box 62189,
Colorado Springs, CO 80917
719-260-9400, cciusa@cciusa.org

2003

JAN. 29 - FEB. 2

*Nat'l United Methodist Camp/
Retreat Leaders Gathering*

Asilomar Center, Pacific Grove, CA
Contact: Anne Horton

256-538-9860
ahwildlife@cybrtyme.com

FEBRUARY 19-22

*American Camping Association
(ACA) Nat'l Convention
Denver, CO*

Contact: Pat Smilley
765-342-8456, Ext. 300
psmilley@acacamps.org

MARCH 20-23

*Tri-State ACA Conference
New York, NY*

Contact: Connie Coutellier,
765-342-8456, Ext. 307
ccoutell@acacamps.org

Additional educational sources and options

United Methodist Camp/Retreat Ministry:
www.gbod.org/camping

United Methodist Camp/Retreat Ministry Certification:
[www.gbhem.org/certification/
camp_retreat.html](http://www.gbhem.org/certification/camp_retreat.html)

Drew Theological School cground@drew.edu or 973/408-3622

American Camping Association www.acacamps.org
Christian Camping International www.cciusa.org

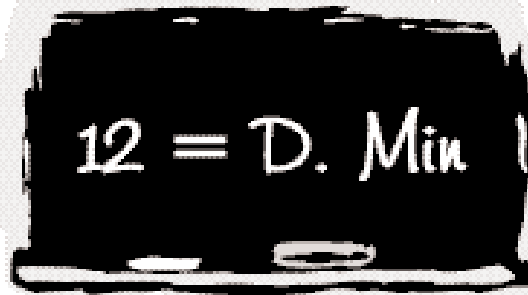
International Association of Conference Center Administrators
www.iacca.org

D. Min. Group Forming in Camp/Retreat Ministry: Need 12 Students to Begin

Several persons have expressed interest in forming a D. Min. group related to Camp/Retreat Ministry. It would be fantastic to work closely with an inspired, closeknit group of peers toward this advanced learning. The personal and professional growth would be awesome. This can also tie into certification in camp/retreat ministry, thus reaching two goals at once. Second, persons who earn D. Min. degrees and who have the gifts and graces for teaching are sometimes recognized by educational institutions as persons with the background necessary to assist professors with courses related to their field of expertise. Since there has never been an advanced degree specifically related to Christian Camp/Retreat Ministry, a group

of persons working toward a D. Min. degree would not only gain personally but might play an important role in mentoring others. This would play a part in assuring that we can partner instructors so both practical experience and advanced study are provided in the essential endeavor of preparing new generations of Christian leaders.

We would like to begin the D. Min. group within the next year and need 12 persons to launch in this area of specialization. Persons with Master's degrees or equivalents related to theology/Christian education, an M.Div., or other types of ministry and service, please contact Kevin Witt ASAP to find out more: Ktwjel@aol.com, 541-317-1615.



The General Board of Discipleship of
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