

Making a Difference: A Course for Those Who Minister The 2006 Gulf Coast Workshops

Who will care for the caregivers?

The heart of ministry is service to others. That service has been exemplified most recently in the Gulf Coast areas of the United States devastated by hurricanes last summer. Uncounted houses of worship were destroyed or damaged. In some places, entire congregations were uprooted by the wind and water and are now scattered far from their home communities.

Long before rescuers were on the scene, local clergy of every faith and denomination were responding with aid as well as emotional and spiritual support. They are still responding today, working to feed, house, and comfort those who lost everything, working to sustain their communities through the long process of recovery, working to rebuild what was lost.

In recognition of their commitment and effort, and aware that those who take care of others are often themselves overlooked or don't have the time or energy left to take care of themselves, the Mastery Foundation is sponsoring two Making a Difference workshops this summer for these clergy and waiving all fees and room and board costs for those invited to attend.

Why take time in the midst of devastation for a workshop?

The four days of the Making a Difference workshop are a time of renewal and respite. More than that, the workshop provides tools that give participants the power to regenerate their original commitment to ministry at any time and in any circumstances.

These tools enable you to move beyond the constraints placed on you — whether by yourself, by your circumstances, or by others — and to find new power to shape what is possible for the future. As a result, you experience a dramatic increase in your effectiveness and a new ability to make the difference you are committed to making.

These workshops are also an opportunity for ministers to come together with those of other faiths and denominations who have shared similar experiences. In a safe haven from the physical and emotional storms and their aftermath, there will be time and space to deal with the inner conversations and to nourish their own souls in silence and contemplation.

Participants will return home renewed in mind and spirit and knowing that whatever comes, they have access to a wellspring of transformation from which they can continue to create new possibilities for themselves and for others.

How can you participate?

The Mastery Foundation will offer Making a Difference: A Course for Those Who Minister twice this summer for those clergy whose ministry is about dealing with the aftermath of the 2005 hurricanes on the Gulf Coast. The two courses are:

June 19 to 22, 2006
Cenacle Retreat Center
Metairie, Louisiana
(limited to 45 participants)

September 11 to 14, 2006
Beckwith Conference Center
Fairhope, Alabama
(limited to 30 participants)

If you are a member of the clergy, or if you know a member of the clergy, who should be considered for a place in one of these workshops, please nominate them right away. (We will also consider requests from wives or husbands to attend with their clergy spouse.) These Gulf Coast programs are by invitation only. Space at each facility is limited, and we expect the demand to exceed the supply of rooms. Each participant is being provided with a full scholarship that covers four days of room and board plus the program fee.

There is also an opportunity for you to participate by helping us underwrite the cost of these two programs. The Mastery Foundation is a volunteer organization, and its programs are funded entirely by individual donors. A donation of \$1,000 from you or your congregation will pay all the costs to sponsor one person's participation in a Gulf Coast workshop. Contributors of \$5,000 or more toward the Gulf Coast workshops are offered the opportunity to attend one of the workshops as part of the team which hosts the participants and provides support for the production of the workshop.

Contributions of any amount are welcome and appreciated as well as tax deductible. The Mastery Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization.

To nominate someone for participation in the Gulf Coast workshops or to make a contribution, please contact:

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