

## Walking in Circles Toward God

Walking in circles is not recommended for people who want to get somewhere – except at the Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center. Here you will find individuals quietly walking the circles of an 11-circuit prayer labyrinth, heading for a place of peace at the center. It is a pilgrimage, of sorts, reminiscent of the Christian pilgrimages of the Middle Ages when Christians traveled to Jerusalem. When it became too dangerous for those Christians to make that journey, they constructed labyrinths at cathedrals and walked the paths instead.

At the Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center, just 30 miles south of Minneapolis, it is all about quiet reflection. It is a place to get away and enrich the soul. The mission is: “Rooted in Christ, and the center is dedicated to nurturing the spiritual, emotional and intellectual growth of all people through caring and creative ministries, quiet reflection and a reverence for life.”

### The 11-circuit prayer labyrinth is a pilgrimage of sorts.

The vision for a retreat center began in 1976, with the purchase of 150 acres of farmland on the shores of beautiful Chubb Lake. Tom MacNally, Mount Olivet’s chief operating officer, said, “A decision was made to open a retreat center close to the city because of the enriching experience so many

young people were having at Cathedral of the Pines. We wanted to provide the same opportunity for adults closer to home.”

That same year, the Ruth Youngdahl Lodge opened to provide a meeting place and dining facility for attendees. The Ruth Cornell House opened in 1980, adding sleeping accommodations and recreational facilities. A chapel overlooking the lake was built in 1999.

MacNally was the center’s first executive director. He was followed by Kay Divine, Pastor Terry Morehouse, and current executive director Carol James.

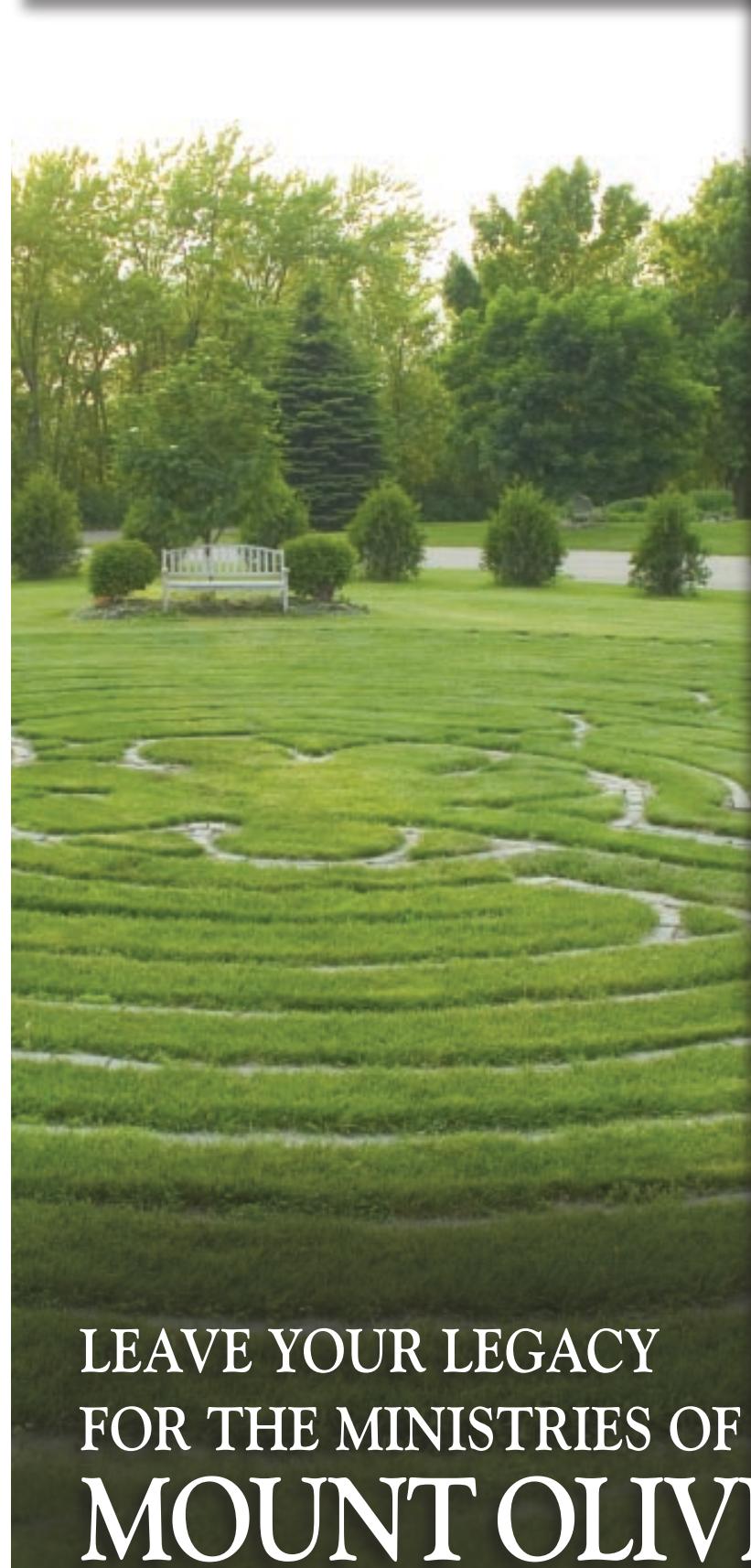
In addition to serving the community, the 20 employees at the Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center serve the environment, as well, with an eye toward conservation and use of environmentally friendly products. “We are doing our best to be good stewards of all of our resources,” said James. “Care of creation is an important part of being a good steward.”

