The Fetzer Institute’s Efforts to Build a Spiritually-Grounded Community

International Association of Management, Spirituality & Religion Conference

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“I am sure that as you listen, you will hear the ring of truth, first and foremost trying to create a community of freedom within the Foundation (Institute)…”
Welcome & Introductions
Today’s PDW

- Opening Contemplative Offering
- Building & Nurturing a Spiritually Grounded Community – A Community of Freedom
- What have we learned?
- Individual Reflection & Small Group Discussions
- Gallery Walk
- Q&A
- Closing Contemplative Offering
Opening Contemplative Offering
Building & Nurturing a Spiritually Grounded Community
Introduction of John E. Fetzer Institute
Mission Statement

Helping build the spiritual foundation for a loving world.
Long-Term Goal

Our goal is to help catalyze and support a broad-scale, spiritually grounded transformation from an ego-centered way of being grounded in separation and fear to an all-centered way of being grounded in oneness and love, with the result that a critical mass of persons around the world embrace love as the guiding principle and animating force for living in sacred relationship with Spirit, self, others, and the natural world.
Guiding Purpose

To awaken into and serve Spirit for the transformation of self and society, based upon the principles of wholeness of reality, freedom of spirit, and unconditional love, and the integration of the inner life of mind and spirit with the outer life of service and action.
Introduction of Community of Freedom/Community of Freedom Gatherings
Community of Freedom Purpose Statement:

To create a community of freedom that supports us individually and as a community in living into our Guiding Purpose, which is to awaken into and serve Spirit for the transformation of self and society.
Community of Freedom Gatherings

- Weekly
- 3-Hour Gatherings
- Full Community
- Contemplative Offerings
Community of Freedom Gatherings – Two Areas of Focus

1. Full Community
   • Board meeting COFGs: including Fetzer’s current programmatic priority – Healing the Heart of Democracy
   • Team-Building: engaging in difficult conversations
   • Learning about our 25-year program history
   • Way of deepening into our Guiding Purpose
   • Exploring spiritual traditions & religions
   • Exploring four Fetzer core values
   • Engaging in suites of contemplative practices
Community of Freedom Gatherings – Two Areas of Focus

2. Individual & Group Spiritual Exploration
1. COFG Planning Committee
2. COFG Working Groups
   • Contemplative Practices
   • Learning
   • Library
   • Materials
   • Onboarding
   • Website
What have we learned about building & nurturing a spiritually-grounded community?
Shared Leadership
Lived understanding of how our Community of Freedom supports and ties back to mission & purpose
Honoring diversity across all spectrums & learning from feedback
Invitational Nature of Practice
Creating Safe Spaces
1. In your efforts to build spiritually-grounded community within a workplace, what has worked?
2. What has been challenging, or a barrier?
3. What guidance would you offer to help others build spiritually grounded community within diverse workplaces?
4. In today’s society, why do you think it’s important to build and nurture spiritually grounded community within workplaces?
5. What questions do you have about building spiritually grounded community within a workplace, especially a spiritually diverse workplace?
Gallery Walk
Questions?
Closing Contemplative Offering
Thank you!

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