



FLOURISHING IN THE SPIRIT

**RETREAT FOR COMMISSIONED PASTORS
AND SMALL CHURCH LEADERS**

APRIL 6-10, 2026

Who? All commissioned pastors and small church leaders

What? An opportunity for us to gather with others throughout the Synod of the Sun in similar roles. It is an opportunity to refresh and renew and experience the glory of God following the busy Easter and Lenten seasons.

Where? Camp Gilmont, 6075 State Hwy 155 South, Gilmer Texas 75644

Cost?

Proposed Schedule

Commissioned Pastors/Small Church Retreat April 6-10, 2026

Day 1- Monday, April 6

4:00 Check In, Explore, Rest

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Orientation, Overview, Introductions -

7:45 Opening Worship – Rev. Scott Campbell, Palo Duro Presbytery EP

Rev. Ernest Gardner, Pastor, FPC Denton, TX Music for Event

8:45 Fellowship around the campfire, optional

Day 2 – Tuesday, April 7

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Morning Devotions – *participants sign up to take one?*

9:30 Session 1: Invitation to Retreat – Rev. Ernest Gardner, FPC Denton

10:45 Session 2:

Commissioned Pastors – Excellence in Preaching

Small Church Leaders – How to Pastor When You Don't Have a Pastor – The Art of Congregational/Pastoral Care

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Free time to Rest, Relax, Explore

Ax throwing from 1 to 2, optional

Take a walk, explore Gilmont, enjoy the craft tables, meditate with your pillow; find one of the open-air chapels and pray, walk the labyrinth

4:00 Session 3: Mental Health/Self Care - BOP??? **OR Josh Taylor, PAM, planning worship, liturgy, knowing resources, and leading music in worship**

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Evening Devotions – participants sign up to take one?

7:30 Sharing our Stories: Call stories around the campfire, with s'mores.

Day 3 Wednesday, April 8

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Morning Devotions – *participants sign up to take one?*

9:30 Session 4: Leading through Decline

10:45 Session 5:

Commissioned Pastors – You Don't Have to Do it All – Delegate! **OR POLITY TRAINING – TODD FREEMAN**

Small Church Leaders – Clerk, Elder, Deacon Training –
Why? How? Resources - Molly Castile, Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Free time to Rest, Relax, Explore

Take a walk, explore Gilmont, enjoy the craft tables, meditate with your pillow; find one of the open-air chapels and pray, walk the labyrinth

4:00 Session 6: Project Regeneration & Other Presbyterian Foundation Resources
Josh Kerr, Ministries Relations Officer (?)

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Evening Devotions – *participants sign up to take one?*

7:30 Fellowship around the campfire, optional

Thursday, April 9

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Morning Devotions – *participants sign up to take one*

9:30 Session 7:

Church Finances – The Who, What, When, Why, How – Bill Wiles, Synod Treasurer

10:45 Session 8:

Commissioned Pastors: Moderating and Managing Session Meetings Todd Freeman???

Small Church Leaders: Mission and Ministry Don't Rely on Numbers or Ages –
How to make a difference in your community

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Free time to Rest, Relax, Explore

Take a walk, explore Gilmont, enjoy the craft tables, meditate with your pillow; find one of the open-air chapels and pray, walk the labyrinth

4:00 Session 9: Understanding the Board of Pensions & Its Benefits –
Kevin Keaton (?)

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Evening Devotions – *participants sign up to take one?*

7:30 Fellowship around the campfire, optional

Friday, April 10

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Wrapping Up the Loose Ends – Burning Questions

9:30 Closing Worship with Communion

10:45 Depart for Home