



Michiana Spiritual Director's Network

Fall 2025 Newsletter

Fall Conference – September 25 - Lindenwood Retreat Center

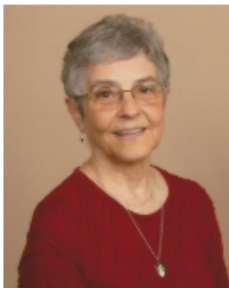
Register by September 1 via the following link!

[Membership-Registration Form](#)

Companioning those on the Margins of Society and their Families/Friends

We are excited to announce the MichianaSDN upcoming program on September 25, 2025 - a day focused on being an informed/compassionate spiritual director/companion to a group of God's people who have been marginalized - people especially targeted in our country at this time.

The MichianaSDN is privileged to have Sister Luisa Derouen, a Dominican Sister of Peace, as our presenter on September 25, 2025, to discuss the challenging topic of being spiritual companions to members of the LGBTQI+ community and their family/friends. In our session, Luisa will help us to understand what is similar - and different - in the spiritual lives of those who identify as lesbian/gay and transgender. She will also help us navigate unique aspects of spiritual direction for LGBTQI+ persons and their family members/friends.



Luisa Derouen - LGBTQ Religious Archives Network

Additional Resources "No Body Now But Yours," a profile of Sr. Luisa by David Van Biema in Outreach June 13, 2024; Interview with Outreach (Fr. James Martin) on "Walking with Transgender Catholics" April 21, 2023

lgbtqreligiousarchives.org

Luisa has been ministering nationally as a spiritual companion, primarily among the transgender community. She has an MA in Liturgy from the University of Notre Dame; her spiritual direction formation was at the Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. She has given numerous preached and directed retreats and directed/companioned many people from very diverse backgrounds. She has also presented at several transgender conferences. In 2021, she created and facilitated a 16-week formation program for people desiring to spiritually companion transgender and non-binary people. Since Luisa's retirement, this program continues to be available through *Fortunate Families*, a national supportive Catholic LGBTQI+ organization.

PLAN TO JOIN US!!! Registration and payment for the Fall Conference are due by September 1, 2025. The conference will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center, 9601 Union Road, Plymouth, IN 46563 from 9:30AM to 3:30PM (Eastern Time). To register online, click the following: [Fall Conf Registration](#). You can also call or text 219-512-5286, email michianasdn@gmail.com or print the form included with this newsletter and send it to the address indicated. **The cost to attend is \$65 – there is a discounted rate of \$35 for dues paying Michiana SDN members.** When registering, indicate if you wish to purchase lunch for the additional cost of \$9.50. If you know of other Spiritual Directors who are not members of MichianaSDN who would be interested in attending this event, please invite them to join us as well by sharing a copy of the registration form with them.

Check out additional info on Sr. Luisa at <https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/profiles/luisa-derouen>.



News from the MichianaSDN Coordinating Council

Jennie Peyton, Coordinator

Eileen Wayte, Registrar/Communication

Joanne Hayden, Assistant

Coordinating Council Update:

SURVEY: Thank you to those affiliated with the MichianaSDN who have responded to the survey that was recently distributed. We VERY much appreciate your input as to how we can make MichianaSDN more beneficial to you in the direction/companioning work you are doing! If you have not yet completed that survey, we have included the survey questions at the end of this newsletter to give you an additional opportunity to provide feedback. Feel free to email your responses to MichianaSDN@gmail.com or bring them with you to the September conference. Thank you!

COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED: In July, the survey email included an attachment summarizing tasks completed by the Coordinating Council. The current council welcomes/needs new members bringing fresh ideas! If you have questions about any role/task, need a new copy of the attachment previously sent or just sense you are feeling called to serve on the council, text Jennie Peyton at 317-478-7127 so we can connect and get you the information you need.

MichianaSDN Dues:

Please consider supporting MichianaSDN through payment of the 2025 MichianaSDN dues. These dues have not changed from 2024 remaining at \$45/year. Members who pay annual dues participate in networking events (2/year) at a discounted rate (\$30 off the non-member rate) - payment of dues helps us to plan/cover expenses. Non-dues paying conference attendees pay \$65 to attend events. Additionally, members are welcome to include their information on the MichianaSDN public website. 2025 dues can be submitted using the 2025 Fall Registration/Membership form - right click the following and select "open hyperlink" [Fall Conf Registration](#).

