



CENTER FOR INTERFAITH PROJECTS

Promoting Understanding and Respecting Differences

E-NEWSLETTER: June 2011 *David B. Myers, Executive Director*

Public Interfaith Dialogues Planned for September 2011 through April 2012: We have a tentative list of topics for interfaith panels that will begin in September. Except for the first panel on women & spirituality (Sept 6, Concordia), we are still in the process of inviting speakers and deciding on places and dates. We invite your suggestions.

1. Women & Spirituality: Young Female Voices from Different Faith Traditions

2. Converts Tell Their Stories:

Becoming a Muslim

Becoming a Jew

Becoming a Mormon

Becoming a Baha'i

3. Religious Prejudice: The Need to Promote Understanding

Three narratives about prejudice: Muslim Mormon Atheist

4. Religion and Sexual Orientation

Members or GLBT community from different faiths will talk about their struggles

5. A Dialogue Between a Hindu and a Buddhist

The Nature of the Self & the Meaning of Liberation

6. Can We Be Good without God?

Four perspectives: Atheism/Islam/Christianity/Buddhism

7. The Experience of Being a Member of A Religious Minority within a Predominantly Christian Community

Jew/Muslim/ Hindu/Mormon/Pagan

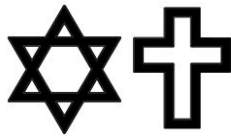
8. Mysticism and Everyday Life: What Implications Does Mysticism Have for How One Lives One's Life?

Practitioners of mysticism address this question.

9. Native American Ministry: How Can Native American Spirituality and Christianity Be Combined? Should They? A Dialogue

Challenging Faith Communities to Help Find a Permanent Solution to the Problem of Homelessness

Are you interested in representing your faith community to work with members of other faith communities to find a permanent solution to long-term homelessness in the FM area? We are partnering with the Committee to End Long-Term Homelessness (part of FM Coalition for Homeless Persons) to put face on homelessness in our community, to inform faith communities about the facts, and to challenge activists in different faith communities to work with us to find a permanent solution to this problem. This is about informed compassionate action: the head as well as the heart must be involved if action is to be effective. The *Center* is working with the Committee to End Long-Term Homelessness to organize an initial informational session for faith communities in which facts will be presented and homeless individuals will tell their stories. This will be followed by a second session at a later date that will offer training for people from different faith communities about what they can practically do to help end the problem of homelessness. For information call David B. Myers: 701 388-7368.



Outreach to Minot, ND

Sunday, May 22, 12:30-2:00PM: At the invitation of its Pastor Frank Picard, I gave a presentation at the Minot Congregational United Church of Christ to Christians from different denominations. The topic: Basic Judaism. I discussed some fundamental features of Judaism, including the central Jewish affirmation called the *Sh'ma* (Hear O Israel *Adonai* is our God: *Adonai* alone); the emphasis in Judaism on deed over creed; and the long tradition among Jews of being an argumentative community—a *community of individuals* who argue with God (*Israel* means God wrestler) and with each other about the meaning of the Torah. I invited questions from the audience, and there was a very lively interfaith conversation. We acknowledged our important differences—for example, on what is required for redemption. We also agreed that we share much in common: for example, values such as compassion and justice that can unite us in interfaith community service. I was the second speaker in an ongoing series that the Minot Congregational Church has organized. Pastor Picard and his congregation are doing important interfaith work in the Minot area.

Interfaith Talking Circles

We are now beginning to organize interfaith talking circles that will meet once a month. Individuals from different religions (or no religion) will engage in respectful conversation on a topic of their choice: the idea is that we all have much to learn from and to teach each other. If you would like to help organize such a group or be a participant, please email or call David B. Myers: 701 388-7368.

Website: Please check out the Center’s website. See, for example, the Sources of Information page where you can click on images of the cover of each book in our library and on links that will provide you with information on world religions and interfaith dialogue. www.centerforinterfaithprojects.org

Facebook: Please befriend us on Facebook. Our Facebook site is always looking for new friends. Befriend it and spread the word.

Guidance: Keep in mind, spiritual searchers, that we provide one-on-one guidance. We not only recommend books and discuss them with you—but connect you with practitioners from different spiritual communities and traditions. Make an appointment by calling 701 388.7368.

Become a Volunteer: *We need your help with a variety of things, depending on your time and talents: ideas for interfaith panels, help designing flyers, creative fundraising ideas, help with social media (Facebook, Twitter), doing publicity, collecting information about faith communities, hosting the Center, preparing & hosting interfaith dinners, etc., etc.*

Donations: We are a 501c3 nonprofit organization. So, donations are tax-deductible. To fund our events, purchase books for the interfaith library, pay the rent, insurance, and meet other costs, donations are needed. Checks can be made payable to *Center for Interfaith Projects*. Send to: *Center for Interfaith Projects 111 Broadway Fargo, ND 58102*

Mission Statement

The mission of the *Center for Interfaith Projects* is to:

- Educate the community about different faiths
- Increase understanding and respect among people of different faiths
- Foster cooperation among local faith communities to solve common community problems
- Help individuals in search of a spiritual home to find one

Location:

**111 Broadway
Fargo, North Dakota 58102**

**Hours: Monday Wednesday Friday 1-4:30PM and by appointment.
701 388-7368**

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