



## **Executive Director**

Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center (SITD) in Carefree, Arizona, invites applications and nominations for the position of Executive Director. In 1993 the retreat center was donated to the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who developed the retreat center as a separate non-profit organization. The Executive Director will magnify the mission of Spirit in the Desert to be a holy place where people experience hospitality and renew their callings in the world. The Executive Director, who will be an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will oversee the life and administration of Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center.

The successful candidate will:

- Represent and advance SITD' mission, values, priorities and goals with the highest of ethical and professional standards
- Establish the business plan and lead strategic efforts to meet stated goals that ensure financial viability
- Foster a culture of learning and innovation and provide leadership with our key institutional networks
- Build relationships with varied faith communities leveraging the Lutheran commitment to interfaith collaboration and welcome.
- Have strong experience in developing relationships among new prospects converting them to donors while fostering current donor relationships

The eight-acre, Sonoran Desert environment that includes open spaces for meditation, prayer, and reflection is a place where people of all racial and cultural backgrounds, religious or non-religious traditions, can experience renewal, reconciliation, healing, and transformation. Lutheran Churches and stakeholders are actively involved with Spirit in the Desert which can provide daily accommodations and meals a day 75-80 guests. Fees for hosted programs, private retreats, charitable gifts, and grants support the non-profit retreat center.

Retreats held at the center have included "Healing of Memories" for veterans and first responders, "Boundless Compassion" for all those seeking to live and share mercy and justice, "Leading Well" for clergy and ministry leaders, and "Spiritual Director Training". Spirit in the Desert has been the site for churches, multifaith houses of worship, and international guests to host personal and group retreats which has attracted 4,186 participants during 2018. The retreat center hosts a mid-week worship oasis of meditation and Holy Communion, provides online Daily Devotions, and offers three desert walking paths on the grounds suitable for quiet meditation and contemplation.

A complete search profile with information about Spirit In The Desert Retreat Center and the desired attributes for the Executive Director will be available July 26 at [www.spiritinthedesert.org](http://www.spiritinthedesert.org) on the home page.

#### **PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS**

Review of nominations and applications will begin immediately, and nominations and expressions of interest will be welcomed until an appointment is made. The appointee is anticipated to take office in January of 2020.

Applications received by September 11, 2019 will be assured of full consideration; these should include a letter of interest that specifically addresses how one meets the qualifications of the position and is prepared to support the mission of SITD , a curriculum vitae or resume, and names of five professional references with email addresses and telephone numbers. Calls to references will occur only later in the search process and only with prior notification of candidates. All submissions will be treated in confidence and should be sent electronically in PDF format to Rev. Melissa Maxwell-Doherty, Co-Chair of the Search Committee at [revmmd@callutheran.edu](mailto:revmmd@callutheran.edu).

A profile of SITD and the search process is attached to this email. To nominate a candidate for consideration, please contact Rev. Melissa Maxwell-Doherty at [revmmd@callutheran.edu](mailto:revmmd@callutheran.edu) or by phone at 805-493-3330 with the candidate name and contact information.