

Pathways Retreat

Retreat House Expansion Project

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Pathways Retreat and how did it begin?

The vision for Pathways Retreat began in 2003 when a group of Lutheran and Mennonite folk gathered to imagine a spiritual retreat center within Goshen city limits. The land was purchased in 2006 and Pathways Retreat was incorporated in 2007. *Pathways Retreat is a 14-acre day spiritual retreat center for rest, reflection and renewal with God.*

It includes: moss-covered woodland trails; two winding prayer labyrinths, a wildflower meadow with four meditation alcoves, a cottage for personal retreat, a wheelchair-accessible composting outhouse, and a small retreat house.



Who comes to Pathways Retreat?

Pathways Retreat is a *place that helps the helpers* of our community. 85% of those visiting for personal retreats are clergy and other people in service professions. Many of the people receiving individual and group spiritual direction, attending retreats and weekly prayers, are also the helpers of our community.

Pathways Retreat is a *place of spiritual formation for people of all ages*. Elementary-aged children come to enjoy the woods, walk the labyrinths and sometimes retreat in the cottage with a parent. Middle and high school youth groups come to walk the Stations of the Cross and Resurrection. College and seminary students spend an afternoon here in silent retreat, mindful that tending the spiritual life is especially important given the demands of the ministry or profession that awaits them. Many adults of all life stages are at Pathways to tend life transitions, join in a weekly rhythm of prayer, discern next steps or simply enjoy the beauty of creation.

Pathways Retreat is a *place for a variety of community groups* to meet. Church, education and community service organizations desiring a quiet, prayerful, yet convenient location for a meeting, come to Pathways.

What is this capital campaign for?

As we have noticed the Spirit's movement and listened for God's invitation, we believe we are to enlarge the retreat house. We have explored various options and ideas, have gone through several design iterations, and have finally settled on our ideal plan which includes:

- A Meeting Room for Retreat Activities and Community Groups

Our small meeting space severely limits our ability to open our doors to the community. We turn away numerous community groups looking for a quiet meeting space, and limit publicity of our services because we can't handle more than eight people. The expansion includes a meeting room for 20 people which more than doubles our current space.

- Office Space

The current retreat house has one office and we have two directors on staff. For over six years our co-directors have shared this space with only one of them able to meet with individuals at a time. The expansion includes a necessary second office on the main floor.

- Guest and Meeting Rooms

Three smaller rooms in the basement (with egress windows for natural light) provide needed space for people to go for solitude during retreat break-out times. These rooms will also be used for additional individual retreat space and by our associates for individual spiritual direction.

- Washrooms

Two additional washrooms (one that is ADA accessible) are important for hospitality.

- Handicap Accessibility

Accessibility inside our current facility is limited. The expansion creates an accessible bathroom, office, and meeting area on the main floor making our ministries available to all.

How much are you hoping to raise?

The total cost for this addition with a 10% contingency allowance – plus furnishings, landscaping and parking lot improvements is \$192,500. Our goal is to raise \$157,500 before we break ground, knowing some of the parts of the project can be added once the addition is built.

We hold this project lightly and view it as an experiment. Your actions and those of the broader community will help us understand if this is, indeed, what God hopes to do with this place.

Is my donation to Pathways Retreat tax deductible?

As Pathways Retreat is a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization, your donation is fully tax deductible.

Who owns Pathways Retreat?

As a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization, Pathways Retreat is not owned by any individual or group. It is an independent organization, governed by a board of directors. An executive board oversees day-to-day operations, Julie Stegelmann and Linda Lehman Thomas serve as co-directors and six associates assist with administrative and programming tasks. Pathways Retreat leases buildings and grounds from Steve and Linda Thomas.

Who is the Pathways Board of Directors?

Janice Eigsti Miller	Rachel Schertz*	Julie Stegelmann*
Linda Lehman Thomas*	Melissa Schroeder*	Steve Thomas
Evan J Miller*, Chair	Bodie Stegelmann	*Executive Board Member

How committed is the Pathways Board of Directors?

This group believes in this project and together they have personally committed over \$56,000, over one-third of what is needed to break ground.

What is your long term vision for Pathways Retreat?

Our long term vision is that Pathways Retreat will survive the working careers of the current co-directors and support the spiritual journeys of future generations in our community. Currently, Pathways Retreat has a long-term lease with Steve and Linda. Ultimately, our vision is that Pathways Retreat will purchase these facilities from the Thomas family. Some documents such as a right of first refusal and life insurance beneficiary designations are already in place. In 2019, the Board will begin discernment of a plan for the transfer of ownership from Steve and Linda to Pathways Retreat, Inc. to take place by 2023.

We believe that this project is necessary for financial sustainability and capacity building if transfer of ownership is to happen in this time frame.