

Ministry Team Retreat 2026 October 23-25, 2026
Special Guests: Dr. David and Christi Busic, General Superintendent
Stone Castle Hotel and Conference Center 3050 Green Mountain Drive, Branson MO 65616
Registration is now open and live [HERE](#) , on your “My District App,” and from the [NEO Website](#).

Cost and what to bring:

The District will, for the sixteenth year in a row, cover your stay and meals while at retreat for all **Lead Pastors, Interim Pastors and Full-Time Staff**. We will cover the lodging and meeting rooms, two breakfasts at the hotel and two group meals. You also will receive an additional \$15 per person for your meal on Saturday evening if you are attending the full retreat, staying both nights (23rd and 24th). 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.)

Part-time staff members are definitely welcome and encouraged to attend at a subsidized rate of \$375 per room. You also will receive \$15 per person for your meal on Saturday evening ***if you are attending the full retreat***. If you are Part-time Pastoral Staff, after completing and submitting your online registration, please send or bring in the \$375 subsidized rate to the District Office **NO LATER THAN SEPT 21st**. Please mark your checks with the church and the person(s) it applies to. **You may also pay \$387 online [HERE](#) (\$12 for processing fee).**

Register no later than Monday, September 21st, 2026. Please have all online registrations completed and any money owed to the District Office no later than this date. (It helps us to have registrations as soon as possible if you know you are going to attend.) ***All rooms are released after September 23rd, 2026.*** You can request a King, 2 Queens or Handicap Accessible. Very few rooms are 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 2 days early or stay 2 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. The cost per night is \$125. Please send or bring in money to the district office - the total amount of the extra nights - as soon as possible before the registration deadline if you plan to arrive early or stay late. **Add \$5 per night for processing fee for credit card payment (\$130 per night). Thank you. To pay by credit card, here is the link: <https://www.neokdistrict.org/give/>.**

Because we must reserve rooms and meals in advance and pay for what we reserve, we ask that, as you register please 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.**

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 Jim know if you need help finding someone to preach.

Questions and Registration Deadline

Contact Jim or Christy if you have questions about Retreat. We are looking forward to getting away from the routine

and having time for refreshment and encouragement. **Please register no later than Monday, September 21st, 2026. 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 September 23rd.**

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

*To help you truly have a retreat, not having to think about getting ready for Sunday.

*To help bi-vocational pastors to be able to attend and hopefully only miss one day, if any, from a 2nd job.

*To make 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

Housekeeping services are available every other day unless requested before that. 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.