ReSource Online

*We Make the Road by Walking*

Part IV Alive in the Spirit

Summer 2016

Course Information

A. Facilitators: 1) The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Meighen

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B. Class Sessions: Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:15 pm (every two weeks)

In Class: Goodale Conference Room

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

4364 Hardy St., Lihue, HI 9766

Remote Locations: Wherever you have a computer.

C. Texts: 1) McLaren, Brian. *We Make the Road by Walking: A Year-Long*

*Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation.* New York: Jericho Books, 2014.

2) *The Holy Bible*

Preferred: New Revised Standard Version or

Common English Bible

D. Class Description

We are embarking on a journey with God. For most, it promises to be a journey with God like none before. McLaren offers us an invitation to take a new path by which we may be formed in our relationship with God in Christ. The path does not involve theological systematics or church doctrines about which we may agree or disagree. The path sets us on a journey of grounded theology. We start with the biblical text as the Living Word, which speaks down through the ages into our current personal, social, and historical context. We add the thoughts and reflections of eminent spiritual seekers and theologians. We look into our own personal experience through prayer and reflection,

and we share with others. We’re all on a spiritual path that speaks to each one of us through our unfolding relationship with God. It’s a path we make only by walking it with the events and experiences of our life.

A Note on Journal Keeping

This class is about deepening your *relationship* with God in Christ. It’s not about mastering content, as in typical classes, although you will learn content that your mind can chew on. To help this formation process, we’d like to suggest you consider keeping a JOURNAL each week. Your journal is personal and for your eyes only. The content of your journal is yours to choose. Here are three suggestions:

1. Respond to the content of the chapter you’re reading. It may be something that sparks your interest, curiosity, or something that disturbs or surprises you.
2. Respond to one of the questions at the end of the chapter.
3. Look for the signs of God’s presence or activity in your everyday activities through the week.

E. Class Schedule:

5/17 Introduction and Overview

5/31 ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Where Our Inquiries Will Lead:

1. How do you experience the Spirit through letting go, letting be, letting come?
2. Recount a history of your experience with the Holy Spirit. What are some of your most significant spiritual experiences?
3. How would you explain to sincere spiritual seekers ways to increase their experience of the Spirit’s transforming power in their lives?
4. How are you learning to love God, self, neighbor, and enemy?
5. Share your understanding of how the mystery of the Trinity can be a healing (rather than harmful) teaching.
6. How do you experience the Spirit working through you to serve and bless others, and to confront evil forces in our world?
7. How does the Holy Spirit help you face the future, including your own death?

5/31 Overarching Query During Pentecost Season: How can we participate with the Holy Spirit in bringing forth the realm of God among us?

Reading: Chapter 40 – The Spirit Is Moving! Pp. 203-206

Chapter 41 – Moving with the Spirit Pp. 207-210

6/14 Being Led by the Great Commandments

Reading: Chapter 42 – Spirit of Love: Loving God Pp. 211-215

Chapter 43 – Spirit of Love: Loving Neighbor Pp. 216-220

6/28 Love As Unity of Spirit in Diversity of Form

Reading: Chapter 44 – Spirit of Love: Loving Self Pp. 221-225

Chapter 45 – Spirit of Unity and Diversity Pp. 226-230

7/12 Conspiracy for Peaceful Revolution

Reading: Chapter 46 – Spirit of Service Pp. 231-234

Chapter 47 – The Spirit Conspiracy Pp. 235-239

7/26 Gracious Suffering for God’s Justice

Reading: Chapter 48 – Spirit of Power Pp. 240-244

Chapter 49 – Spirit of Holiness Pp. 245-248

8/9 The Tree of Life with Its Fruit for All Seasons

Reading: Chapter 50 – Spirit of Life Pp. 249-253

Chapter 51 – Spirit of Hope Pp. 254-258

8/23 The End Brings a New Beginning: Where Our Road Has Brought Us

Reading: Chapter 52 – God in the End Pp. 259-263

E. Guidelines for Our Group Interactions:

1. PARTICIPATION – All should feel free to share their views but not pressured to do so. Welcome others to contribute by listening from the heart with uncommon interest and kindness. In so doing, you will listen one another into free speech. Express appreciation when someone shares honestly and from the heart.

2. HONOR – We honor one another for having the courage to share honestly and from the heart. Advising, silencing, fixing, upstaging, correcting, or interrupting others often leaves people feeling dishonored, so these responses are to be avoided. Trust that by opening a safe, honoring environment, a space will be made for the inner teacher, God’s Spirit, to guide others.

3. SILENCE – Silence is important in every good conversation. Important insights often arise through silence. Expect that after a silence has become a little uncomfortable it becomes generative and holy.

4. UNDERSTANDING – Each question or prompt is designed to promote something more important than agreement or argument. It’s designed to promote deeper understanding of ourselves and one another. Assured of mutual honor, in the presence of differing views, all will experience greater understanding.

5. BREVITY – In general, err on the side of being too brief and have people ask for more detail or clarity. Become increasingly aware of your part in the group and try not to take more than your share of the group’s time