

RENEW

Relational Leadership Experience

United Methodist Clergy have been attending Renew sessions since 2003. Renew gives clergy two rare and precious gifts: Time and Space. You will have “Time” to rest, to talk with other participants and to reflect. You have “Space” to be away from the pace of the daily routine. The quotes at the bottom of the page, from participants two recently attended a Renew session, capture the heart of the program.

Who is Renew for?

Active United Methodist clergy may attend. Some Bishops require Renew for ordination, so the session is also open to those who are completing their ordination process.

What is the cost?

Each Renew retreat is a donated gift of approximately \$1,500 per person. The donor’s gift includes all meals, lodging, books, materials and session facilitation. The only cost to the participants is travel to and from the location. If you register for a session, it is important to attend to respect the donors and their gift to you.

Who is the donor?

The donor couple prefers to remain anonymous. They are lay members of the United Methodist Church who wish to offer a renewal experience that focuses on the areas of leadership and relationships to clergy in the South Central Jurisdiction.

What is the content and who leads it?

Most sessions are hosted by Gary Swyers. Gary facilitates the Myers-Briggs discussions and leadership content. Most of the relationship discussions are led by Dr. Gary Oliver, Director of the Center for Relationship Enrichment. From time to time other highly qualified professionals facilitate as needed.



What is The Soderquist Center?

The Soderquist Center for Leadership and Ethics is located on the campus of John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. The donor has asked the Center to design and deliver the Renew program. You can find out more about the Center at www.soderquist.org and about JBU at www.jbu.edu.

Where is it held and how often?

Held sessions are offered annually at exquisite bed and breakfast locations. Approximately half of the sessions are at Greystone Estate in Rogers, Arkansas. The other sessions are hosted at selected venues. You can find the links to the locations at www.soderquist.org.

When is it scheduled?

The Bishop’s office can provide program dates and locations. Additional information can be found on The Center’s website at <http://www.soderquist.org/work/services/renew.aspx>.

How do I make a reservation?

You must be recommended by your Bishop or District Superintendent and each conference has its own process. For more information contact the Soderquist Center at LCross@jbu.edu.

“This program was very enlightening and spirit-filled. I will remember this experience and put what I have learned into action.” —Saundra R. Clark

“I really felt like we were given several tools and suggestions which will make an immediate difference and a lasting impact.” —David Alexander