



## Retreat Guide: John P. Cock

John P. Cock, from Greensboro, North Carolina, has a Master of Divinity degree from the Candler



School of Theology, Emory University, with a major in theology (*Cum Laude*). He is an ordained Methodist pastor. For 16 years he was a Director of the Ecumenical Institute and Institute of Cultural Affairs, Chicago, and a member of the Order: Ecumenical. He and his

family have lived and worked in the USA, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, and South America. He worked in local church research and experimentation in Kansas, Wisconsin, and Illinois. In Washington, D.C., he was special assistant to Bishop James K. Mathews in training United Methodist clergy. Under special appointment of the United Methodist Church, he was director of planning and training with institutions and communities globally.

Over the years, John taught English and headed the English Department of a private school; owned and managed a business in Galax, VA; was an early member, with Thomas Berry, Herman Greene, and others, of the Center for Ecozoic Studies in Chapel Hill, NC, where he helped design and lead the *Our Great Work* seminar. Currently he leads spirituality retreats and *Care for the Earth* seminars with churches and groups. He has been an adjunct faculty member of the Lay Ministry Center, Lake Junaluska, NC. John has written nine books and co-edited two. For more information go to:  
[www.johnpcock.homestead.com](http://www.johnpcock.homestead.com) and  
[www.ReJourney.blogspot.com](http://www.ReJourney.blogspot.com).

## Testimonials from Participants in Other Spirit Journey Retreats:

### Attorney:

*It was a comprehensive, powerful, down-to-earth, honest presentation of the Gospel and our responsibility . . . and absolutely necessary for those of us of faith.*

### Minister:

*John Cock is an unusually gifted and challenging leader. His brilliance, skill, intensity, humor, and deep and abiding faith all contributed to compelling each of us to re-examine our personal belief systems.*

### Business owner:

*My heart, mind and spirit have truly been opened and empowered to go out in my family, community and world to make a difference in Jesus' name.*

### Congressional assistant:

*The retreat was the most challenging, reaffirming and revolutionary religious experience of my life. My soul and my newly found "vocation" will be forevermore nourished and directed.*

### Artist:

*It was truly a GREAT WEEKEND. I loved the challenge to think (for a change), search, take a look at myself and renew my relationship with the POWER that is in charge of all of me. I loved the movie and the discussion following.*



The United Methodist  
Church of Northfield

# Spirit Journey Retreat: Empowering Our Faith



God  
Christ  
Holy Spirit  
Church

February 16-18, 2007

Mount Olivet  
Conference Center  
Farmington, MN



# Spirit Journey Retreat: Empowering Our Faith

The United Methodist Church of Northfield, Minnesota, is happy to announce the *Spirit Journey Retreat: Empowering Our Faith*, February 16-18, 2007. The event will be held at Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington, MN, 16 miles north of Northfield. The retreat begins on Friday evening and concludes early Sunday afternoon.

## Retreat Overview

When you say "God," "Christ," "Holy Spirit," and "Church," what primary images come to mind? The Spirit Journey Retreat is about developing an understanding of these four faith symbols that will empower our lives.

When we understand deep down what God, Christ, Holy Spirit, and Church mean, we can then say yes, *thank you*, and choose to live those meanings. Embodied, these faith meanings transform us from churchgoers to self-conscious disciples whose style of living reflects our Christian beliefs in daily life.

During the retreat we will use the wisdom of Rudolf Bultmann, Paul Tillich, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and H. Richard Niebuhr, four theologians who catalyzed the theological revolution of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These four theologians sum up the meaning of Christianity for our time: Bultmann and his articulation about God; Tillich about Christ; Bonhoeffer about the Holy Spirit; and Niebuhr about the Church.

The retreat is designed to challenge our assumptions and to see in new ways during five sessions of study, dialogue, singing, movie viewing, experimental worship, contemporary communion, meditation, and spirit exercises. It will be a highly engaging, fun, and deeply refreshing time together.

## The Retreat Center

Mount Olivet is a beautiful four-season retreat and conference center with comfortable accommodations and delicious meals. Nestled among 150 acres of rolling prairie, woodlands, gardens and a beautiful lake, the retreat center offers a natural setting for study, interaction and reflection. It is an ecumenical outreach of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Minneapolis.

For more information, see [www.mtolivetretreat.org](http://www.mtolivetretreat.org).

## Schedule

### Friday, February 16

6:00 pm Group Dinner  
7:00-9:30 I. Meaning of God

### Saturday, February 17

7:00 am Group Breakfast  
8:15-11:30 II. Meaning of Christ  
11:30 Open Lunch and Free Time  
2:45-4:30 III. Meaning of the Holy Spirit  
5:00 Group Dinner  
6:00-9:30 IV. Reflection on Christian Symbols

### Sunday, February 18

7:00 am Group Breakfast  
8:15-11:00 V. Meaning of Church  
12:30 Open Lunch and Departure

## Registration Information

The retreat cost is \$150 per participant, with a \$50 deposit due at registration. This includes lodging and linens, six meals, and retreat expenses. The full retreat cost must be received by the registration deadline, January 15. The \$50 deposit is non-refundable after January 15.

Enrollment is limited to 38 participants.

Directions will be provided. Carpooling will be available. The style of the retreat is relaxed and casual. Participants need to be able to attend all sessions – no coming and going, please.

If you would like to help sponsor someone who needs financial assistance, please talk with the Rev. Clay Oglesbee.

If you have questions please contact:

Beret Griffith, Retreat Coordinator:  
507-645-2756 or  
[beretgriffith@charter.net](mailto:beretgriffith@charter.net)

Faye Caskey: 507-645-0793 or  
[cccfc@deskmedia.com](mailto:cccfc@deskmedia.com)

Clay Oglesbee: 507-645-5689 or  
[clay\\_oglesbee@msn.com](mailto:clay_oglesbee@msn.com)

## To Register:

Please send registration form with a deposit of \$50 to:

United Methodist Church of Northfield  
1401 South Maple Street  
Northfield, MN 55057  
Attn: Nancy Finnilla, Spirit Journey Retreat