



Informal Small Group Retreats

Most folks who visit GilChrist for retreat come for their own for solo, self-directed time or for a formal program led by a facilitator who has rented the whole facility. Occasionally, guests desire to come on retreat with just one or a few others without a formal facilitator. The following information details some of the options and preferences for informal small group retreats with four or fewer participants.

Space for Solitude, Space for Community

GilChrist spaces are designed to maintain a distinction between solitude and community and we encourage our guests to use our spaces in a way that reflects the importance of both purposes. Our reasonable rates and variety of options encourage guests to experience spaciousness in both their personal space and their retreat schedule.

Gathering Spaces

Rates: \$0 to \$120/day depending on group size and needs

WindHill, the main gathering house at GilChrist, is available to all of our individual guests whenever a group has not reserved it for private use. Open spaces include a living room with a fireplace, a meditation loft, and a kitchen. A library and a side chapel both have French doors that close for privacy. Informal small groups may reserve WindHill for their own private use at a rate of \$75/day (larger groups pay the full rate of \$120/day). The Yoga Loft, located at the main office, is another gathering space. An attractive, open space with an attached bathroom and wi-fi access, the Yoga Loft is available to reserve at no additional charge to our overnight guests.

Cabins

Rates: \$45/person per night, \$60/night for family members sharing a cabin

GilChrist has eight cabins, each with capacity for one to two people. Our double cabins (Charlie, Heartstone) have two bedrooms, each with a twin bed and desk, and offer room for both solitude and interaction for up to two guests, but may be reserved by a solo guest at the same rate as a single cabin. Some single cabins (Jeremiah, Karuna, Rosewood) contain a futon in addition to the twin bed in a studio-style space for the option of accommodating two people. The maximum capacity for each cabin is two people, though a few cabins (Hawk's Nest, Heathwood, Prairie) can only accommodate a single individual. Informal small groups are welcome to retreat side-by-side in individual cabins, and we ask that in your gathering times, you respect the quiet for our other guests and consider using a designated gathering space suitable to the size of your group. Families with children who hope to enjoy a quiet retreat together are welcome and should inquire about options.

Tree of Life

Rate: \$45/person /night

With four bedrooms and a common gathering space, Tree of Life is ideal for informal small groups of three to four people who wish to be on retreat under the same roof. Each bedroom has a bed, a desk, and a comfortable chair. The main gathering area features a kitchen, dining room, living room with a gas fireplace, and a screened-in porch.

Reservations

To inquire about availability, please call our main office at (269) 244-1130 or email us at gilchrist@fetzer.org. One person from your small group should plan to act as the point person for communication with GilChrist staff. To complete your reservation, each participant will need to submit the following information: name, e-mail address, phone (cell preferred), and emergency contact name and number (for someone off-site).

Larger and/or Facilitated Groups

Groups of five or more and formally facilitated groups are also welcome at GilChrist. Please inquire to receive more information about our reservation process.