

Contemplative Dialogue® Practicum

A learning community committed to contemplative dialogical practice in all life arenas.

Beginning September 13-16, 2010

A 2 year praxis communal learning experience

Praxis – n. practice, as distinguished from theory; application or use, as of knowledge or skills.

- u Preparing and developing the skills, awareness and knowledge needed to personally integrate, effectively facilitate and/or train others in the practice of Contemplative Dialogue
- u Participants will work and practice in their local professional, community and relational settings
- u Participants will receive ongoing mentoring, learning partnership, and a course of development through a rich blend of group gatherings and multimodal opportunities for learning, reflection and engagement
- u Those choosing to pursue competency standards will be certified to offer Path of Contemplative Dialogue training sessions with the support and contractual licensing of The Centre. They will also be identified and publicly recognized as certified trainers and/or facilitators in this practice.

Vision

The Centre for Contemplative Dialogue seeks to create a community of practitioners and partners to deepen and expand the work. Our vision is to create a community of practitioners who in time will deepen and tend the growth and practice of Contemplative Dialogue. With mutual support and encouragement they will carry the practice outward, translating it and making it available in increasingly diverse communities, organizations and walks of life.

The Centre will support this community with ongoing mentoring, continual development of resources and ongoing learning opportunities which help sustain the standards and deep integrity of the practice.

We invite you to become a part of this adventure, which some current participants have described as 'life-altering' and helping them to 'live with deeper integrity.'

Structure of the Practicum

This two year practicum will involve participants in active practice, skill development, and reflective learning in community. To date participants have been from Canada, Jamaica and the United States. Distance participants in Australia are working in the developmental phases of the practicum.

Gathering the Group

- u Three previous practicum groups have been formed. The first completed its formal two year training in January of 2008. The third began in March of 2009.
- u The next group is presently forming as interested and committed participants have made their interest known. The initial gathering is scheduled for September 13-16, 2010.

Practicum Sessions

- u Opening Gathering. This 4 day gathering will actively engage the group in the practicum work and begin to create the learning community.
- u Residential Integration Session, at the end of year one at a site convenient to participants.
- u Closing Integration Session, at the close of the second year (dates to be determined with the group's input).
- u Monthly group conversation – This 90 minute teleconference will take place one evening each month, at 7:30 pm Eastern Time, 4:30 pm Pacific Time. It will blend input with reflection and conversation in both large and small group formats.

Practicum Elements

- u Mentoring – Each participant will be engaged in monthly mentoring, a one hour telephone session that focuses on the individual's practice. Mentoring will support participants in reflectively planning, engaging and learning from their work.
- u Online learning journal – Participants and facilitation team members contribute to a group online learning journal. This practice encourages shared learning and reflection, and group accountability for the discipline of the work.
- u Learning Partner Contacts – Participants will be involved in learning partnerships by supporting and maintaining monthly phone calls. In practice, these became active support relationships with greater frequency chosen by group members.
- u Learning materials – Streaming media of monthly session materials will be available online. Various books will be used to support and encourage learning depth.
- u Required practice – Participants will create presentations needed in this work. This supports participants in developing their language, stories, and comfort in introducing and explaining the practice in diverse relational settings and audiences.

- u Training opportunities – Interested participants will be actively supported in developing and participating in training events as facilitators. Readiness for, and availability of events will be individually coordinated over the course of the two years and beyond.
- u Time requirements – We anticipate an average time commitment of 4 hours per week to do the necessary group work, reflection, practice, and reading. We assume that participants will draw on any variety of current and everyday involvements as rich opportunities for real life practice and development. This real time use of the skills and awarenesses is not included in the time estimate.

Cost

Annual tuition for the practicum is \$4,500 US. Tuition covers lunch during residential sessions, monthly teleconference and mentoring sessions, distributed materials, etc. Participants are responsible for their own transportation, lodging arrangements and meals at residential sessions.

An initial payment of \$750 is required upon acceptance. The balance may be paid at the initial residential gathering. Flexible payment arrangements (monthly or quarterly installments) may be arranged.

Team

The practicum will be team led by two experienced Contemplative Dialogue trainers. Interested participants are invited to speak with past team members. The team is:

Jean Holsten is a licensed attorney who discovered a preference for and a power in dialogue over debate. She has extensive experience as a trainer, consultant and facilitator. She currently is executive director of the innovative Spirit in the Arts Center in West Sacramento, California. Her own experience of nonviolence has been enriched by her practice in various communal and organizational settings across the U.S.

Steven Wirth is director of The Centre for Contemplative Dialogue. Since 1989 he has been practicing and developing an understanding of this work and its application with diverse organizations, communities and individuals. His hope and passion is to develop a vibrant community of practitioners and collaborators to creatively sustain, develop with integrity and generously share the practice of Contemplative Dialogue.

Application

For further info or to explore participating, please call Steven Wirth at U.S. 502-212-4311 or in Canada 780-669-1256. Email contact is sw@contemplativedialogue.org

After an initial phone conversation, we will arrange an interview with the full team to explore your involvement in this rich learning endeavor. We seek participants who bring a desire to live this practice with integrity, are willing to take risks in the service of their learning, and who will offer the fruits of their learning to others.

Attending a 4 day Mindful Leadership: The Path of Contemplative Dialogue session is a requirement for participation. We'd like you to be exposed more deeply to what you're committing to.

We are open to participants with diverse backgrounds and personal styles (so please don't *assume* you won't fit). Current and past participants have come from a wide range of professional and personal backgrounds. Our desire is for participants who have a genuine desire to deepen the practice in their own life circumstances.

Conversation with current and past practicum participants is welcome. We'll provide you with their names and contact information. You'll find them rich resources who welcome conversation with you.