

## The Academy for Spiritual Formation is:

- A disciplined Christian Community emphasizing holistic spirituality – nurturing body, mind, and spirit. It is intended for both clergy and laypersons who hunger for rich spiritual experiences.
- A retreat following the rhythm of study, prayer, rest, and community.
- A setting where morning and evening prayer and Holy Communion frame each day.
- A place to discover Christianity's rich spiritual heritage through worship, learning, and fellowship.
- A time and place for learning, discerning, and sharing our spiritual journeys with others.
- A time of learning new ways to deepen our relationship with God and learning how to live as faithful witnesses of God's love in this world.

## AR/LA/MS 5-Day Academy Team

Amy Love            Susan Meadors  
Dede Roberts       Roy Smith  
                             Scott Wright

This Event is sponsored by:  
The Upper Room  
Arkansas Conference of UMC  
Louisiana Conference of UMC  
Mississippi Conference of UMC  
Methodist Foundation of Arkansas



### THE WESLEY CENTER

The Center is located within a two-hour drive of most metropolitan cities in Louisiana and only fifteen miles from the Alexandria International Airport. The property has the feel of seclusion, but the conveniences of “town” are just a few miles away.

The nature trails, 32-acre lake, and outdoor prayer labyrinth provide a wonderful setting for meditation, personal reflection, and prayer. Accessories include campus-wide wireless internet accessibility, fitness center, and sports field.



**2026 AR/LA/MS Five Day  
Academy for  
Spiritual Formation  
Sunday, September 13 –  
Friday, September 18, 2026**



***Blessed is the  
Ordinary***

**THE WESLEY CENTER  
2350 Methodist Parkway  
Woodworth, LA 71485  
(318) 449-4500**

## The Faculty



**Mary C. Earle, “In the Twists of the Road, In the Turns of the River, Celtic Spirituality for All Our Days.”**

Mary Earle is an Episcopal Priest, author, poet, retreat leader and spiritual director.

Until her retirement she taught classes in spirituality for the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. Mary has authored ten books; the subjects include the spirituality of living with illness, rule of life, Celtic Christian spirituality, the Desert Mothers, and Julian of Norwich. Mary has offered presentations and retreats in a variety of ecumenical settings, including conferences of the Academy for Spiritual Formation, Spiritual Directors International, the International Thomas Merton Society and hospice organizations. She was included in the Living Spiritual Teachers project of Spirituality and Practice.

- Mary recommends two books: *Listening for the Heartbeat of God* by John Philip Newell and *The Celtic Way of Prayer* by Esther de Waal.



**Jerry Webber, “Demystifying Mysticism: The Sacred Ordinary.”**

Jerry Webber is a teacher, spiritual guide, writer, and retreat leader. After 16 years as a Senior Pastor, he founded The Center for Christian Spirituality at Chapelwood United

Methodist Church in Houston, Texas as an intentional ministry of spiritual formation and contemplative life. He served as lead pastor and spiritual guide of The Center for 18 years. In 2018, he transitioned into the next season of life, continuing to companion people who desire a deepening connection with God that makes a difference in the world. He now offers guidance to congregations and persons in contemplative life through spiritual direction, speaking, writing, and consulting. Jerry resides with Paula, his wife, in Bella Vista, Arkansas, where he enjoys spending time outdoors, reading and writing poetry, and hanging out with his grandchildren.

- Jerry recommends two books: *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See* by Richard Rohr and *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

## THE ACADEMY DAILY RHYTHM

- Begins Sunday, September 13, 2026  
Registration will begin at 3:00 p.m.  
Dinner and orientation at 6:00 p.m.
- Daily Schedule, Monday – Thursday
 

Morning prayer	7:30 am
Breakfast	8:00 am
Morning Session	9:00 am
Silent Reflection Time	10:00 am
Plenary Sharing	11:00 am
Community Sharing	11:45 am
Lunch and Free Time	12:30 pm
Afternoon Session	2:15 pm
Silent Reflection Time	3:15 pm
Plenary Sharing	4:15 pm
Holy Communion	5:15 pm
Dinner	6:00 pm
Listening Circles	7:15 pm
Transition to Worship	8:45 pm
Night Prayer	9:00 pm
The Great Silence	(until 7:15 a.m.)
- Concludes Friday, September 18  
before Lunch

## THE COST

The Registration fee includes meals, lodging, lectures, and materials. Registration for a single occupancy is \$700 per person.

Registration must be accompanied by a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Final payment is due by September 13, 2026. After September 1, no refunds will be made.

For answers to your questions or to register:

Call Roy Smith at (501) 350-0330 or email [roy.smith@arumc.org](mailto:roy.smith@arumc.org) or register online at <https://five-day-academy-for-spiritual-formation-2026.raiselysite.com/>

## Registration

**AR/LA/MS 5-Day Academy Sept 13-18, 2026**

Please register online: <https://five-day-academy-for-spiritual-formation-2026.raiselysite.com/>

Be prepared to share the following info:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

- Male  Female  Clergy.  Laity  
 Leadership Team  Faculty

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Denomination \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Name Tag \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Special Housing, Mobility, Dietary Needs:

---



---



---



---

Academy Experience \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer to pay by check, make check payable to “AR/LA/MS 5 Day Academy” and mail to:

Roy Smith  
8 Crestmont Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72227