



A SPIRITUAL RENEWAL RETREAT FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LEADERS, GROUNDED IN COMMUNITY.

June 28 - July 1, 2026

Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

GATHER AT THE WELL

Leadership in Christian education is more than a job—it's a calling. But carrying that calling can feel heavy. As a head of school, principal, vice-principal, director, or school leader, you shoulder the weight of parents' expectations, staff dynamics, student needs, academic standards, board accountability, and spiritual formation—all at once.

On the outside, you're respected and successful.

Inside, you may feel:

- **Exhausted** from always putting out fires
- **Unsure** if you're leading well enough
- **Overwhelmed** by constant decisions
- **Split** by multiple roles—vision-caster, disciplinarian, counselor, spiritual shepherd, manager, fundraiser, and crisis-responder—often all in the same day
- **Faithful, but disconnected** from your own walk with God
- **Struggling** with work-life integration as unrelenting demands often crowd out family and friendships
- **Alone** in the pressures you carry

WHAT PARTICIPANTS WILL EXPERIENCE

This is not just another conference on your calendar. It's a space designed to strengthen you for the work God has called you to. The experience will be **a blend of authentic community, counseling and coaching**—a space to grow not just as a leader, but as a leader of faith. Because **wholehearted leadership is adaptive and soulful**, not simply strategic or technical.

This isn't about adding more to your plate. It's about:

- **Renewing** your clarity and confidence as a leader
- **Aligning** your leadership with your faith and values
- **Building** sustainable rhythms that prevent burnout
- **Growing** alongside other Christian school leaders who share your calling and challenges
- **Recovering** the joy of leading without losing yourself

You can plan for:

- **Focused Engagement** — Every person seen, heard, and challenged.
- **A Safe & Consistent Space** — Securely unravel your mind and soul

THE RETREAT DOESN'T END HERE

A retreat is just the beginning. To sustain this soul work, we must bond together in consistent fellowship, practicing the ways of a rejuvenated heart alongside one another.

In order to do this we will establish

A Cohort – join a small group of fellow retreat members to bring the bond deeper and continue practicing the rhythms and renewals of the retreat.

Monthly 60-Minute Gatherings — The cohort will meet the same day and time each month for consistency. Apply what you've learned, process struggles, celebrate wins, and keep your heart in community month after month.

Ongoing Connection via WhatsApp — Stay encouraged, share wins, ask for help, and check in between gatherings.

CREATED BY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LEADERS

Ben Dirksen - PK-8 Principal
Pella Christian Schools

Aaron Meckes - Head of School
Grand Rapids South Christian High School

Cory Nikkel - Head of High School
Des Moines Christian

Our Vision:

Nourishing healthy leaders who will together advance the mission of Christian education.

RETREAT GUIDES



Jon DeWaal

Founder,
Liminal Space



Aaron Baart

Chief of Staff,
Dordt University

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAD ALONE

Leadership in Christian schools can be isolating—but you were never meant to carry it all by yourself. This space is here to help you step into a more grounded, soulful way of leading—one that keeps your heart awake, your life aligned, and your leadership sustainable.



COST BREAKDOWN

Program Cost: \$1800

What's included in the price?

Lodging, Food, Activities, and Program Costs at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center

What Are You Responsible For?

Airfare & Transportation to and from the retreat center

[REGISTER NOW](#)