**4) MENTOR One Another: Consciously draw out the gifts, wisdom and life-giving power of others, and share our own, by mentoring and being mentored.**

**Questions and Practices for Deeper Reflection:**

1. Who in your life would you consider a mentor? How did they mentor you? What difference did that mentoring make in your life?
2. Have you ever formally or informally mentored someone? What were the circumstances? What impact did being a mentor have on you?
3. Is being a mentor a role you consider a regular or “normal” part of your life? What might change in your self-understanding, as well as your daily life, if you were to consider mentoring part of your vocation?

**Personal:** Recognizing the deeply relational nature of the universe, we acknowledge our need for **mentors** from the whole community of creation for the sake of own development as leaders.

**Questions and Practices for Deeper Reflection:**

1. Learning from the natural world and the whole community of creation may come naturally to some and be unfamiliar or awkward to others. Share some wisdom you have gained from the plant, animal or elemental world.
2. Imagine that there are invisible threads connecting everything we can imagine. Now imagine that each being has something to teach every other being. Who or what do you feel you have the most to learn from right now?
3. What assumptions or beliefs do you have that might get in the way of being mentored by the natural world? Do any of these come from your faith tradition? How might an earth-honoring faith encourage a willingness to be mentored by all creation?

**Interpersonal:** We are **mentored** by and **mentor** others, naming the gifts we recognize in one another, and inviting and extending constructive feedback for the sake of our mutual leadership development.

**Questions and Practices for Deeper Reflection:**

1. Name someone in your life who you might consider a mutual-mentor — someone with whom you can both give and receive attention, wisdom and feedback. What qualities of the relationship make this kind of co-mentoring possible?
2. Many people feel shame when receiving constructive feedback. Likewise, many of us are afraid to offer such feedback for fear of hurting someone. What helps you be willing and able to receive and grow from constructive feedback?
3. Brainstorm a list of things you can do or say to people you trust in order to open up the possibility for co-mentoring one another.

**Faith Community:** We seek to develop **mentoring** relationships and a culture of mutual-**mentoring** within all of our communities.

**Questions and Practices for Deeper Reflection:**

1. Many would argue that we live in a shame-based culture. Faith communities are no exception and can often amplify that shame-based culture. Begin to imagine what a culture of mutual-mentoring might look like in your faith community. How is co-mentoring talked about? How is it practiced? How is a mutual-mentoring culture nurtured?
2. Often people will only give us permission to give them constructive feedback if we have both invited such feedback and demonstrated gratitude for receiving such feedback ourselves. How might you intentionally invite and demonstrate gratitude for other people’s constructive feedback?
3. Mentoring is not only about giving and receiving feedback but about drawing out the gifts, wisdom and power of others. Who from your faith community might you want to support in letting their light shine and bringing their gifts, wisdom and power into the world?

**Questions and Practices for Deeper Reflection:**

**Public Sphere:** We seek out experienced leaders of public actions to **mentor**, challenge and teach us as we learn to express our power in the public arena.

1. Many of us can’t imagine faith communities engaging in organized public actions because we have never experienced it ourselves. Is there anyone from your own faith community (or another one you know) who might have experience in this area? Set up a one-to-one conversation with them and see what you might learn.
2. In many communities there are community organizing efforts in which faith communities partner with other organizations to affect change. Research your own area and find out if any such organizations exist. An organizer can likely connect you with experienced leaders in the community.
3. Pay attention to local leaders. Who strikes you as a role model for the kind of leadership you long to activate within yourself or your faith community?