

World Conference

Spiritual Formation and Discernment

Invitation and Information

Delegate spiritual-formation sessions will be included in the 2010 World Conference experience. Sessions will be scheduled as part of delegate responsibilities to pray and discern as they listen for God's guidance for the needs of the church. The First Presidency and the Spiritual Formation Team have collaborated on the following list of spiritual-formation sessions for Monday, April 12, from 2–3:30 p.m. All Conference participants will engage in prayer and discernment during this time frame.

The list of spiritual-formation sessions is provided for your consideration and to help you make a selection for April 12. Registration for the sessions will take place after you collect your Conference books and name tags in the Lower Auditorium (no pre-registration available). Please note: There are 21 sessions in various locations. Maps will be available. Translations will be provided in the four locations indicated.

1. Praying Together for God's Guidance: Intercessory Prayer

Location: Auditorium Chamber (translation services provided)

Facilitators: Dave Brock, Carlos Enrique Mejia, Sharon Hannah

Description: The tradition of praying for one another, the church, and God's world is central to our identity as a faith community. This session will incorporate music, scripture, and intercessory prayer. Participants will be invited to pray for the concerns and needs of the church community, members, congregations, and friends.

2. Dwelling in the Word

Location: Auditorium North Conference Room

Facilitators: Steve Jones, Dave Brown, Paul Davis, Diane Martin

Description: Dwelling in the Word is a way of praying, and reflecting with scripture. The process will invite us to stay with ("dwell in") a scripture text and listen to it deeply as we hear it aloud and silently, as we reflect and journal, and as we notice how God speaks to us through the scripture passage.

3. Discipleship Journey: Discernment and Covenant Groups

Location: Open Arms

Facilitators: Edith Gallaher, Tacy Holliday

Description: This session will explore ways in which Covenant Discipleship Groups provide an opportunity to deepen individual and communal discernment. Participants will have an opportunity to experience one or more spiritual practices that may be used in a CDG setting. Small- and larger-group processing will be included.

4. Discerning through Taize Prayer, Music, and Scripture

Location: Temple Sanctuary (translation services provided)

Facilitators: Jan Kraybill, Scott Giles, Richard Holmes, Scott Murphy, Jeff Rogers

Description: This session will include scripture reading, meditation, prayer, singing the Psalms, and Christian choruses or chants. Participants will have opportunity to light a candle representing the light and peace of Christ as they offer their prayers. This form of Christian worship began in Taize, France, with the ecumenical Christian community of Taize brothers, who offer ministries of peace and justice in many places around the world.

5. Encountering Scripture with Head, Heart, and Hands

Location: Temple Continents Room (translation services provided)

Facilitators: Tony and Charmaine Chvala-Smith

Description: Prayerful reflection with scripture is a central discernment practice. Using a framework of “looking at, looking with, and walking with,” participants will engage in an in-depth encounter with a scripture text.

6. Creating a Prayer Place and Time

Location: Temple Peacemakers Room

Facilitator: Jeanne Earnest

Description: Disciples are called to follow Jesus’ pattern of a daily prayer time and place. Participants will create sample prayer spaces, using resources provided, and discern plans for their personal prayer place and time. A meditative prayer will be included.

7. Moving Deeper into Prayer

Location: Temple Seminar Room

Facilitators: Gail Biller, Lu Mountenay

Description: We pray with varying degrees of attention and openness to God. This session will explore dimensions of prayer in the life and spiritual journey of Teresa of Avila, a 16th-century Christian mystic. We will learn from Teresa’s explorations and experience several prayers designed to draw us deeper into awareness of God.

8. Discernment Pilgrimage: Walking Meditation and Peace Prayers

Location: Temple Meditation Chapel

Facilitator: Denise Leichter

Description: The Temple is sacred space. Its symbols, art, and architecture draw us toward God and the divine vision of shalom embodied in Jesus Christ. This session will include a silent pilgrimage inside and outside (weather permitting) designated areas of the Temple. Participants will be invited to discern God’s call to peace, reconciliation, and healing of the spirit as they walk, meditate, and pray. The pilgrimage will begin and end in the Temple Chapel, where participants will have the opportunity to write a Prayer for Peace.

9. A Deepening Experience of Scripture and a Daily Prayer of Reflection

Location: Temple Lecture Hall (translation services provided)

Facilitators: Kathy Shockley, Terri Rathbun

Description: In this session participants will experience guided narratives of scripture, inviting them to use their imaginations to enter the story more deeply and find new appreciation and understanding. A prayer form known as the *examen*, which is used to reflect on our daily walk with God, will be explored.

