

Conveners Corner

By Chris Cameron, Co-Convener of Illuman Wisconsin



Greetings Brothers,

I am pleased to be working with Scott Bollen as Co-Convener to form an official Wisconsin chapter. I first became aware of Illuman after reading Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. I subscribed to his daily meditations and then saw an announcement for the combined event with Richard, *Soularize* and *Drawing from a Deep Well* in November 2016. Those events were life-changing for me. If you haven't watched *Drawing from a Deep Well*, I highly recommend watching them [here](#). I subsequently became a regular participant in the Milwaukee Council led by Gary Meagher. I did my Rites of Passage in June 2017 in Sandstone, Minnesota, and I have participated in additional *Soularize* retreats and various events put on by the Illinois chapter.

Like many men I have met, I only became aware of Illuman during retirement in Wisconsin. This is somewhat ironic because I spent most of my career in Albuquerque. As Richard writes in *Falling Upward*, there are three paths: Old Fool, Embittering Journey, and Wisdom Journey to Holy Fool. If you haven't yet encountered those, retirement may bring them to your attention. During my career, I was a scientist and a numbers guy. I had questions, and my faith was not answering some of them. In retirement, it was easy to fall into roles like chair of the finance committee at our church and secretary/treasurer of our condo association, but while those kept me busy, I knew I needed more. I needed relationship with other men and with God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Fortunately, I found men who were at a similar point in their lives on weekly hikes of Wisconsin's Southern Kettle Moraine. We talked about life, and church, and religion. Eventually, we started a book study that met before the weekly hikes, and we read books by Richard Rohr, Bill Plotkin, W. Paul Young, etc. The weekly book study continues to this day, but moved online during COVID-19.

I look forward to the formation of our chapter and the opportunity to increase the opportunities for men in Wisconsin. I expect we will continue to work with chapters in nearby states and hope that we can share the effort involved in event planning and execution. I especially appreciate Scott's effort as Co-Convener to reach younger men like him. I am also pleased that

my son, a Michigan resident, a father, and principal caregiver to a young son, is now participating by zoom in *A FATHER FOR GENERATION ALPHA*.

Blessings, brothers. Our work is important, and I am pleased to join you in it.

Chris Cameron, Whitewater, WI