

## Mission and Spiritual Leadership

February 6 – March 2, 2012

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All too often, spirituality and action are treated as separate aspects of religious life. This class will explore ways that these two dimensions are complementary and both needed for the growth of persons and communities. Building on the depths of each participant's tradition, we will explore how to lead individuals and communities into service through spiritual practices, and through spiritual practice to engagement in the world.

The course outcome is that each participant will better understand how to help shape – form, inform, reform, and transform – both individuals and your faith community through involving people in practice of spirituality and action of service.

This course will involve reading material, short videos, and postings by the instructor each Monday. Participants will interact with the reading material and videos and with the other students throughout the course. Each week, participants will explore a theme which applies both to spiritual practice and to community engagement and action. Participants are expected to integrate spiritual practices from their own faith tradition with the theme for each week and then develop ideas for how these practices apply to action of service.

Non-religions books that are useful, but not required for the course:

- *Turning to One Another: simple conversations to restore hope to the future.* Margaret J. Wheatley. Bettertt-Koehler Purlishers, Inc, San Francisco. C 2002
- *Roots for Radicals: Organizing for Power, Action, and Justice.* Edward T. Chambers. Continuum Publishers, New York. C 2003
- *The Thinker's Guide to the Art of Asking Essential Questions.* Dr. Linda Elder and Dr. Richard Paul, The Foundation for Critical Thinking. C 2009 [www.criticalthinking.org](http://www.criticalthinking.org)

Assignments:

1. Read and listen to material provided each week:
  - a. Week 1: Forming: The Spiritual Practice of Listening – to God, to one another, to the world
  - b. Week 2: In-Forming: The Spiritual Practice of Prayer – individual, communal, and in action
  - c. Week 3: Re-Forming: The Spiritual Practice of Conferencing – holy discussions leading to holy action
  - d. Week 4: Trans-Forming: The Spiritual Practice of Worship – entering holy space, then discovering it and developing it in the world
2. Complete responses to two questions posted online each week – by Wednesday, so other class participants can interact.
3. Respond to at least two class participants' postings each week.
4. Write a 3 page paper about Spirituality and Mission, integrating ideas from the class and applying them to your context. Due Friday, March 2, 2012.