10. Mystics and Music: Meditations on the Holy

Location: Temple Theatre 1

Facilitator: Lauren Hall

Description: Mystics cultivate a deeply personal relationship with the Divine. Who are they, and how can their particular insights and intimacy with God provide a pathway for our own longing? Through poetry, prose, and music we will experience meditations on the Holy that invite us to relationship with God in intimate ways.

11. Praying and Discerning with Words

Location: Temple Theater 2

Facilitators: Jim Hannah, Barbara Howard

Description: Words of beauty and spiritual truth can reveal and heal. Participants will listen to and meditate with potentially transformative words. They will be invited to “discern” words of prayer, poetry, or prose and share them in written or spoken form.

12. Holy Attention: Listening for God in All Things

Location: Temple Shalom Place

Facilitators: Donna Sperry, Marlene Krueger

Description: Discover practices to help pay attention to God’s flow in and through daily life. With an emphasis on the Celtic tradition, we will explore ways in which mindfulness can invite us into greater communion with all things. We will engage in simple spiritual practices to help notice God more fully through a deepening awareness of creation, self, and others.

13. Into the Presence: Contemplative Prayer and Discernment

Location: Stone Church Sanctuary

Facilitator: Laurie Gordon

Description: Discernment begins and ends with listening for God’s “still, small voice” in the silence between words. How do we cultivate a quiet heart that is open to God’s presence? We will practice two Christian contemplative prayers that use a word or phrase from scripture to signal our intention to be open to God’s presence, and attentive to God’s activity. Contemplative prayer teaches us to “Be still and know that I am God!”

14. Praying with Scripture: Group *Lectio Divina* (Sacred Reading)

Location: Stone Church Partridge Hall 301

Facilitator: Marvin Rice

Description: Sacred reading (*lectio divina*) invites us to reflect prayerfully with scripture and discern God’s word and invitation for us. Small communities of participants will be guided in prayer and sharing related to a scripture passage.

15. Journal Writing as a Spiritual Practice

Location: Stone Church Partridge Hall 302

Facilitator: Karen Waring

Description: Learn about journal writing as a way to explore your spiritual life and discern God's presence. Personalize your own journal. Reflect and journal with images and questions related to your journey with God. Journals are provided for participants.

16. Capture the Spirit: Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey

Location: Family Life Center Conference Room

Facilitator: Monica Bradford

Description: This class is designed to help families as they nurture the spiritual life of children. We will discuss effective educational strategies and learn to nurture age-appropriate spiritual connections that children already are making. In this class you will have opportunities to learn and experience a spiritual practice with scripture designed for use in family devotions and appropriate across a spectrum of ages.

17. Group Spiritual Direction

Location: Family Life Center Mezzanine

Facilitator: Bruce Crockett

Description: In spiritual direction a trained guide helps us listen to our spiritual life and deepen our discernment of God's will. In group spiritual direction participants reflect on their relationship with God through listening, sharing, and prayerful support in small communities of fellow disciples.

18. Labyrinth Walking as a Spiritual Practice

Location: Family Life Center Gymnasium

Facilitator: Margaret Swartzendruber

Description: The labyrinth is a pattern or instrument for journeying into God's presence with our spiritual questions and needs. The labyrinth provides a sacred place for rediscovering the depths of our souls. Participants will be guided in walking the labyrinth as a healing, discerning process.

19. Responding to Movements of the Spirit

Location: Remnant Church Gymnasium

Facilitators: Dustee Heinze, Dave Heinze, Steve Bolt

Description: God moves in our lives in many ways. This session invites people to notice God in simple meditative tai chi movements by listening to and praying with images, through journaling, and in shared responses and reflections.

20. Praying with Body and Spirit

Location: Remnant Church Sanctuary

Facilitator: Carolyn Brock

Description: The body as an instrument of the spirit helps us discern God's presence and movement in our lives. Participants will be invited to notice their body responses and use gentle prayer gestures and postures to listen to God with deeper attention.

21. Discerning Need and Abundance through Voices of Generosity

Location: Remnant Church Auditorium

Facilitators: Bunda Chibwe, Susan Skoor

Description: What factors nurture and support the spirit of generosity? Why is generosity so natural and prevalent in some cultures? Why is it often expressed most powerfully among those who have great needs? This session will explore the qualities of generosity and hospitality through several cultural lenses. Participants will be invited to discern responses to experiences of need, abundance, and generosity.