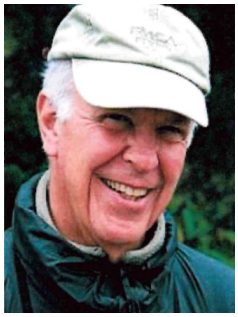


The Soul of Ministry

A Circle of Trust® Retreat
January 31–February 2 | Bottineau, ND

> *"A circle of trust is a group of people who know how to sit quietly 'in the woods' with each other and wait for the shy soul to show up... In such a space, we are freed to hear our own truth, touch what brings us joy, become self-critical about our faults, and take risky steps toward change – knowing that we will be accepted no matter what the outcome."*
> —Parker Palmer



Parker J. Palmer is a world-renowned writer, speaker and activist who focuses on issues in education, community, leadership, spirituality and social change. He has reached millions worldwide through his nine books, including *Let Your Life Speak*, *The Courage to Teach*, *A Hidden Wholeness*, and *Healing the Heart of Democracy*. The description of a Circle of Trust above is an excerpt from his book titled *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*.

Details

This retreat will be located in the peaceful surrounds of Metigoshe Ministries near Bottineau in the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota, with several different lodging options.

Lodging costs vary from $50 to $140 depending on your desire for privacy and comfort.

Registration for the retreat will be through the Synod office. The registration fee is $50. This retreat is limited to a maximum of 30 participants.

Registration for housing will be through Metigoshe Ministries. Contact Loretta Fosberg at 701-263-4788. Single occupancy is limited.

From Participants

"The retreats provided guided opportunities and time to be able to reflect deeply on guiding principles and values for myself"

"I feel a clearer sense of satisfaction and purpose. Each activity helped me to know myself better. It cleared the pathway to be more engaged..."

"I learned to allow heart into everything I do. To embrace each of my (congregants') perspectives, lives, hopes, and interests."

Circle of Trust® Retreats

> *"Spirituality is not primarily about values and ethics, not about exhortations to do right or live well. The spiritual traditions are primarily about reality... an effort to penetrate the illusions of the external world and to name its underlying truth."*
> —Parker J. Palmer

Courage & Renewal® programs for clergy & people of faith are designed to sharpen your discernment, revitalize your vocation, and sustain your service in the world. These retreats provide opportunities to reflect and reconnect with your calling within an honest and non-judging community. Using the principles of the Circle of Trust® approach, you'll discover inner wisdom and courageous practices that can strengthen your faith and ministry.

In large group, small group, and solitary settings, participants will make use of stories from their own journeys, reflections on ministry practice, and insights from poets, storytellers, and diverse wisdom traditions. They are invited to speak earnestly about their lives and work, and to listen and respond to each other—and to themselves—with encouragement and compassion.

The Facilitators

Both Scott and Sharla have extensive experience in ministry themselves, and both have been facilitating Circle of Trust® retreats for educators, clergy and others for many years. They will work with organizers and participants to tailor the retreat plans to meet any particular focus or need.



Author site

Dr. Scott Simpson
Circle of Trust® Facilitator
Learning Specialist
Compass Partners in Learning
ssimpson@bhssc.org



Author site

Sharla Steever
Circle of Trust® Facilitator
Learning Specialist
Compass Partners in Learning
ssteever@bhssc.org

Books by the Facilitators

Together *CircleBridge* • *Human Shaped Learning* • *Relational Landscaping* • *Storywork*

Sharla *My Garden Sprouts* • *Zebras in the Classroom*

Scott *Ed* • *The Immense Silence* • *Canyon Song* • *Fault Line* • *Spirit Rich* • *The World We Mean* • *Use for Kindling* • *Dancin Moon Anthology* • *A Hush Between Seasons* • *Restoration Blues* • *Where the Growth Begins*

What Shared Stories Make Possible

> *"Every individual's experience carries wisdom, and through shared narratives, we can transcend cultural divides, nurture empathy, and foster collective growth."*
>
> —Scott Simpson and Sharla Steever, *CircleBridge: How Stories Bring Us Together*, "CircleBridge Manifesto," preamble

Western North Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.