The retreat will be led by members of the St. Andrew's UCC Veterans Ministry Team, the facilitators of the COMPASS Healing Circle, and key mission partners. It will begin with dinner on Tuesday evening and continue through lunch on Thursday. The beautiful surroundings of Kirkridge will offer us respite in the midst of our good work.

Registration
Cost for the Retreat is only $65 per person. This includes two nights lodging and all meals.
Register today by email:
pastor@standrewsucc.org
or by phone: 215-257-2880

The cost of this training is underwritten by a generous grant from the UCC Penn Southeast Conference New Ministries Fund.

Ministering to the Soul Wounds of War

A Workshop for Faith Community Leaders

June 11-13, 2019



KIRKRIDGE RETREAT AND STUDY CENTER

BANGOR, PA

The Call

Tending the soul wounds of war is a critical dimension of care in any community. Also referred to as “moral injuries,” these are unseen wounds borne by veterans related to the experience of war and military service: the dehumanization of others; the violation of one’s own deepest principles and beliefs; killing; wounding, desecration; failure to adequately protect. They also come from betrayal by superiors and in the moral disengagement of the communities they return to. Such wounds are indeed sacred wounds, as they are signs of a fully-functioning conscience and of the deep humanity of the veteran. Our veterans have often had to bear these burdens themselves, their stories unacknowledged and their wounds untended for many years. More recently, key healing professionals with decades of experience working with veterans have issued a call to churches, suggesting that our faith communities have critical resources for the healing of soul wounds that are not readily available in other healing disciplines. This workshop will prepare participants to engage in ministries of healing and post-traumatic growth. You will learn steps in the homecoming journey for veteran and community, what it means to be a congregation where the fullness of a veteran's story is welcome, and how to open to the deep wisdom and leadership that veterans can offer as a result of transformation.

The Retreat

The three-day retreat will be an immersive training experience. Participants will:

-- delve deeply into the truth and paradox of moral injury

-- consider case studies

--listen to veteran testimonies

-- be schooled in pastoral assessment and intervention

-- engage in deep reflection

-- access resources from our faith traditions and communities, including healing liturgies

Circle Process will be introduced and the capacity for deep listening nurtured. We will engage transformational processes that will impact veterans, their families, and civilians. Faith community leaders will be equipped to take concrete action in their congregations and communities.