Date

Dear               ,

Recently, I learned of an opportunity to participate in *Transforming Community: A Two-Year Experience of Spiritual Transformation for Leaders*hosted by the Transforming Center (Wheaton, IL).  This 27-month journey involves attendance at 9 quarterly retreats beginning Sunday evenings and concluding at 1:00 pm on Tuesdays; it includes substantive teaching on spiritual formation themes and practices, and guidance for incorporating these practices into one’s everyday life in the context of a significant community with other leaders.

As I have pondered and prayed over this experience, I have felt a strong invitation from God to join the next *Transforming Community* beginning --- in Chicago. I believe participation in this community will provide me with the kind of intentional, intimate engagement with God and attention to my own soul I need at this point in my ministry.   If you’d like to learn more about *Transforming Community,*please click on the following link:  <https://transformingcenter.org/transforming-community/> .

At first, this commitment to 9 quarterly retreats over 27 months seemed impossible to me but the more I read about the Transforming Center’s approach to a slow brick-on-brick spiritual transformation process for leaders, the better I understood the rationale for such a commitment.  Their philosophy, confirmed by the experience of many, is that authentic spiritual transformation is not attainable through reading a book, attending a weekend conference, or listening to an impactful podcast.  Instead, the Transforming Center understands that people change incrementally, over time, with others, in the context of spiritual disciplines that open us up to God.  The nine quarterly retreats provide intentional time, space, and structure most pastors and leaders are simply are not able to find on their own—which is why so many eventually lose an authentic connection to God in the midst of their life in ministry, and eventually lose their way.

Over a thousand pastors, ministry leaders, and business executives have now completed or are in the process of completing a *Transforming Community,*and they bear witness to the incredible ways their experience strengthened their souls and the ministries they serve.  Many testify to the fact that they would not be in ministry today if it were not for the Transforming Center.

I am most grateful to have the opportunity to consider this, knowing how important it is for leaders to create space for God to strengthen their souls for the long haul of ministry.  I am writing you today to ask for [financial support OR the time needed to participate in nine quarterly retreats starting -- which means I would be absent from work two days per quarter, not as vacation time but as an investment in my leadership development.]  I strongly believe my own soul and my ministry with [your church/organization] will benefit from this investment of time and attention to the transformational journey.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this request at your convenience and leaders within the Transforming Center would be more than happy to talk with you as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,