



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: Falling Upward

Meeting day/time: Wednesdays 7:30 - 9:00pm

Duration: Sep14 - Nov 02 (8 weeks duration)

Purpose or specific aim of Work Group: This group will look at how each person’s spiritual journey overlays the template provided by Father Richard Rohr. He believes, as do other spiritual teachers, that our spiritual growth comes from our life challenges, tragedies...our falls. We’ll explore our lives from the perspective of the formation of our egos (false selves) and “how we long to be somebody” based upon our own desires, those of others who have influenced us, or Western culture’s values. After we have a fall, what do we do with it? How do we see it? The aim of the Work Group is hold everyone with love and compassion and talk openly about how effectively we take “life as our teacher” and if we have done so at times, what did it teach us?

We will explore these concepts through the lenses of the three lines of the Work of Inner Christianity. Specifically, we’ll look at the role of the false personality in forming the “first half of life”, and how we really believe that “man can do”. Among other Work ideas for discussion include that of external and internal consideration and seeing “life” as our teacher (I owe you everything, You owe me nothing).

Sources for content or practice: Falling Upward – A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr. We will also draw inspiration from the Gospels and other sources for continuity.

Outline and timeline for study and/or practice: There are 8 Group Meetings

Week 1 – Introductions, Fellowship & Expectations and “The Invitation to a Further Journey”

Week 2 – Introduction and Chapter 1 “The Two Halves of Life”

Week 3 – Chapter 2 “The Hero and Heroine’s Journey” and Chapter 3 “The First Half of Life”

Week 4 – Chapter 4 “The Tragic Sense of Life” and Chapter 5 “Stumbling over the Stumbling Stone”

Week 5 – Chapter 6 “Necessary Suffering” and Chapter 7 “Home and Homesickness”

Week 6 – Chapter 8 “Amnesia and the Big Picture” and Chapter 9 “A Second Simplicity”

Week 7 – Chapter 10 “A Bright Sadness” and Chapter 11 “The Shadowlands”

Week 8 – Chapter 12 “New Problems and New Directions” and Chapter 13 “Falling Upward”

Prerequisites for participants: To be committed to attending and participating in all meetings; to have read the assigned material prior to the meeting. Coming prepared with knowledge of the content and reflecting on its application to each of our own lives, will foster deep dialogue that will offer what we all need for our spiritual understanding, healing and growth.

Facilitator's Name: David Wallace

Additional comments or considerations: The template outlined in this book has been one of the most meaningful to my personal spiritual journey. I look forward to being with friends who will be open to express some of their most difficult personal stories and how, either in the moment or after some time has gone by for reflection, they see the blessing in those "falls".