

Ministry Team Retreat Information November 1 – 3, 2024

(Register online no later than Monday, September 30, 2024)

Where & When:

Stone Castle Hotel and Conference Center, 3050 Green Mountain Drive , Branson, MO 65616
417-335-4700, <http://www.bransonstonecastle.com/>

Our Retreat Speakers and Theme:

Dave and Gloria McKellips “Lessons Learned from the Journey”

Lodging Reservations:

Register online ([HERE](#)) no later than September 30, 2024. All rooms are released after that date. You can request a King, 2 Queens or Handicap Accessible. The type of room given will be on a first come, first served basis.

Option of Coming Early or Staying Late:

If you would like to go early or stay late at your own expense, the hotel will allow you to arrive up to two days early or stay two days late (according to availability) at our amazing group rate - *we will need to make that reservation for you, so include that information online as you register. Cost per night is \$125. Please send or bring in money - the total amount of the extra nights - to the District office as soon as possible before registration deadline if you are arriving early or staying late. Thank you.*

Cost and what to bring:

The District will, for the fifteenth year in a row, be picking up the bulk of the expense for all lead pastors, interim pastors and full-time staff. We will cover the lodging and meeting rooms and two group meals. In addition, we will give \$20 per person to help with your Saturday evening meal if you are staying Saturday night and plan to attend the full retreat. We will also ask your Church Board secretary to help with travel, meals for travel and childcare expenses. We encourage you to bring some fruit, snacks, drinks and table games. (Snacks and drinks are your own personal preferences.)

Because we must reserve rooms and meals in advance and pay for what we reserve, we ask you as you register to confirm which nights you will need lodging and which group meals you will eat. We are delighted to cover these expenses for you, but do not feel we are being good stewards of District funds if we pay for lodging and meals that are not used. If the District pays for lodging and meals that you reserve but do not use, we ask that you reimburse the District.

Part-time staff members are definitely welcome to attend at a subsidized rate of \$375 per room. (Retreat cost was \$340 per couple in 2009, so this is still a remarkable deal!) You also will receive \$20 per person for your meal on Saturday evening if you are attending the full retreat. \$375 is due with your registration for retreat, which you will need to send or bring into the District office ASAP.

Sunday Pulpit Supply During Retreat

You will need to work immediately to arrange for people to cover pastor and staff's responsibilities on Sunday. For the preaching, we have many retired or licensed ministers, SNU would probably have some faculty or students who could come speak, or you could have a Lay Sunday and have a lay leader preach. Let Dave know if you need help finding someone to preach.

Questions and Registration Deadline

Contact Dave, Gloria, or Katrina if you have questions about the Retreat. We are looking forward to getting away from the routine and having a time of refreshment and encouragement. **Please register no later than Monday, September 30, 2024.** It helps us to have your registration as soon as possible if you know you are going to attend. All rooms will be released after this date.

Why are we having a weekend retreat? (those new to our District may want to know):

- * Helping you truly have a retreat, not having to think about getting ready for Sunday.
- * Helping bi-vocational pastors to be able to attend and hopefully only miss one day, if any, from a 2nd job.
- * Making it easier for working spouses to attend.

Internet

The Hotel offers complimentary wireless Internet access in all guestrooms.

Parking

Outdoor self-parking is available at no charge on the grounds of the Hotel for all attendees.

Room Service:

Room Service and Daily Housekeeping services unfortunately remain unavailable. The hotel is, of course, happy to provide additional guest supplies and exchange towels upon request.

Check-in / check-out

Guest accommodation will be available at 4:00pm on arrival day and reserved until 11:00am on departure day.

Complimentary Hot Breakfast:

Complimentary Hot Breakfast in Breakfast Room B at the Stone Castle Hotel and Conference Center from 6:30 AM to 9:30 AM.