

# The Center for Conscious Eldering

Invites you to participate in

## CHOOSING CONSCIOUS ELDERHOOD

*Discovering purpose, passion and the call to service in the elder third of life*

September 14-20, 2026

At magnificent Ghost Ranch, New Mexico



It is in the natural world that we can most easily remember that which is authentic and natural in ourselves, and thus gain an eagle's eye view of our place and potential in the larger web of life. That is why, since time immemorial, at critical turning points in life, people have retreated to wilderness places to focus and intensify their inner questing and then return to their communities renewed and with new insight about how best to contribute in the next stages of their lives. That is why many individuals feeling called to prepare for and claim the role of elder have chosen to experience the Choosing Conscious Elderhood retreats over the past twenty-four years.

There is a big difference between simply becoming old and aging consciously--aging with intent. This retreat, for people in or approaching their senior years (55+), provides a dynamic experiential introduction to conscious aging and the types of inner work that are important on the path toward becoming a **conscious** elder. Such an elderhood is a role that is consciously chosen and grown into through preparation at all levels—physical, psychological and spiritual. We invite you to join us for an inspiring week at Ghost Ranch, a land of great beauty long-recognized as a place with strong earth energy and spiritual power—an ideal setting for supporting the inner work we will engage in.

*This retreat will help you address questions such as:*

- *How can I transform fear of aging into anticipation of the rich possibilities of elderhood?*
- *What does it mean to become an elder at this time of profound cultural transition?*
- *How can the elder third of my life be the pinnacle of my emotional and spiritual development?*
- *How am I called to be of service to the human and earth community as I age?*
- *What inner work do I need to do to age consciously, to strengthen my resilience, and to prepare to fully claim and embody my elderhood?*

**THE FORMAT** Using reflective time in nature, life review and legacy work, ceremony, sharing councils, and a day-long solo, we focus on the major themes of conscious eldering: belief; review and release of the past; living with purpose and meaning; community; and spiritual deepening. Empowered by strong supportive community, skilled guidance, and the heart opening power of the natural world, you will have an opportunity to let go of old beliefs, attachments, and attitudes that no longer serve you, and to get in touch with expanded vision for, and commitment to, your potential as a *conscious* elder..

### RETREAT GUIDES



**Dennis Stamper** is a Clinical Social Worker, a Commissioned Presbyterian Lay Pastor and a Certified Sage-ing Leader with Sage-ing International. He has directed multidisciplinary chronic pain treatment programs and has worked as a hospital chaplain for nearly 20 years. Dennis frequently travels to southern Mexico where he works closely with the indigenous Tzeltal people of Chiapas. To hear his excellent TedTalk on conscious aging, go to <https://youtu.be/8RA1ZGQledM>



**Barbara Anne Roth** switched her focus, after a 45-year career in child and youth development, to the growth and development that happens in the elder, generativity stage of life. After retiring seven years ago and experientially delving into Conscious Eldering and Sage-ing, Barbara has become passionate about using her extensive experiences as a leader, trainer and facilitator to support others in their journeys of conscious eldering.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Ghost Ranch, about two hours from Albuquerque, is located in one of the most spectacular settings in the United States. Ghost Ranch provides clean, rustic lodging and good meals, with various health-conscious options available. This retreat is not physically demanding but does require the ability to walk 1/4 mile on uneven ground.

**RETREAT COST:** \$ 2,145 covering tuition, meals and lodging (**two per room**) in a rustic dormitory setting with bath facilities a very short walk from each room. **Single lodging** in the dormitory is an additional \$250.

**TO REGISTER:** Fill out the Choosing Conscious Elderhood registration form found on our website (with a link on all pages except the homepage), and send it, along with a \$300 non-refundable (unless the retreat is cancelled) deposit to the address at the bottom of the registration form. Make checks out to the Center for Conscious Eldering. To pay using Paypal, please call Ron Pevny. **The registration deadline is August 1st, with full payment due at that time also.**

**QUESTIONS about this retreat:** Contact retreat co-leader Dennis Stamper at 828-443-1087 or [d.stamper@sage-ing.org](mailto:d.stamper@sage-ing.org).

**OUR WEBSITE** [www.centerforconsciouseldering.com](http://www.centerforconsciouseldering.com)