



Doug Yock

Broadening the Reach of This Wonderful Place

Doug Yock, M.D. was elected to the Board of Directors of Spirit in the Desert in 2018, bringing his leadership experience from healthcare to the retreat center. He graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Medical School and completed internship and residency at Stanford University and fellowship at the University of California. Prior to retirement, Dr. Yock practiced neuroradiology at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, where he directed Magnetic Resonance Imaging

and led the development of the neuroscience program.

He served on boards and physician councils of the hospital, its foundation, and Allina Health System, and held leadership positions in a number of national radiology organizations. He also enjoyed teaching during his career, including writing four textbooks of neuroradiology.

Doug and his wife Doris, who is a retired intellectual property attorney, met as college students when they worked at a church summer camp. They are native Minnesotans (St. Louis Park and Northfield), and they settled in Minneapolis after periods of training in Boston and San Francisco. In 2014, they moved to Scottsdale, joined Living Water Lutheran Church, and became acquainted with Spirit in the Desert through the close relationship of the congregation with the retreat center.

After first attending one of Living Water's New Year brunches at Spirit in the Desert, Doug made several solo trips to the campus, drawn by the peacefulness and beauty of the setting. "On my first visit, I sat in the courtyard and soaked in the serenity of the fountain, the desert landscape, and the views. On later trips, I spent time in the labyrinth and among the 'Islands of Silence.' From the beginning, I felt a deep sense of peace and focus on the campus."

Doug is enthusiastic about extending this experience to more guests at Spirit in the Desert. "It's a privilege to be part of this welcoming organization that offers peace and grace to people of all faiths: the peace of the secluded desert setting, and the grace of programs that foster renewal and healing." He notes that the "spirit" at the center is present both in the place itself and in the inspiring faculty and staff.

As a member of the board's Finance and Sustainability Committee, Doug looks forward to helping Spirit in the Desert become a "top-of-mind" retreat center for organizations of all faiths, as well as for other non-profits and academic institutions. He says, "I feel fortunate to work with the dedicated members of the board and the very talented staff to broaden the reach of this wonderful place."