

# **Re-Connecting Soil & Soul:**

## **Healing and Reconciliation with Your Inner Self and the Outer World**



**A 2022 CyberCircle of Trust 4-Retreat Series  
Including The Opportunity for Clearness Committees\***

Facilitated by Circle of Trust® Facilitators  
**Dianne Baker and Megan LeBoutillier**  
In The Kirkridge Zoom Room

*Be in Solitude AND Community in  
Weekend retreats in March, April-May, June, September,  
2022  
With NO Carbon Footprint and NO Travel Costs*

One of the gifts of the pandemic is our learning to be present and in person even when we are online. Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center closed its doors under governor's orders in March, 2020, and expanded from a place in the Poconos of Pennsylvania to an international retreat center. Even as we become vaccinated and move towards ways to safely re-open, we don't want to lose the increased capacity to reach out to many across the globe. Kirkridge faculty members Dianne Baker and Megan LeBoutillier, both Circle of Trust® facilitators, invite you to join them in a courageous experiment for a seasonal retreat series in which you will join them on-line in the Kirkridge Zoom Room —and also have space on the land in your own geographical location.



**WHAT:** a four-weekend retreat series during which you will gather with others in the Kirkridge Zoom Room for reconnecting Soil and Soul AND have time in solitude in your home and community for connecting with Soul of Place.

**DATES:** **March 4, 5, 6, 2022**

**The Courage to Emerge: The Ley Lines of Our Inner Landscape**

**April 29, 30, and May 1, 2022**

**What Lies Hidden: The Soil of Accountability**

**June 10,11,12, 2022**

**Embracing a Spirit of Healing and Reconciliation (including Clearness Committees)**

**September 9,10,11, 2022**

**Claiming Our Wisdom, Sharing Our Story**

**TIME: Each retreat will begin Friday 7pm ET/ 4pm PT and end on Sunday at 3 pm ET/ Noon PT**

You are invited to be in retreat for the entire weekend. During that time, you will be in the Zoom Room (not on screen all the time!) with the online community (in large and small groups and individual reflection) during these times:

**Fridays, 7-9 pm ET/4-6 pm PT**

**Saturdays, Noon -5:30 pm ET/ 9 am-2:30 pm PT**

**Sundays, 1-3 pm ET/10 am-1 pm PT \***

**Sundays in the Zoom Room are optional for March and April retreats but will be an integral part of the June and September retreats. We invite you to spend Sunday in retreat, even if you choose not to be on Zoom on March 6 and May 1. (\*For the first two retreats, Dianne and Megan will hold the Zoom Room open for anyone needing to ask questions. Participation is optional. For the second two retreats the Sunday time will be integral to the retreat.)**

Your facilitators will offer suggestions for time on the land and time in solitude – and of course, we encourage you to use the time when you are not in the Zoom Room in the ways that best allow you to reconnect Soil and Soul.

**WHY:** As Dianne, a Canadian facilitator, and Megan, a US facilitator, shared their feelings of broken-heartedness about the pandemic and climate change and the increasing disconnectedness of humans and nature, they also increased each other's awareness of the stories of death and grief held by the soil in each of their countries:

[Hundreds More Unmarked Graves Found at Former Residential School in Canada - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/canada/indigenous-remains.html)

['I've been very overwhelmed': Survivors gather at former residential school site | CTV News](https://www.ctvnews.ca/story/indigenous-remains/1.554844)

[Volunteers dig up the past, collect soil from lynching sites for EJI museum \(montgomeryadvertiser.com\)](https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/2020/04/20/soil-collecting-lynching-sites-emory-museum/554844)

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/race-lynching-museum-katie-couric-alabama>

As they shared stories and tears, they also named their desire to co-create a Circle of Trust in which participants could do their own inner work to heal in the hope of increasing their capacity to do the work of reconciliation in the outer world.

**CLEARNESS COMMITTEES:** A space will be created that invites slowing down and quieting the inner and outer worlds. An invitation will be extended for persons to serve as Focus Persons for the Clearness Committees\* that will take place during our third session. We will carefully teach the process at that time, as we always do in a Circle of Trust, and those of us who are not Focus Persons will have the privilege of serving as committee members.

***\*The Clearness Committee is a Quaker process that has been adapted by Parker J. Palmer for use in Circles of Trust:*** Behind the Clearness Committee is a simple but crucial conviction: each of us has an inner teacher, a voice truth, that offers the guidance and power we need to deal with our problems. But that inner voice is often garbled by various kinds of inward and outward interference. The function of the Clearness Committee is not to give advice or "fix" people from the outside in, but to help people remove the interference so that they can discover their own wisdom from the inside out. If we do not believe in the reality of inner wisdom, the Clearness Committee can become an opportunity for manipulation. But if we respect the power of the inner teacher, the Clearness Committee can be a remarkable method for helping someone name and claim his or her deepest truth.



**We are between stories now, We are evolving from the world dominated by technology and entering the age of biology when there will be a resurgence of interest in learning how to work with the forces of nature rather than against them. It will be a time for following what feels most natural, organic and heartfelt. And it is a time for understanding that we do not enter the world; we grow out of it, The seeds of our own unfolding future lie deep within ourselves.**

**Michael Jones, *The Soul of Place***

## THE FACILITATORS



**Dianne Baker** lives on the beautiful Sunshine Coast in British Columbia, unceded territory of the Shíshálh people, where she has a practice as a counselling therapist. Dianne has a strong commitment to social justice and human rights work, and deep hopes for building compassionate community. She gathers people in song circles, to share joy, grief, and playfulness, and is also connected to a small and loving church community. Dianne has been a Courage and Renewal facilitator since 2012, and is part of the Kirkridge Faculty, a continuation of her engagement as a Kirkridge Courage Fellow.



**Megan LeBoutillier**, Ph.D., is an artist and a writer. She has been a Courage and Renewal facilitator since 1998. She is a Kirkridge Courage Fellow and a member of the Kirkridge faculty. For half the year she walks the wintery woods of Virginia trying to pay close attention to Nature. For the second half of the year she lives within a community of Homesteaders and organic gardeners.

**COST:** The cost for this retreat is \$400.

**Kirkridge is committed to providing sustainable and generous programming that is accessible to all. And we need your help to continue doing so. The cost of providing this program and paying our facilitators is \$400 per person. We will be grateful if you could contribute an additional amount to help cover the costs of others and as always, all are welcome regardless of ability to pay.**

Please choose the amount below that works for you.

I will pay the true cost of \$400.

I will need financial support but can pay \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I will pay \$500 to cover my cost and help cover the costs of another

**To REGISTER:** <https://kirkridge.org/events/soil-and-soul/>

The deadline for registration is February 15, 2022.

**\*\*For questions, please contact Sally at [couragetoteach@sc.rr.com](mailto:couragetoteach@sc.rr.com)**