

ANNUAL GATHERING · FALL 2026

Spiritual Formation Retreat

Theme

See & Serve:

Moving Beyond Proximity
to Active Compassion

Featured Speaker

Dr. Terence Lester

Friday, October 16 –

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Golisano Community

Engagement Center

Roberts Wesleyan University



nes.edu/events

Details & registration

Schedule

Friday, October 16

Open to the entire community

6:30 PM

Registration & Gathering

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Session 1: Looking Outward

Opening Prayer, Keynote & Evening Reflection

Saturday, October 17

Students & Alumni

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Registration & Breakfast

In person / Livestream check-in

9:00 – 9:10 AM

Welcome

9:10 – 10:00 AM

Session 2: Looking Deeply

Unearthing Corporate History, Truth-Telling & Solidarity

10:00 – 10:45 AM

Personal Reflection

10:45 – 11:40 AM

Small Group Reflection

11:40 AM – 12:00 PM

Worship

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Lunch

Included with in-person registration

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Session 3: Looking Inward & Upward

Sustaining the Soul

2:00 PM

Worship & Closing Commissioning

Session 1: Looking Outward

FRIDAY, OCT 16 • 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Dr. Terence Lester

“The Spiritual Discipline of Proximity: Moving from Observers to Neighbors”

Opening our eyes and hearts. How physical and emotional proximity serves as a spiritual practice, inspired by Jesus's ministry of seeing those rendered invisible.

NOTES

Session 2: Looking Deeply

SATURDAY, OCT 17 • 9:10 – 10:00 AM

Dr. Terence Lester

“Confronting Buried History: Truth-Telling as a Path to Solidarity”

Moving beyond superficial reconciliation into truth-rooted solidarity, lament, and confronting systemic injustice.

NOTES

Reflection & Worship

10:00 – 11:40 AM

Personal Reflection

What did I hear, and what stirred in me?

Small Group Reflection

Where have I been an observer instead of a neighbor? Who can I move toward this month?

MY REFLECTIONS

Session 3: Looking Inward & Upward

SATURDAY, OCT 17 • 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Dr. Terence Lester

“Sacred Resistance & the Rhythm of Rest: Sustaining Faith for the Long Haul”

Addressing compassion fatigue and burnout by replacing toxic busyness with sacred rhythms of rest, solitude, and play.

NOTES

Closing Commissioning

SATURDAY · 2:00 PM · WORSHIP & SENDING

See. Who is in my proximity that I have not really seen?

Serve. What is one act of active compassion I will take this week?

Sustain. What rhythm of rest will keep me going?

MY COMMITMENTS



Thank you for joining us

See & Serve: Moving Beyond Proximity to Active Compassion
Northeastern Seminary Annual Gathering · Fall 2026



Please share your thoughts with us

Take a moment to fill out our post-event survey.