

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

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. Thank you!

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

IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



Practices for Awakening Leadership 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 our faith traditions in ways that realign our lives and our communities with the life-giving patterns of God's creation.

- a) **Reclaiming the Bible**—We reclaim and reimagining our Biblical and theological traditions so that they are a regenerative resource for the healing of ourselves, our communities, and the earth.
- b) **Practicing 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) **Singing and Silence**—We listen for and engage with God in silence, singing, and in the diverse voices and music of creation.

2) Relational Practices which bring us out of denial, despair and isolation into spiritual communities capable of facilitating recovery for our families, neighborhoods and world.

- a) **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. By risking vulnerability in sharing our experience with others, we generate motivation to act together for the healing of the world.
- b) **Reflecting in Groups**—We share what we are learning through intentional conversations in small leadership teams. The purpose is to mutually develop ourselves as leaders so we can engage our communities in taking bold action for the healing of creation, especially our most vulnerable and oppressed members.
- c) **Sharing 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 as Action-Reflection-Evaluation, a sustainable cycle of seasons through which we learn, grow and bear fruit as leaders in community.

- a) **Acting**—We join others in taking bold and strategic action which simultaneously brings healing to ourselves, marginalized human communities, and God's diverse creation.
- b) **Reflecting**—We cultivate intentional reflection on our leadership efforts and public actions within our families, teams, and communities.
- c) **Evaluating and Sabbath**—We engage in evaluation after each public action taken by our families, teams and communities. We seek greater alignment between our own efforts and the cycles and systems at work within God's creation. This necessitates Sabbath.

4) Mentoring to intentionally develop our leadership potential to participate in the recovery of human life and healing of God's creation.

- a) **Seeking 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) **Mentoring**—We mentor to those whose vocation and leadership development we feel led to nurture for the healing of creation.
- c) **Cultivating the Art of Mentoring**—We seek out opportunities to learn and cultivate the practices of effective leadership development to generate bold action among ourselves, our fellow leaders, and our communities for the recovery of human life and healing of creation.

5) Intentional Investment in new and emerging leaders to develop a vast and rich ecosystem of courageous leadership.

- a) **Inviting Explicitly**—We regularly and personally invite emerging leaders into developmentally appropriate leadership roles, even when it takes more time/energy than doing it ourselves.
- b) **Naming**—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) **Risking Failure**—We affirm one another's courage in stepping out into uncharted territory and remind each other that mistakes and failures provide some of the richest opportunities for growth within God's creation and our own lives.

6) Sharing the Big Story that God is at work among us bringing justice to all creation. God call us out of our silence, apathy, and despair to **courageously engage** with words, actions, and lives in:

- a) **Proclaiming YES to celebrating** the gift of God's abundant creation,
- b) **Proclaiming 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) **Proclaiming 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.