

WEIRD CHURCH CAMP

Estes Park Colorado

August 29 – September 1, 2017

There is a growing movement of leaders developing creative expressions of faith communities all over the United States. As innovators they face questions of legitimacy as well as funding barriers from the institutions that they represent. Many feel isolated and misunderstood. They are searching for a learning community where they can show up in their fullness, share stories, ideas, failures and best practices as well as spiritual connection.

There is also a growing number of leaders in traditional churches who are searching for ways to connect the gospel with a post-Christian culture, but they lack the framework and practices to begin experimenting in new ways. They are looking for inspiration and ideas.

Weird Church Camp will gather this diaspora of leaders for 3 days in the beauty of the Rocky Mountains to begin to build those connections and develop a rich learning community. Unlike other training events, this camp will be a time of true Sabbath, where they listen deeply to one another and the Spirit within. It will be a time of renewal, spiritual practice, play, inspiration and learning.

These 75 - 100 leaders will be empowered to return to their ministry settings with fresh ideas and a renewed commitment to be the change that they wish to see in the world.

The Compelling Question: How can we make a difference in the world that ripples out to the ends of the earth?

Key ingredients for the event include:

- Amazing peers from around the USA (and hopefully a few from beyond!)
- Good Food and Drink, shared in community
- Authentic and Compelling Conversation
- Fun play, including outdoor recreation options resourced by YMCA of the Rockies
- Spiritual practice each morning
- Community times enlivened by Playfulness, Mindfulness and, hopefully, Transcendence
- A Minimum of Bullshit or Talking heads

The Design Team

- Beth Estock (Oregon)
- Cathie Kelsey (Colorado)
- Paul Nixon (DC)
- Christian Peale (New York)
- Annette Snedaker (Florida)
- Christian Washington (Texas)
- Kevin Wright (New York)

Sponsoring Groups

- The Epicenter Group
- Path 1 New Church Starts (UMC)
- Illiff School of Theology
- Duke Divinity School
- Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Conferences (UMC)
- The Pilgrim Press/United Church of Christ

CEU's? Yes of course, if you collect such things OR if you are using Continuing Ed funds. 3.0 units

The Cost

- \$200 Early bird registration (through April 30)
- \$269 after May 1

3 Nights Lodging and Meals Tuesday dinner through Friday breakfast (After you register, you will be taken to a link for purchasing your Lodging/Meals package. The following fees do not include taxes, but they will accept a tax-exempt form from your church or organization.)

- \$457 Single (there is a tax on introversion in life.)
- \$278 Double (So, Early bird registration and a Double plan = \$478.)
- \$219 Triple
- \$189 Quad

The Venue and Getting There: YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado (YMCARockies.org). This is not anything like your neighborhood YMCA. It is a first-class retreat and conference facility located at an altitude of 7500 feet, surrounded by majestic mountains, with possibilities for every sort of mountain recreation imaginable from hiking to horseback riding to climbing wall to zip lining to fly fishing (small fees for some of the special activities). Rocky Mountain National Park is adjacent, and available for exploration on the weekends before and after Weird Church Camp. Also, the aspens are likely to be turning in the high mountains on the week we are there. Estes Park is about two hours from **Denver International Airport**, and check in is at 3 pm, so we recommend arrival in Denver by lunch time or earlier on August 29. Please do not schedule your departure flights before 2:30 pm on September 1. Airport shuttle is available for \$80 round trip; but we are more than happy to help registrants connect with one another for carpooling from the airport.