

Theme - FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: EMPOWERED BY THE SABBATH

A GREAT GATHERING OF WOMEN OF COLOR IN MINISTRY

April 22-24, 2010

XAVIER RETREAT CENTER, MORRISTOWN (Convent Station), N.J.

31 March 2010

(Jesus said,) "Come away to a deserted place all by yourself and rest awhile." Mark 6:31

*"Come away ...and rest." The text says, "For they were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat" (verse 31). To those of us who are burdened by the cares of this world and caring for those in our world, Jesus offers rest. Jesus was talking about Sabbath. We need to take time out from the rigors of everyday life. The break refreshes and renews us so that we can attend to the essential matters of each day. We also need to take time out for something. We need time to connect to God. We need time to be present with those we love our family and close friends. We need time to simply be and allow our hearts to dream and imagine. We need time to engage our senses in the wonders of this world. Jesus has given us a marvelous invitation "Come away...and rest." Take time to rest in the presence of the one who loves you beyond measure.*ⁱ*

Dear women of color in ministry,

Like Esther who responded for such a time as this, moving from self care, healing and wholeness toward *empowered leadership*, all women of color are invited, both lay and ordained to participate in a time of worship, education, healing and sharing God's joy. We hope you will join us! Attached you will find the registration form for our gathering.

Objectives of our retreat

- To be refreshed and renewed
- To impact lives through the atmosphere of Word and Worship
- To make this event a transformational experience

Registration: The new deadline for all registrations is **April 13th**.

Registration Fee: As a result of grants received the reduced registration fee of \$185 includes the program, room and board, and all meals. This is the only cost to you.

Partial Scholarships: There are a limited number of partial scholarships available for participants with pressing need. For partial scholarship consideration, please use the form provided and mail with registration form.

Arrival and Departure Times: We ask that you plan to arrive on Thursday April 22 between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. (dinner) and depart on Saturday April 24, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. (after closing worship – box lunch to go). Opening Worship will begin immediately following dinner at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel.

What to wear: Wear comfortable clothes. (Jeans, sweatpants, sneakers etc.)

Tentative activities:

"Give Away"—bring one "give away" item: Most of our American Indian tribal cultures have Give Away Ceremonies. Please bring one "give away item to be given away to another participant. This item may reflect one of your talents, i.e. a piece of artwork you created, a poem you have written, a favorite book you are willing to share with another, or a t-shirt from a fabulous event or a place you love to visit, something practical to use, a favorite item you are willing to part with, etc. The choice of item is meant to tell us a little about yourself, and/or your interests. This will be a great experience!

Remember a woman upon whose shoulders you have stood: As we give testimony, we remember the women who have had the broad shoulders upon which we have stood to come to this moment. Our gathering artwork reminds us of such women. There will be a banner at the event on which you may write the names of these women, and there will be a time to reflect upon them in the healing service.

Meditation

Spiritual Direction-Spiritual direction is a time-honored term for a conversation, ordinarily between two persons, in which one person consults another, more spiritually experienced person about the ways in which God may be touching her or his life, directly or indirectly. Simply put, spiritual direction is helping people tell their sacred stories everyday. The cost is \$10.00 for 30 minute session. (Limited to first six requesting with paid registration)

Healing Touch- Healing Touch is an energy therapy in which practitioners use their hands to enhance and balance the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of their clients. The goal in Healing Touch is to restore harmony and balance in the energy system, facilitating the client's self healing process. Healing Touch is a holistic therapy that is complementary to conventional health care and is used in collaboration with other approaches to health and healing. The cost is \$15.00 for 15 minutes. (Limited to first six requesting with paid registration)

Labyrinth- The Labyrinth has been used for centuries as a "pilgrimage experience." When Christian pilgrims could not get to Jerusalem, they walked the labyrinth. It was a way to ponder how they were walking in the footsteps of Jesus in their daily life.

CALLING ALL ENTREPRENEURS WHO WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THEIR GIFTS AND TALENTS. AN OPPORTUNITY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISPLAY OR SELL MERCHANDISE.

We are looking forward to our gathering!

Your Sisters in Christ,

Women of Color Retreat Planning Committee

Rozella Poston Regina Goodrich Patricia Davenport Leila Ortiz Sarah Geddada

Andrea Walker Jeanine Duncan Peggy Wuertele Linda Bell Miriam Feliciano

ⁱ From The Word in Season, Volume 78, Number 1. Copyright © 2010 Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced by permission.