



Work Group Proposal Form

From the Bylaws, “The Church of Conscious Harmony exists for the sole purpose of facilitating the spiritual journey for people who want to make God-devotion the center of their lives”. To this end, in addition to the regularly-scheduled core classes (e.g., Lessons in Truth, Simple Explanations of Work Ideas, new member classes, the Gospel & Work class, etc.), a new form of small group spiritual enrichment is encouraged. “Work groups,” are small (generally 7-12 people), self-directed, semester oriented and focused on a particular topic or practice related to the two foundations of the Church: the Christian contemplative tradition and the Work of Inner Christianity.

The aim of work groups is to provide participants with transforming spiritual enrichment, inspiring love of God and love of neighbor.

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Work Group Title: Contemplating the “Both – And” and other ideas pertaining to Relationship of Spirit and Matter, Matter and Matter, and Spirit and Spirit

Meeting day/time: Mondays from 7:00 to 8:15pm

Duration: September 11-November 13

Purpose or specific aim of Work Group: With the understanding that ‘intellectual insight’ (reading and/or talking about it) alone will not directly lead to awareness of higher levels (or more inclusive levels) of consciousness, the aim of this work group is to allow for an opening in each participant to receive spiritual wisdom. As referenced in our Work materials, Beatrice Bruteau says, “many philosophical traditions in both East and West believe that the **crucial insight** into the basic relation has to come **of itself** and cannot be captured in concepts..., although the way to such insight can be prepared.” Preparation for the reception of inclusive insight (opening to) is to be realized through the reading of the materials, inside and outside of class, with discussion and contemplation of the ideas presented somewhat in the fashion of Lectio Divina.

Sources for content or practice: The primary source for realizing the work group aim will come from readings in Beatrice Bruteau’s book, Radical Optimism, chapters four through eight. Other sources of contemplation would be Beatrice Bruteau’s book, God’s Ecstasy, The Self Creative Universe, and Alan Watt’s book, The Book. (books, articles, video, Scripture, etc)

Outline and timeline for study and/or practice: The work group will read, consider, contemplate and discuss the following chapters of Radical Optimism:

Chapter 4: The Finite and the Infinite

Chapter 5: Sin and Salvation

Chapter 6: Heart of Jesus, Root of Reality

Chapter 7: The Communion of the Saints

Chapter 8: Trinitarian Manifestation

We will allow two weeks to explore each chapter of the book.

Prerequisites for participants: Open to anyone having either a faith that higher-more inclusive levels of conscious are available to humankind or anyone having had experiences of higher-more inclusive levels of consciousness. Centering Prayer and Work class experience would be most helpful, but is not necessarily a requirement.

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