



**Tracy Schmidlin**

My name is Tracy Schmidlin, I attend King of Glory Lutheran Church in Sylvania, Ohio. I made Good News! Via de Cristo #3, in 1987, in Ottawa Lake Michigan, where I sat at the table of Deborah.

One of the take-aways from my weekend was the need for Spiritual Disciplines in my life to enhance and enrich my walk with Jesus. This has translated into my learning more and following a path in Spiritual Direction. Twenty years ago, I completed 3 years of a Spiritual Direction program, and I am currently completing an intensive practicum (graduate program, if you will) that ends with a 10-day directed silent retreat.

I have had the privilege to be a part of the Via de Cristo community since my weekend. My 4<sup>th</sup> day has included positions on my local Secretariat, as well as positions on the National Secretariat Executive Board. I have worked many weekends, served on the 2016 team to host an Annual Gathering and have been attending Annual Gatherings since 1997.

Why? Because I believe our spiritual lives are just that important!

I keep coming back to Annual Gatherings for the value of spiritual friendships within the body of Christ and the encouragement to build the value of Christ in everyday life. There is much to be gleaned from every Annual Gathering, because I believe there is much that Via De Cristo has to offer us as individuals and communities.

Please join us and take time out to hear more about Spiritual Direction and how it can benefit your life, at the Forum #2 on Friday, July 26.