

Flourishing in the Spirit Retreat

Registration Information



Refresh

Renew

Reenergize

Dates: April 6-10

Check in: Monday, 4:00 PM

Check out: Friday, 11:00 AM

Location: Camp Gilmont, 6075 State Hwy 155 North, Gilmer, TX

A retreat for Commissioned Pastors and Small Church Leaders following the busy Lent and Easter season. Workshop options will be available in the morning, and late afternoon, with afternoons free to refresh, renew and reenergize.

Workshop Topics: The items in blue are plenary sessions; black will be offered concurrently with participants having a choice between the two.

There will be one group session each morning and afternoon and two breakout sessions each morning. Participants may choose which of the two morning breakout sessions they would like to attend.

Commissioned Pastors/Small Church Retreat April 6-10, 2026

Day 1- Monday, April 6

4:00 Check In, Explore, Rest

5:30 Orientation, Overview, Introductions -

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Project Regeneration & Other Presbyterian Foundation Resources

Josh Kerr, Ministries Relations Officer (?)

7:45 Opening Worship – [Jane Ells, Commissioned Pastor, DePort and Paris , Tx](#)

Rev. Ernest Gardner, Pastor, FPC Denton, TX Music for Event; coordinating with Josh Taylor, PAM

8:45 Fellowship around the campfire, optional

[Whittling with Jesus – Mitch Miller](#)

Day 2 – Tuesday, April 7

8:00 Breakfast

8:45 Morning Devotions – *participants sign up to take one?*

9:15 Session 1: Invitation to Retreat – Rev. Ernest Gardner, FPC Denton

based on the book: [Invitation to Retreat: The Gift and Necessity of Time Away with God](#), by Ruth Haley Barton

10:30 Break

10:45 Session 2:

- [Church Security – Libby Janes](#)
- [Excellence in Preaching - Karen Rogers](#)

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Free time to Rest, Relax, Explore

Ax throwing from 1 to 2, optional

Take a walk, explore Gilmont, enjoy the craft tables, meditate with your pillow; find one of the open-air chapels and pray, walk the labyrinth

Spiritual Practice of Prayer Beads – Mitch Miller

4:30 Session 3: Preparing Your Church for Disasters – Libby Janes

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Evening Devotions – participants sign up to take one?

7:30 Sharing our Stories: Call stories around the campfire, with s'mores.

Day 3 Wednesday, April 8

8:00 Breakfast

8:45 Morning Devotions – participants sign up to take one?

9:15 Session 4: Inspiring Worship through Music - Josh Taylor, Presbyterian Association of Musicians

10:30 Break

10:45 Session 5:

- How to Pastor When You Don't Have a Pastor – The Art of Congregational/Pastoral Care
- Elder Training – Why Do Officer Training? Resources to Help – Molly Casteel

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Free time to Rest, Relax, Explore

Take a walk, explore Gilmont, enjoy the craft tables, meditate with your pillow; find one of the open-air chapels and pray, walk the labyrinth

Spiritual Practice of Prayer Beads – Mitch Miller

4:30 Session 6: TBD

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Evening Devotions – participants sign up to take one?

7:30 Fellowship around the campfire, optional

Thursday, April 9

8:00 Breakfast

8:45 Morning Devotions – *participants sign up to take one*

9:15 Session 7:

Church Finances – The Who, What, When, Why, How – Bill Wiles, Synod Treasurer

10:30 Break

10:45 Session 8:

Moderating and Managing Session Meetings – **Stewart Smith,**

Theology of Place – How to make a difference in your community – Kristy Rodgers;

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Free time to Rest, Relax, Explore

Take a walk, explore Gilmont, enjoy the craft tables, meditate with your pillow; find one of the open-air chapels and pray, walk the labyrinth

Balloon Animal Art – **Mitch Miller**

4:30 Session 9: Understanding the Board of Pensions & Its Benefits – **via Zoom**

Kevin Keaton (confirmed)

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Evening Devotions – *participants sign up to take one?*

7:30 Fellowship around the campfire, optional

Friday, April 10

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Wrapping Up the Loose Ends – Burning Questions

9:30 Closing Worship with Communion – **Ben Davidson, preach, Mitch Miller, communion**

Closest Airports: Dallas/Fort Worth, Longview Regional, Shreveport Regional, Tyler Regional. Please note rental cars may not be available from regional airports.

Lodging: lodge rooms with two twin beds are available on a limited/first come-first served basis. A number of cabins are available and will sleep up to 8 on lower bunks, with shared bathroom and showers. Please let us know if you are willing to share, along with the names of preferred roommates. (Please note: Those staying in cabins must supply their own linens and toiletries.)

If camp settings aren't quite your style, there are several hotels in the area. They may be booked at your own expense.

Cost: \$165 per person (covers the cost of meals; all other costs are covered by the Network for Commissioned Pastors/Synod of the Sun) *Please do not let finances keep you from attending. Scholarships are available. Contact Ben Davidson BDavidson@MHBG.com for more information.*

Registration Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Presbytery: _____ Church Name: _____ Role: _____

I am willing to share a room: yes _____ no _____

If yes, name of preferred roommate(s): _____

I will be securing a nearby hotel room at my own expense yes _____ no _____

I am attaching a signed copy of the liability waiver. yes _____ no _____

Transportation Information: I will be driving. yes _____ no _____

I will be arriving on Flight # _____ at _____ airport. I will be renting a car and willing to share rides to the camp. yes _____ no _____

I am willing to lead a morning and/or evening devotion session. yes _____ no _____

Registration deadline in March 15.

