

The Leadership Team

is composed of clergy and laity committed to an ever-deepening spirituality. Most have completed a 2-year Academy for Spiritual Formation.

The Team includes:

Pat Luna, Retreat Leader

The Rev. Andrew Thayer, Theologian

The Rev. Dr. Cory Smith and Bunny Cox,
Spiritual Directors

The Rev. Dr. Don Saliers and

The Rev. Beth Richardson, Worship

The Rev. Kelly Clem, Covenant Groups
Kathy Norberg, Dr. Jennifer Roth-Burnette
& Pam Townsend, Hospitality and Logistics

The Bishop of the UMC North Alabama Conference and the cabinet of the Alabama-West Florida Conference enjoy Academy.



Camp Sumatanga is located in Gallant, AL and nestled between mountains and a picturesque lake. The peaceful setting provides a wonderful site for contemplation. If you like adventure, hikes, canoes and even a giant swing, are available. Participants receive a single room with private bath in the Retreat Center. Sumatanga is fully accessible. Nutritious and delicious meals are provided and special diets are easily accommodated.

QUESTIONS?

Contact
Kathy Norberg at
kathy.norberg@gmail.com or
850.324.1015

Or

Pat Luna at patluna@me.com or
334-202-9440

Or

REGISTER TODAY AT
northalabamaumc.org

Total cost for room, board, and tuition is \$600. A \$50 deposit is required. Space is limited so register today!

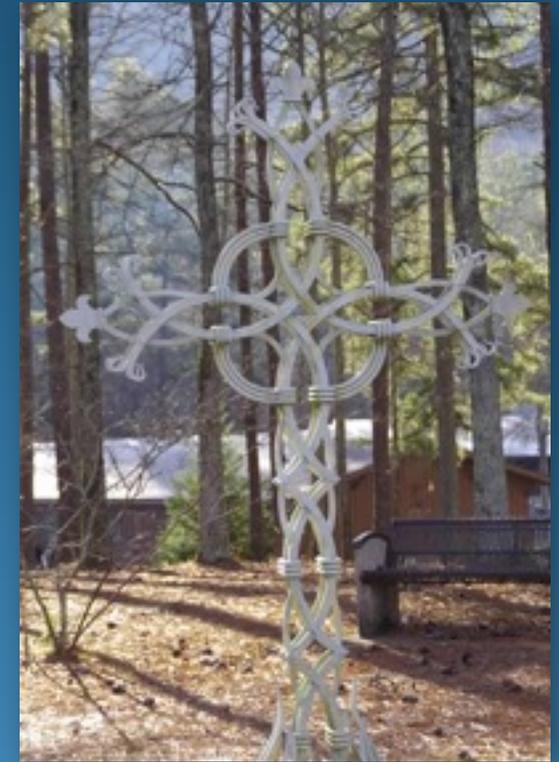


THE ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Sponsored by the United Methodist
Conferences of North Alabama and
Alabama-West Florida and Upper
Room Ministries and
The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

PSALMS FOR LIFE

Praying Alone and Praying Together



A 5-DAY ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

May 4-9, 2015
Camp Sumatanga

What is a 5-Day Academy?

It is a program of Upper Room Ministries, providing an opportunity for clergy and laity to deepen their relationship with God through a daily rhythm of prayer, worship, learning and reflection. Each day includes teachings by gifted spiritual leaders, periods of silence, morning and evening prayer, Eucharist, covenant groups and community time. Time for rest and recreation are also part of each day. Every 5-day Academy has a different focus. The focus of this year's retreat is the Psalms.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is...

- A time for intentional spiritual growth in a disciplined community of prayer, study, worship, and fellowship
- A place where times are set aside for silence to enhance personal prayer and reflection
- A life-changing experience for both laity and clergy to be shaped and formed in the image of Christ for the sake of others
- An opportunity to experience a daily contemplative rhythm of morning prayer, night prayer and Eucharist
- A vessel for healing, rest and renewal

OUR FACULTY



Dr. Roberta Bondi is a popular and longtime faculty member of The Upper Room's Academy for Spiritual Formation and an inspiring speaker, teacher, and retreat leader. She is professor emerita of church history at Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

Bondi is the author of nine books, including her latest, a book of reflections and poetry on the death of her mother: *Wild Things: Poems of Grief and Love, Loss and Gratitude*. Other well-known books are *To Love as God Loves: Conversations with the Early Church, To Pray and To Love: Conversations on Prayer with the Early Church, and Memories of God: Theological Reflections on a Life*.

Dr. Bondi will focus on the many ways the Psalms can be used as a tool for Christian formation and prayer. For centuries, people have turned to the

Psalms for solace, guidance, renewal, celebration and so much more. The 150 Psalms reflect a wide range of experience and expression. Roberta will guide the participants into a greater understanding of the Psalms and how to use the prayerbook of our forbearers to deepen our prayer life and our walk with God.

The Rev. Dr. Don E. Saliers is a United Methodist pastor, Academy for Spiritual Formation faculty, musician, theologian and teacher specializing in homiletics and liturgics. He was the William R. Cannon Distinguished Professor of Theology and Worship at Emory University until his retirement in 2007.

Saliers is the author of seven books including *Worship As Theology, Worship and Spirituality* and *A Song to Sing, a Life to Live* that he wrote with his daughter Emily Saliers, a member of the Indigo Girls.

Don will focus on the use of the Psalms in corporate settings including worship and small groups. The Psalms are both personal expression and communal formation; Don's lectures and worship leadership will explore this relationship in a number of ways, and invite us to bring our own lives and communities of care and ministry to the Psalms throughout the week.