11/2015

**CRT Statement of Intention**:

The Contemplative Response Team is a Christ centered ministry for responding to requests for contemplative service to The Church of Conscious Harmony community through prayer, spiritual companioning and compassionate hospitality.

**CRT Organizational Structure**

CCH Board of Directors

Ministers: Tim and Barbara Cook

Coordinator: Jill Frank

Communication/Scheduling: Pam Rossman

**Membership requirements:**

* Membership in The Church of Conscious Harmony
* An established daily Centering Prayer practice of at least 2 years
* Feel an interior call of the Spirit to participate
* Complete initial 3 hour Contemplative Response Team training
* You are encouraged to attend monthly contemplative formation sessions

**Service opportunities:**

* Participation in the Wednesday prayer circle
* Participate in weekly prayer for 5 homes being prayed for by the church
* Participate in the prayer chain group, receiving email of immediate prayer requests that come to the office from the community. (CRT membership does not automatically include this please contact the church office to join the email prayer chain)

**Recommended Readings:**

Final Gifts by Maggie Callanan and Patricia Kelley

Contemplative Service by Contemplative Outreach

How Can I Help?by Ram Dass

Still Here: Embracing Aging, Changing and Dyingby Ram Dass

American Book of Dyingby Richard Groves

Radical HospitalitybyHoman and Pratt

Letting Goby David Hawkins

Devotional Non-duality: Discovery of the Presence of God by David Hawkins

The Gift of Life: Death and Dying, Life and Living by Contemplative Outreach/Thomas Keating

New Seeds of Contemplation by Thomas Merton

The Grace in Dying: A message of Hope, Comfort and Spiritual Transformation by Kathleen Singh

**Aspects of a** **Contemplative Response:**

**Hospitality** is not about what you do, it is about who you are becoming.

Being a person of hospitality involves **getting out of myself** for long enough periods that I can **hear other people**, really hear them, and **pay attention** to what they might need at this moment.

**Listening** is the core of hospitality, and while the people we listen to benefit, in the end we are the ones transformed.

 *Radical Hospitality* by Father Daniel Homan and Lonni Collins Pratt

God is hiding in the world. Our task is to **let the divine emerge** from our deeds.

 *I Asked for Wonder* by Abraham Joshua Heschel

**Christian service** is not so much what we are doing for others as what **Christ in us is doing for Christ in them**. The contemplative journey is the ever increasing appreciation of who God is without fully knowing who he is or what he is.

 Thomas Keating

Let us not underestimate how hard it is to listen and to be compassionate. **Compassion** is hard because it requires the inner disposition to go with others to the place where they are weak, vulnerable, lonely and broken. But…our spontaneous response…is to do away with suffering by fleeing from it or finding a quick cure for it. As busy, active, relevant people we want to (make) a real contribution. This means first and foremost doing something to show that our **presence** makes a difference. And so we ignore our greatest gift, which is our ability to be there, to listen and to enter into solidarity with those who suffer.

 Henri Nouwen