MichianaSDN Website:

We look forward to discussing your experience with the MichianaSDN website at our Fall Conference. You can checkout the MichianaSDN public website at <https://www.michianasdn.org/>. Also, if you wish to keep your information on this site in 2026, the \$10 annual fee is due in December 2025. Please email MichianaSDN@gmail.com if you are interested in having your information included or updated on the website in 2026.

MichianaSDN Financial Report:

Our last newsletter reported a balance of \$1182.23 (February 2025). Since that time, MichianaSDN received \$639.51 in PayPal transfers and \$1266.00 in cash and checks for a total of \$1905.51 in deposits which, when added to previous balance, totals \$3087.74. Expenses incurred during this time include a refund of a \$30.00 overpayment for the spring conference, speaker fee of \$350.00 and Lindenwood charges (room, refreshments, lunch) of \$673.63 for a total of \$1053.63 in expenses.

As of 7/28/2025 our bank account balance is \$2034.11.

2025 Spring Conference

Thank you to all who attended the 2025 Spring Conference! Comments received on the **Encountering Grace** presentation were overwhelmingly positive and included: speaker was awesome; loved hands-on activities; conversations were excellent with people of different experiences. Many thanks to our presenter, **Bev Hansberry!**



We look forward to seeing you at the Fall 2025 Conference!
September 25th at Lindenwood

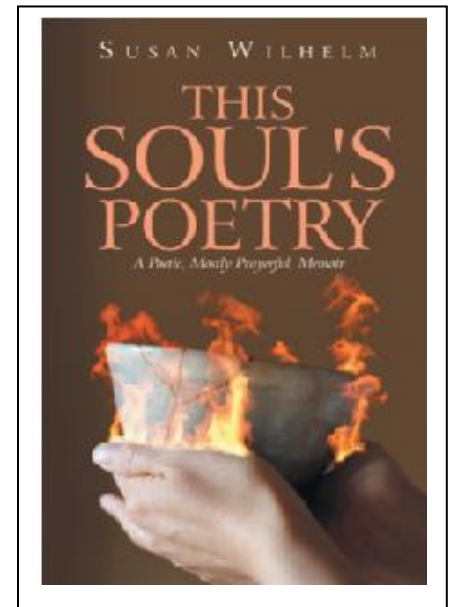
This Soul's Poetry – A Poetic, Mostly Prayerful, Memoir

– by Susan Wilhelm

Sue Wilhelm, a long-time member of MichianaSDN, recently became a published author! Her book chronologically follows the journey of one soul through the poetry she felt inspired to write in prayer. God speaks to the soul in times of presence, beauty, grace and pain. The deeper one grows in relationship to the Spirit, the wider and broader one's heart grows to embrace all God's people and all of creation.

Sue is a Spiritual Director and assists with retreats. She earned both her Master's in Theology and Doctorate in Ministry in Spiritual Direction from the Graduate Theological Foundation. She has had an open heart toward the things of God since a very young age. Part of a religious community for 20 years, she learned the value of journaling and letting the Spirit lead her in writing. She grew up on a farm and still loves gardening and being barefoot in the yard in the summer, creative arts, traveling and all the beings of the earth.

Consider checking this out as you continue your spiritual direction/companioning ministry.



July 2025 Survey (duplicate copy)

If you have not yet had the opportunity to complete the survey sent to you via email early in July, please share your input to help us determine whether current MichianaSDN efforts assist in your Spiritual Direction/Companioning work. Please send your response to michianasdn@gmail.com. Thank you!

- 1) Do the Spring/Fall newsletters provide you with information that is valuable to you?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please elaborate:

- 2) Do you find the MichianaSDN website (MichianaSDN.org) helpful?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please elaborate:

- 3) Do you find the twice-yearly (Spring/Fall) conferences helpful to you?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please elaborate:

- 4) Are the topics covered in the Spring/Fall conferences relevant/supportive of your work as a Spiritual Director/Companion?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please elaborate:

- 5) Are there specific topics you would like to see addressed in the Spring/Fall conferences?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please elaborate:

- 6) Is there a different format you'd like to see used for the Spring/Fall conferences?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please elaborate:

- 7) Do you find the social networking time at the conferences sufficient and/or helpful?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please elaborate: