

Frequently Asked Questions re the Ghost Ranch Santa Fe Site
July 23, 2010

Q. Is the Ghost Ranch Santa Fe site being sold?

A. The governing board of Ghost Ranch is exploring options for the lease or sale of the building, and will be making a recommendation to the General Assembly Mission Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Q. Why are these options being explored?

A. The property was purchased by the National Ghost Ranch Foundation in 1990 and deeded to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as an extension of conference center operations in Santa Fe, but the facility has not generated sufficient revenue to cover expenses in the intervening years. Presently, the Ghost Ranch Santa Fe facility is detracting from the ministry possibilities present in Santa Fe and the more expansive facility available at Ghost Ranch Abiquiu, and therefore other options must be explored.

Q. What is the value of the building?

A. We are in the process of obtaining appraisals on the site so the value is not known at this time.

Q. How will Ghost Ranch offer programs in Santa Fe without a physical site?

A. We are excited about concentrating on Presbyterian mission-oriented programs in Spirituality and the Arts, Emerging Church and Sustainability and Creation Care and are in conversation with leading instructors in these areas. We want to partner with our local churches and other nonprofit organizations to host the programs. The participants will stay in the many other lodging facilities in Santa Fe. We currently deliver program using this model in two other geographical locations.

Q. Why would you want to give up the Presbyterian presence in Santa Fe?

A. We are committed to continuing the Ghost Ranch program presence even if we are without the physical location. In addition, Presbyterian Medical Services/Plaza del Monte, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe and Westminster Presbyterian Church are close neighbors and partners in mission and are all strongly maintaining a Presbyterian presence in Santa Fe.

Q. What does this mean for the operations in Ghost Ranch Santa Fe?

A. The operations will cease no later than December 31, 2010. Programs and groups scheduled beyond that date will need to transfer to Abiquiu or to another location in Santa Fe.

Q. What will happen with the staff of Ghost Ranch Santa Fe?

A. Some may be able to transfer to Ghost Ranch Abiquiu and/or work from a Santa Fe home office where applicable. These needs of Ghost Ranch have not yet been determined. We will work with an outplacement service to help employees attain other employment, and severance benefits for employees on the Board of Pension benefit plan are available and currently being determined by the Human Resources staff of the

national church. Debra Hepler, Executive Director, Debbie Manzanares, Contract and Employee Services Manager, and Carole Landess, former host of our Casa del Sol Spiritual Retreat Center are meeting with the staff in Santa Fe to assist the employees during these transitions.

Q. If the property is sold, who receives the proceeds?

A. The building was deeded by the National Ghost Ranch Foundation to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) We would be in conversation with the General Assembly Mission Council to utilize part of the proceeds for the repayment to PCUSA of our prior operating deficits, with the remainder requested to be placed with the National Ghost Ranch Foundation for the endowment and capital improvements funds. Authority to lease or sell, and the distribution of any proceeds are under the purview of the General Assembly Mission Council.

Q. What does this mean for Ghost Ranch Abiquiu?

A. We are committed to the preservation and strengthening of Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, The programmatic, environmental and financial sustainability of Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu is the greatest priority of the Governing Board and the National Ghost Ranch Foundation.

Q. Who do I contact for more information?

A. You can call Debra Hepler, Executive Director of Ghost Ranch, at 505-685-4333 ext. 4142 or email SFsite@ghostranch.org.