“The Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center allows God to nurture our spirits in a natural setting,” said James. “God speaks to us in different ways. It may happen as we hike through the woods, watch birds at the birdfeeder or even walk in circles in the labyrinth.”

*Sue Haberle*

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OF THE PINES



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LEAVE YOUR LEGACY  
FOR THE MINISTRIES OF  
MOUNT OLIVET

# SELECTING A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

The issue of naming the proper person to act as Personal Representative in a Will is often a difficult one. Deciding on a proper person for this role can slow down the process of completing one's Will. It is our hope that the thoughts expressed here will make selection easier and facilitate completing Wills that might otherwise be delayed.

The job of a Personal Representative (sometimes called "Executor," or "Administrator," or simply "P.R.") is an important one. The primary duties of the Personal Representative are:

- Gather all assets of a deceased person and arrange for the proper custody and care of the assets.
- Arrange for payment out of the estate of the expenses of last illness and funeral, administrative expenses, any taxes that may be due and all other valid claims.
- Distribute the remaining assets to the person or persons designated in the Will, or if there is no Will, to the person specified by state law.

The job of a Personal Representative can be relatively easy or quite difficult depending upon the following:

*Personalities, availability of time to devote to the job, experience, judgment, and even tax considerations along with other factors can all have a bearing on the selection of a Personal Representative.*

- Whether the assets of the estate are simple or complex. For example, an estate consisting exclusively of cash or marketable securities is easier to manage and protect than an estate that holds an operating business.
- Whether the beneficiaries of the estate have a good relationship. When there are tensions among the beneficiaries the Personal Representative's tasks may become difficult.
- Whether there are controversies with others that need to be resolved. Disputes with taxing authorities, creditors, or adjacent property owners can complicate and delay estate administration.
- Whether the Personal Representative has other demanding responsibilities that prevent him or her from addressing estate issues.

## The Right Person for the Job

There is no uniform answer to the question "who shall I designate as Personal Representative?" Personalities, availability of time to devote to the job, experience, judgment, and even tax considerations along with other factors can all have a bearing on the selection. Often people will begin with considering selection of a spouse or child or other close family member. A family member can often be an excellent choice, particularly where the family members generally agree on business and financial matters. Selecting some, but not all of one's children or even selecting all children in a large family may in some situations cause unexpected problems. People experienced in these matters report that most often a family member or members are chosen as Personal Representatives with excellent results.

*The Personal Representative is sometimes called the Executor, Administrator, or simply the P.R.*

In some situations a close friend, business associate or professional advisor is chosen. Also, the possibility of designating a bank or trust company should not be overlooked. These professional Personal Representatives have considerable skill and experience as Personal Representative. Their fees for this service are clearly defined and they will be pleased to tell you how their fee would be calculated.

For many people there is a very clear and logical choice for Personal Representative. If not, the designation should be done carefully and thoughtfully. Your attorney, accountant or financial advisor may also have useful suggestions.

If you have questions or if you have already made a bequest for our church or its affiliates, we thank you and would be delighted if you would contact us to let us know. Please call or send the enclosed form to Mari Carlson, Director of Development, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 5025 Knox Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419, call 612.821.3150, or e-mail [mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org](mailto:mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org).

- I have already made a bequest to Mount Olivet or its affiliates.
- Please send me information about making a bequest to our church or its affiliated organizations.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_