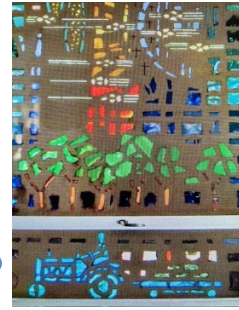


The Illinois South Conference UCC cordially invites you to the 2024 Ministry Leadership Retreat



“Open Your Eyes”



Tuesday, April 23rd and Wednesday, April 24th, 2024
Toddhall Retreat Center, 320 Todd Center Dr, Columbia, IL

WHAT CAN WE LOOK FORWARD TO? The Local Church Ministries Team is offering a time away for Illinois South ministry leaders (both active and retired, ordained or lay church staff leaders) to share a time of engaging discussion, devotional worship and relaxing fellowship among colleagues.

This year's theme provides an opportunity to “open our eyes” to the visuals immersed in our particular worship settings and to consider “what is seen?” in various images around us which explicitly or implicitly visualize theology. A history of religious art in stained glass and paintings as the powerful visual program of the Christian Church will provide a background for our conversation. There will also be free time to rest, visit with colleagues, create art projects, or explore the retreat grounds.

WHO ARE THE LEADERS? Discussion leader is Rev. Dr. Martha Thierheimer, Pastor of O'Fallon, UCC (Doctor of Ministry project on visual theology); worship leadership from Rev. Stephen Stark, Pastor of Zion UCC in New Baden; and music leadership of Rev. Tarrah Vaupel, Pastor of Trinity UCC, Biddleborn/Holy Ghost UCC, Darmstadt.

SHOULD I READ A BOOK? There is no specific book to read prior to the event, but please bring any recommendations or resources you may want to share with the group. Leader will provide multiple books on religious art for you to browse, if you'd like.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO SHARE? Each participant is asked to bring 2 visual objects from your particular setting (or a photo of it). Bring an item which resonates with your theology and *enhances* your spiritual connection in worship (ie framed art, banner, stained glass, stole, sculpture, etc.)

And bring a 2nd visual object from your setting (or photo of it) which does *not* reflect a vision of your theology or enhance the current visual message of your church (ie that framed art in the Sunday School which can't be removed because it was donated by a former saint of the church, such as the “Warner Sallman Jesus”, “Laughing Jesus”, any kitschy or cringeworthy Christian art, etc.)

We will reflect on how images affect our spiritual experiences, intentionally “open our eyes” to the visual messages conveyed in our surroundings, and discuss how to potentially transform our settings by creating a vision (literally).

WHAT SHOULD I PACK FOR PERSONAL USE?

- Comfy clothes and shoes.
- Toiletries and personal items. (All linens are provided.)
- If you have a creative art craft or hobby you'd like to do during the optional Art Center time, bring it along!

WHAT IS THE SPACE AT TODDHALL LIKE? We will meet and sleep in Wilson Conference Room and Lodge. There are 30 sleeping rooms, each with 2 twin beds and a private bath. You can choose to share a room or pay a little extra for a private room.

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Tuesday, April 23

11am-12 noon	Arrival & Check-in
12 noon	Lunch
1-1:30pm	Welcome & Opening Devotion
1:30-2:15pm	Discussion 1 “What Do You See?”
2:15-2:30pm	Break
2:30-3:30pm	Discussion 2 “Written in Glass & Stone”
3:30pm	Free Time
5:30pm	Dinner
6:30pm	Art Centers (optional)
8:00pm-8:30pm	Sharing Time: “Visual Objects”
8:30-8:45pm	Vespers

Wednesday, April 24

8:00am	Breakfast
8:45am	Morning Devotion
9:00am	Discussion 3: “Painted Visions”
10:30am	Break
10:45am-11am	Resource Sharing
11:00am	Closing Devotion
11:45am-noon	Farewell & Departure

REGISTRATION COSTS

- Retreat program, meals, and private room: **\$110**
- Retreat program, meals, and double room: **\$85**
 - Retreat program and meals only: **\$35**

Please register by deadline on Monday, April 8th

Clip form below and mail with check to: **Illinois South Conference, 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249**
or pay with credit card if registering online (\$5 charge added for credit card/Paypal).
Conference Registrar: Julie Riechmann (618-357-1809) email: jriechmann@iscucc.org

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

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Ministry Leadership Retreat Registration Form

Note: Use separate registration form for each person registering.

**Required information.*

Name* _____ Region # _____

Street* _____

City* _____ State* _____ Zip* _____

E-mail* _____ Telephone* _____

Name/location of _____ Emergency: _____

Ministry Setting* _____ Contact Info:* _____

Leadership position: Pastor _____ Christian Ed Director _____ Lay leader _____ Other: _____

Please specify any dietary or other physical needs that we can accommodate:

Single Occupancy Room: _____ Double Occupancy Room: _____ No lodging required: _____

Roommate Preference (if no name listed, roommate will be assigned) _____