The Franciscan Renewal Center is a spiritual oasis in the desert of the Southwestern US. The spectacular yet secluded 25-acre Franciscan Renewal Center offers a tranquil oasis in the heart of greater Phoenix for quiet reflection, prayer, learning, healing or joyful worship. Their grounds are open to those who are respectful of life and creation, and feature a number of places for individuals to walk humbly with God.

The Franciscan Center will provide a perfect setting for our time together. The campus has a labyrinth, meditation, and desert walk, and healing garden.

You can find out more by visiting their website: www.thecasa.org.

Mandy Smith - Presenter

Originally from Australia, Mandy Smith is lead pastor of University Christian Church, a campus and neighborhood congregation with its own fair-trade café in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is a regular contributor to Christianity Today and Missio Alliance and the author of The Vulnerable Pastor: How Human Limitations Empower Our Ministry. She is the director of Missio Alliance’s She Leads summit and creator of The Collect, a citywide trash-to-art project. Mandy and her husband Jamie, a New Testament professor at Cincinnati Christian University, live with their family in a little house where the teapot is always warm.
Information to Help You Plan!
The estimated cost for this retreat will be $325 for double occupancy and $440 for single occupancy. This amount includes lodging, meals, and cost for leadership. Additional information and a registration form will be available in 2019. We hope this information will help you plan and budget for your participation in the retreat.

Scholarships
Scholarship assistance for the retreat will be available from the Office of Ministry for women with very limited resources. Information about an application process will be announced when the final brochure for the event is available.

If you can’t attend or you or your church are able to contribute to the scholarship fund, checks can be made payable to “Church of the Brethren” and sent to the attention of Nancy Heishman, Office of Ministry, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120. Contributions are much appreciated in assisting your sisters in ministry!

Who is Invited?
This retreat is open to all commissioned, licensed and ordained women in the Church of the Brethren.

Retreat Description
It seems cruel that God would call imperfect humans to represent God’s self. What freedom might we find in Paul’s promise that in our weakness, God is strong? And are we willing to test that promise by daring to let our human limitations be seen? Hear Mandy’s story of learning to boast in weakness and join the conversation as we reimagine how we can minister as, and to, humans. Together we’ll explore personal dynamics of the leader’s own life, how a leader can nurture a human-scale culture of leadership with others and how this culture of leadership becomes evident in everything we do in our service of the Lord.

Free time will be included in the retreat schedule for walking, reflecting, and other activities.

Session One
Getting Over Ourselves
We’ll spend time sharing about the personal, inner dynamics of our own heart.

Session Two
Being True to Ourselves
We’ll explore how we can shape a human-scale approach for our own work and for those we lead.

Session Three
Practicing in Public
We’ll focus on how this kind of leadership becomes evident in the ways we reach out to others in our ministry settings and in the broader community.

Art Workshop Description
Join Mandy for this reflective art workshop (no artistic skill required!) We’ll practice contemplative postures of resting, receiving and responding and leave with a little art to help us remember the lesson.

Need More Information?
Contact the Office of Ministry at 800-323-8039 or officeofministry@brethren.org.