



GHOST RANCH COURSE

“Becoming Agents of Reconciliation in Congregations and Communities”.



August 2-7, 2010

Course Description:

Anxiety about the future, short tempers and conflicts in churches and communities are some of the by-products of the current economic recession. Congregations can also be devastated by conflicts about ethnicity, worship, gender, age and sexual orientation. This course will equip clergy and lay leaders with constructive approaches to intervene in conflicts which can lead to constructive change. The week will focus on personal skills of deep listening, empathetic identification with others, and joint decision-making. This is a highly interactive workshop using case studies from congregations and communities to hone analytical skills and active role plays to practice constructive ways to respond to conflicts. An additional goal of the course is to assist each participant with developing ways to share course concepts and skills with their home congregations or denominational colleagues.

Instructors:

The **Rev. Dr. Bob Evans** and **Elder Dr. Alice Evans**, Directors of Plowshares Institute, Simsbury, Connecticut are adjunct faculty of Hartford Seminary, the co-authors of *Peace Skills Manual for Community Mediators* and *Peace Skills Leaders' Guide* and former Senior Fellows of the Center for Conflict Resolution at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. They have extensive experience in working with congregations and denominations on issues of conflict. The Evans were nominated in 2003 and 2004 for the Nobel Peace Prize by members of the South Africa Parliament and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Co-leader **Rev. Dwight Lundgren** is National Coordinator of Intercultural Ministry – Reconciliation, for the American Baptist National Ministries

Logistics:

The seminar will take place at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM. This beautiful desert setting provides a stimulating place for personal reflection and learning. The Ghost Ranch seminar fee is \$250 per participant, plus roughly \$300-400 a week for room and board. Accommodation options include: campground, RV hook-up, cabins, dorm style rooms and private rooms with private baths. The excellent meals are served cafeteria style.

For an application or more information about the facilities, please look at the Ranch website: <http://www.ghostranch.org/>. The rates for room and board for 2010 will be available after Nov. 15 2009. For more information on Plowshares Institute and its work world-wide, please look at the Plowshares website: www.plowsharesinstitute.org