

Who are we?

We are a broad network of volunteer leaders and faith-based communities in the Pacific Northwest who are:

- *recovering* our true vocation as people of faith and citizens of earth;
- *restoring* our sanity in the midst of an addictive culture and economy;
- *reconciling* a right-relationship with all of creation, including all human communities;
- *rediscovering* courage to rise up on behalf of the most vulnerable and oppressed in the face of systems that escalate injustice and climate chaos;
- *reclaiming* our prophetic imagination for the flourishing of an earth-honoring and life-honoring faith, economy, and culture.

Why do we exist?

To identify existing and emerging leaders, develop our leadership potential through EcoFaith's "Practices for Awakening Leadership," and lift one another up to support our faith communities in taking courageous public action to heal human life and recover God's abundant creation. Get connected with us at www.ecofaithrecovery.org!

How can our group, team or congregation engage these practices?

There is no single or right way to engage these Practices for Awakening Leadership. Because experience has shown that our leadership recovers much more fully when engaging these practices in the context of a community of support and accountability, simply find two or more others or any existing team/group that is interested. Then just start!

Possible ways to practice together include:

- Working with one of the six categories per month by engaging a single one of its three practices for each of the first three weeks and using the last week to focus on the overarching category as a whole. This would enable you to move through all six categories twice every year;
- Beginning (or ending) a meal or a meeting by engaging in any single practice;
- Engaging a different practice as a family at the beginning or end of each day;
- Please send feedback and stories of ways you have engaged these practices to www.ecofaithrecovery.org so we can share your story on our website.

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*For the Recovery of Human Life and
the Healing of God's Creation*

IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



Practices for Awakening Leadership Summer 2014

**On either side of the river is the tree
of life...**

*and the leaves of the tree are for the
healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:2)*

www.ecofaithrecovery.org

EcoFaith Recovery's Practices for Awakening Leadership

1) Spiritual Grounding: In order to spiritually ground ourselves in our faith traditions in ways that realign our lives and our communities with the life-giving patterns of God's creation, we...

- a) **Reclaim the Bible**—We reclaim and reimagine our Biblical and theological traditions so that they are a regenerative resource for the healing of ourselves, our communities, and the earth.
- b) **Practice our Theology** —We begin and end each day, meal, and meeting with spiritual practices that reconnect us to God, ourselves, each other and the rhythms of creation. We allow space for the full range of our response, including awe, praise, lament, confession, thanksgiving, re-creation, & celebration.
- c) **Sing and Keep Silence**—We listen for and engage with God in silence, singing, and in the diverse voices and music of creation.

2) Relational Practices: To come out of denial, despair & isolation into spiritual communities capable of taking bold action for the healing of human life and all creation, especially the most vulnerable & oppressed among us, we...

- a) **Engage in Intentional One-to-One's**—We schedule one-to-one conversations each week to recover our relatedness to ourselves, one another, God, and the entire earth community. We risk vulnerability to share our experience with others and generate motivation to act together for the healing of the world.
- b) **Reflect in Groups**—We share what we are learning through intentional conversations in teams to mutually develop leadership capacity.
- c) **Share our Stories**—We practice telling our stories publicly and inviting feedback, trusting that God can use the offering of our stories to inspire justice for people and creation.

3) Praxis which is Action-Reflection-Evaluation -Sabbath: To better align with creation's regenerative cycle of seasons through which we learn, grow and bear fruit as leaders in community, we...

- a) **Act**—We join others in taking bold and strategic action which simultaneously brings healing to ourselves, marginalized human communities, and God's diverse creation.
- b) **Reflect**—We cultivate intentional reflection on our leadership efforts and public actions within our families, teams, and communities.
- c) **Evaluate & Practice Sabbath**—We engage in evaluation after each public action taken by our families, teams & communities. We do not move onto the next daily, weekly or monthly cycle of action without first claiming Sabbath.

4) Mentoring: To consciously develop leadership capacity to participate in recovery of human life & healing of God's creation, we...

- a) **Seek Mentors**—At every stage of life we seek out intentional and explicit mentoring relationships that help us develop a deeper sense of call & greater capacity for leadership.
- b) **Mentor Others**—We mentor those whose vocation and leadership development we are called to nurture for the healing of creation.
- c) **Cultivating the Art of Mentoring New Leadership** —We seek opportunities to learn the most effective ways to develop new leaders capable of engaging our faith communities in taking public action for the recovery of human life and the healing of God's creation.

5) Investment in New and Emerging Leadership: To develop a vast & rich ecosystem of courageous leaders capable of taking public action for the recovery of human life & healing of creation, we ...

- a) **Invite Others Explicitly**—We regularly & personally invite others into developmentally appropriate leadership roles, even when it takes more time & energy than doing it ourselves.
- b) **Name What We See**—We model interest in our own leadership development by naming our own God-given gifts, call, and struggles while offering feedback to fellow leaders about the gifts, call and opportunities for growth we see in them.
- c) **Risk Failure**—We affirm one another's courage in stepping out into uncharted territory, celebrating how mistakes & failures provide rich opportunities for growth throughout creation.

6) Share the Big Story: To participate in God's work of calling us out of silence, apathy, and despair to bring justice to all creation, we offer our words, actions, and lives to publicly...

- a) **Proclaim YES** to celebrating the gift of God's abundant creation,
- b) **Proclaim NO** to the destruction of human communities, diverse species, and their support systems. Our "NO" includes self-critique of the systemic forms of oppression in which we participate and from which we often benefit, and
- c) **Proclaim YES** to a vision of God's reconciling creation in which human lives and human systems are

fruitful in cultivating beauty and resilience throughout creation,

multiply justice for human communities and all species, *and*

fill the earth with right-relationship for the sake of our common life together.