



Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren

Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister

March 1, 2018

Dear Moderators and Church Board Chairs of PSWD:

We are writing to ask you to encourage your Pastor(s) to attend the Pastor/Spouse Retreat on June 11 to 15, 2018 (Monday through Friday). As you can see from the enclosed brochure, this is a spiritual retreat designed to treat the whole person, and if married, the pastor's spouse is invited.

Your pastor(s) will engage in wonderful experiences of worship, engaging sessions, and scripture study led by Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, under the theme, "*Believing in your Contemplative Heart — the monastic way,*" opportunities for spiritual Direction with Macrina during the afternoons, and extended times of prayer. We will also have Christian Yoga Instructor and Occupational Therapist, Lorelei Woerner-Eisner leading daily classes.

The only cost of this event is a nominal registration of \$100 per person. There are also travel scholarships available so that everyone who wants to attend, can attend.

There is no mystery about what it takes to be an effective pastor: a strong prayer life, Bible study, life affirming relationships with other pastors, a healthy lifestyle, times of recreation and (if they are married) a strong marriage. This retreat provides opportunities for growth in all of these areas.

Some pastors believe that they are too busy to get away, and thus neglect the very practices that make them effective, vibrant ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We need your help. You can encourage your pastor(s) to attend in the following ways:

1. Assure your pastor(s) that this will not be counted as vacation time or for professional growth - it is a gift of time for renewal and connecting.
2. Consider arrangements so that your pastor(s) will not have to preach the following Sunday so they can truly relax this week and not worry about getting a sermon prepared.
3. Finally, pray for your pastor(s) while they are away.

Thank you for considering this, and we hope your pastor(s) will be joining us in June. We are available to answer any questions you might have.

In Christ's Name,

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