

Since 1983, the Academy for Spiritual Formation® has offered an environment for spiritually hungry pilgrims, whether lay or clergy, that combines academic learning with experience in spiritual disciplines and community. The Academy's commitment to an authentic spirituality promotes balance, inner peace and outer peace, holy living and justice living, God's shalom. Theologically the focus is Trinitarian, celebrating the Creator's blessing, delighting in the companionship of Christ and witnessing to the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives, churches and the world.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is an experience of disciplined Christian community emphasizing holistic spirituality—nurturing body, mind, and spirit. The program is ecumenical in nature and meant for all those who hunger for a deeper relationship with God, including both lay and clergy persons. Each Academy fosters spiritual rhythms—of study and prayer, silence and liturgy, solitude and relationship, rest and exercise. Academy participants rediscover Christianity's rich spiritual heritage through worship, learning, and fellowship. In covenant community and at a personal level, participants find time and space to discern direction, make covenants, and practice commitments.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation recognizes that the Holy Spirit is the enabling power in all Christian spiritual formation. It is designed to provide a setting where a spiritually disciplined community of lay and clergy can open their lives to receive God's love and grace so that they increasingly may become spiritual leaven within the Body of Christ.

Retreat Leadership Team

Faculty:

Dr. Luther E. Smith
Rev. Tom Albin

Retreat Leader:

Ann Smith

Co-Leader & Hospitality:

Ken Hagler

Spiritual Director & Listening Circles Coordinator:

Deb McCranie

Logistics & Registrar:

Meg Morrison

Worship Leader:

James Keith Posey
Worship Pastor, Ginghamburg Church

Georgia Five-Day
The Academy
for spiritual formation®
THE UPPER ROOM



“A Life of Holiness”
May 1 - May 6, 2016



EPWORTH BY THE SEA



For more information, contact Ann Smith at annsmith828@gmail.com or Ken Hagler at ken.hagler@ngumc.net or check out the following links:

www.ngumc.org
academy.upperroom.org
www.epworthbythesea.org

www.ngumc.org/ga5dayacademy

Dr. Luther E. Smith, Jr., is Professor Emeritus of Church and Community at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. He writes and speaks extensively on issues of church and society, congregational renewal, interfaith cooperation,



Christian spirituality, and the thought of Howard Thurman. Dr. Smith is the author of *Howard Thurman: The Mystic as Prophet* (Friends United Press), *Intimacy and Mission: Intentional Community as Crucible for Radical Discipleship* (Herald Press), and editor of *Howard Thurman: Essential Writings* (Orbis Books), and *The Pan-Methodist Social Witness Resource Book* (A.M.E. Publishing House). He is Senior Consulting Editor for the forthcoming five-volume publication of the Howard Thurman Papers Project. Dr. Smith is Coordinator for the "Pan-Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty." He is an ordained minister of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and has taught for over 20 years in both the two-year and five-day academies for spiritual formation.



Rev. Tom Albin is currently Dean of the Upper Room Ministries and Ecumenical Relations in Nashville, Tennessee.



Tom's academic interests lie in the areas of spiritual formation, Wesley studies, historical theology, mission and evangelism. Recent publications containing his work include: "Methodist Spirituality" in *The T&T Clark Handbook on Methodism* (2010); "The Experience of God" in *The Oxford Handbook on Methodism* (2009); "Inwardly Persuaded": Religion of the Heart in Early British Methodism in the volume "Heart Religion in the Methodist Tradition," edited by Richard B. Steele; *Teach Me to Pray*; a chapter in *Wesleyan Theology Today*, edited by T. Runyan; *Charles Wesley's Earliest Evangelical Sermons*; *Charles Wesley: Poet and Theologian*; and articles related to Methodism and spiritual formation for the *New Dictionary of Christian Theology*, *Dictionary of Christianity in America*.



**Retreat Location:
Epworth by the Sea,
St. Simons Island, Georgia**

Located on the banks of the Frederica River, Epworth by the Sea is a 100-acre Christian Retreat Center with the mission to provide a Christian place for worship, study and fellowship.

Epworth By The Sea is named in honor of the boyhood home of John and Charles Wesley, founders of Methodism. In 1784, John Wesley tenderly recalled his home by writing in his famous journal, "I rode to Epworth, which I still love beyond most places in the world." Though he is said to have ridden 250,000 miles and preached 45,000 sermons, Epworth still held his heart.

Registration

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone (cell):

Phone (home):

Email:

Gender:

Local Church:

Denomination:

Laity Clergy (circle one)

A \$150 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your space.

Registration opens August 1, 2015

Early Registration Rate: \$685.00 (By Oct. 31)

Regular Registration Rate: \$710.00

Have you been a part of Academy previously?

Five-Day Academy of Spiritual Formation

Two-Year Academy of Spiritual Formation

Please indicate any special needs:

All participants must pay in full by April 1, 2016

To register, go to:

www.ngumc.org/ga5dayacademy

For assistance, contact Rev. Meg Morrison

meg.morrison@ngumc.net 706-254-9425

Payments can be made online or by check. Contact Meg Morrison if you need to pay by check.