

For Immediate Release

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**Local Organization Focuses on Caring for
Clergy**

*Retreats and Other Services Offer Safe Place for Pastors and
Ministry Leaders*

Wheaton, IL—From its quiet suburban headquarters, the Transforming Center is reaching out to pastors and leaders across the nation, offering those in ministry roles, an opportunity for spiritual renewal and “a safe place to be honest about the challenges of spiritual leadership.” Gathering in groups in a variety of retreat centers and other serene settings, those whose lives are dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of others find themselves on the receiving end at these retreats.

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“A retreat is an opportunity for us to go away, to be in God’s presence and to give him full access to our souls so that we can be strengthened for the work he has called us to do,” said Ruth Haley Barton, co-founder and president of the Transforming Center, and author of a number of books, including the recently published *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*.

Currently leading a series of National Pastors Retreats at locations around the country, Barton and others from the Transforming Center are taking the message of her latest book to pastors and Christian leaders in the form of retreats—most often in settings of natural beauty and serenity—with a schedule that emphasizes a healthy mix of time spent together in community as well as extended times of solitude for personal reflection and prayer.

Barton, a facilitator for the National Pastors Retreats, adds, “Today the language of what we call a *retreat* has been compromised both in secular and Christian settings. Oftentimes when we go on what is called a ‘retreat’ these days it’s a time that’s full of programming, teaching, and content—and you might have multiple people staying in a room together so you don’t get any time alone—and you go home from the retreat exhausted.”

“That kind of schedule is the last thing a busy pastor or leader needs, so we are committed to making these retreats a time of engaging in a different way of living, when those who come have the opportunity to experience a refreshing rhythm of spiritual practices—of rest, an extended time in solitude, being in God’s presence, praying and hearing what he has to say to us.”

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Coming to the Chicago area next month, the next *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership* retreat will be held on the grounds of the Marytown Retreat Center in Libertyville, Illinois. Beginning Sunday afternoon, November 2nd, the retreat continues through Tuesday morning, Nov. 4.

Dedicated to nourishing the souls of pastors—and the congregations they serve—The Transforming Center’s stated purpose is to “see churches and Christian organizations become communities of authentic spiritual transformation.” For more information or to register for a retreat, visit the Transforming Center online at www.thetransformingcenter.org or call 630-588-8133.

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