



**SHEPHERD'S
CANYON** RETREAT
MINISTRY
ARIZONA & MISSOURI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shepherd's Canyon Launches New Missouri Site to Serve Church Workers in Need of Renewal

Canton, Missouri — Shepherd's Canyon has launched a new Missouri retreat site, expanding its ministry of care for **pastors, missionaries, teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, chaplains, worship leaders, and other full-time church workers and their spouses**. This is in addition to the site in Arizona.

One ministry couple who recently attended a retreat wrote: ***"Over the course of the past couple of years, we began to notice signs of burnout...It was impacting our family relationships, our ability to work, our marriage and even led to questioning our Call to serve. It was eventually recommended to us that we both attend Shepherd's Canyon...Our week there turned out to be one of the most powerful experiences of our lives and we came back to our ministry as new people...People regularly comment how they can't believe how much we have changed upon our return."***

-- We praise God for all the miracles He does through Shepherd's Canyon.

Founded in 2009 by Dave and Barb Anderson, Shepherd's Canyon provides weeklong intensive counseling retreats for church workers experiencing **burnout, stress, compassion fatigue, grief, conflict, life changes, sabbatical preparations**, and more to help them reclaim the joy of life and ministry. Shepherd's Canyon, a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has served over a thousand church workers and spouses in the past 17 years.

The new Missouri site is located less than **30 minutes from Illinois and Iowa and less than a day's drive from a dozen other states**. This new location will allow Shepherd's Canyon to serve more church workers while also holding retreats at its Arizona site near Wickenburg.

"We are deeply grateful for the Lord's provision and for the generosity of the **Borland Family Foundation** and other donors and volunteers who have helped make this new Missouri site possible," said Rev. Kevin Bueltmann, Executive Director of Shepherd's Canyon. "Many church workers are carrying heavy burdens quietly. Our prayer is that this new location will make it possible for more pastors, teachers, missionaries, and ministry couples to receive Christ-centered care, counseling, rest, and encouragement so they can reclaim the joy of life and ministry."

Each Shepherd's Canyon retreat is intentionally small, serving up to eight participants at a time. Participants receive professional Christian counseling in both group and individual settings, along with participating in daily devotions, rest, fellowship, and spiritual care from a chaplain. Retreats are designed to provide a confidential and restorative setting where **church workers and spouses can receive help, hope, and healing**.

In preparation for the first retreat, volunteers from both Illinois and Missouri moved furniture, cleaned and prepared rooms, organized supplies, did landscaping and helped get the property ready to welcome guests. A grant provided counseling chairs, creating comfortable and welcoming spaces for group and individual care.

Shepherd's Canyon does not want cost to prevent a church worker from attending. While the actual cost of a retreat is significant, participants are assisted through gifts from **individuals, congregations, districts, foundations, and other ministry partners.**

“Who does a surgeon go to when he or she needs surgery? Where do dentists go when they need their teeth worked on? As skilled as they are, there are some things they can't do for themselves. They need help from someone else. The same thing is true for pastors and church workers. Sometimes they need help that is difficult to do without help. **Shepherd's Canyon exists to provide that help.** We want church workers and their spouses to know they are not alone, and we want the Church to know there is a place where those who serve can be cared for in the name of Jesus.”

Shepherd's Canyon has a strong relationship with other worker wellness ministries such as **“Grace Place Wellness,” “Run Hard, Rest Well,” “Doxology,”** and other LCMS RSOs that focus on our church workers. Those ministries are largely preventative and educational, while Shepherd's Canyon is therapeutic, with 20 hours spent during the week with licensed Christian counselors.

Those interested in learning more, referring a church worker, volunteering, or supporting the ministry may visit: www.ShepherdsCanyon.org

To see photos of the Missouri site, go to: www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/missouri

About Shepherd's Canyon Retreat

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat is a Christ-centered ministry that provides weeklong counseling retreats for pastors, missionaries, teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, chaplains, worship leaders, and other full-time church workers and their spouses. Founded in 2009 and a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Shepherd's Canyon serves church workers through professional Christian counseling, chaplain care, rest, and encouragement.

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Missouri Site Photo

