

Deepening Spiritual Community: for Such a Time as This

Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation, October 18-23, 2026

Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center, Indianola Iowa

Sponsored by the Upper Room and the Board of Discipleship of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church



Leadership Team

1. Retreat DirectorJerry Oakland
2. Hospitality Coordinator Dori Collogan
3. Listening Circles CoordinatorRichard Boatman
4. Worship Coordinator..... Lisa Schroeder

Contact Academy4SF.iowa@gmail.com

Continuing Education - 3.0 CEUs will be awarded for a fee of \$15

Register go to <https://iaumc-reg.brtaapp.com/AcademyforSpiritualFormation>

\$100 non-refundable deposit due with registration; additional \$300 due 6/15/26; balance due 9/15/26

Regular Rooms (double or triple occupancy)

- Very-early-bird registrations (by 12/31/2025) \$645
- Early-bird registrations (by 3/31/2026) \$695
- Regular registrations (4/1-9/15/2026) \$795

Rustic Cabins (no running water, shower house about 20 yards away; up to 6 people per cabin),

deduct from registration fee \$150

Faculty

Rev. Dr. Elaine A. Heath

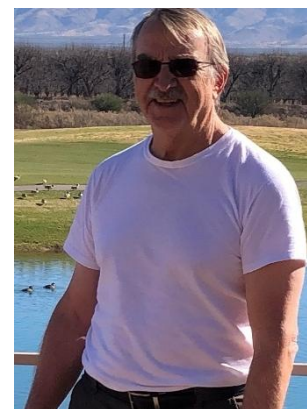


“My work as an author, speaker, retreat leader, and consultant focuses on helping leaders and organizations lean into the healing, liberating, and spiritually transformative journey into which God is calling the church in this new era. My work as

Abbess and Lead Farmer are the lived, day to day expression of the theology and spirituality of the new reformation as my community and I see it.

“Along with my spouse and a few friends I live at The Farmastery at Spring Forest, a new monastic community in rural North Carolina.”

Rev. Jerry Haas



“I was born and raised in Volga, SD..., spent a year in Germany and Austria, followed by seminary in Berkeley, CA.”
Ordained in the Presbyterian Church, he transferred to the UMC and served churches in AZ.

“I attended the two-year Academy for Spiritual Formation (#7) and felt a powerful spiritual awakening,” which led to his serving as the Director of the Upper Room Academy for Spiritual Formation.

“Since retirement, I’ve been active in border ministries (our home is just 35 miles from Mexico) and serve as Minister of Spiritual Formation and Social Justice for our local UMC (in Tuscon, AZ).”



The Academy
for spiritual formation®

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Since 1983, the Academy for Spiritual Formation® has offered an environment for spiritually hungry pilgrims, whether lay or clergy, that combines academic learning with experience in spiritual disciplines and community. The Academy's commitment to an authentic spirituality promotes balance, inner peace and outer peace, holy living and justice living, God's shalom. Theologically the focus is Trinitarian, celebrating the Creator's blessing, delighting in the companionship of Christ and witnessing to the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives, churches and the world.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers. -Acts 2:42*

The Academy is a five-day experience of community living in the monastic tradition. The nature of the Academy requires full-time participation. The rhythm of the day is punctuated by:

- Worship – morning, afternoon and evening
- Faculty Presentations – morning and afternoon
- Periods of silence – morning and afternoon
- The Great Silence – overnight
- Listening Circles – evening
- Meals – in community
- Free time for rest, hiking, conversation and reading.

After you register, you will be invited to share your gifts for times of worship. You will also be asked about food restrictions, etc. The faculty will make suggestions about books you might read in advance; you will be informed when those titles become available.

As you probably know, Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center is a beautiful setting, surrounded by woods and prairie. Each of the cabins requires a bit of walking out of doors. The weather in October can be variable, from quite warm to quite chilly; plan to dress accordingly.