

Dear Friends of Realistic Living,

You are invited to attend our Summer Programs.

## **The June 2016 Leadership Training School**



Friday evening 7:00pm

June 10th, we begin our Leadership Training School, a retreat led by Pat Webb and Joyce Marshall. This program ends Sunday noon.

We live in a cynical and self-critical era, full of insecurity and lack of confidence in human wisdom – a result of thousands of years of patriarchy. We will be looking at the architecture of patriarchy, the specific external oppressive behaviors that keep it in being and the nature of the internalized oppression it promotes. We will look at the ways organized religion has supported patriarchy. We will look at antidotes for each aspect of this system.

We will be engaging in various processes that help us be our own authority, therefore there will be many experiences and reflections. We will be sending future notices of specific ways you can prepare for this retreat.

### **Some big questions that we bring to our time together:**

What does patriarchy promote and advocate?

What needs to be proclaimed in our troubled world?

How can we build confidence in our own ability to address the situation and create change?

## **The June 2016 Research Symposium**

Then, at 6:30 pm on Sunday evening June 12th, we begin our Research Symposium meeting that lasts until 9:00pm Tuesday evening the 14th. People return home Wednesday morning. These two meetings can be attended separately, but we highly recommend that all attendees of the Symposium also attend the Training School.

Like the Training School, the Research Symposium is a time of Spirit retreat, but with the additional characteristic that it is also a time of vision-building and strategy-conceiving for a movement of people who are proposing to inspire and build a next,

relevant, and vital Christian practice. Those assembled may not all be Christian practitioners, but all are assumed to be interested in the more general topic of the renewal of religion on planet Earth.

We are attaching a schedule for the Symposium meeting to give you an idea of what this meeting contains in addition to its four work-sessions. Following is an overview of these work sessions:

**Monday am: Is There a Post Patriarchal Christianity?** This session is a transition from the Training School into the basic theological and organizational problems of making an exit from 2000 years of patriarchy, plus inventing those new witnesses and practices that make Christianity relevant to our times.

**Monday pm: Innovative Group Practices in Nurture Circles, Large-Group Events & Action Guilds.** This session assumes that the current congregational and denominational forms of community are out-of-date and quite often serious perversions incapable of being wineskins for the wine of Holy Spirit.

**Tuesday am: Leadership Training for Circle Anchors, Cultural Witnesses, & Guild Organizers.** This session assumes that training leadership in the contexts, methods, and skills being developed for this renewal movement is a strategy of primary importance for moving forward.

**Tuesday pm: Unfinished Discussion of the Above Topics with Q & A Process, Open Mike Process, & Facilitated Consensus.** This session assumes that we will have raised to awareness profound issues for which none of us have the final answers. We will attempt to face this and pull together our context for still further research.

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We realize that busy people (especially those with children) have to choose their time and financial allotments carefully. These brief meetings are tailored for both couples and single attendees. We keep costs low, basically covering materials and expenses. There will be a \$150 per-person fee for the Training School covering costs of materials, preparations, and leadership honorarium for this program. There will be no fee for the Research Symposium, but participants are asked to support this program through their contributions to Realistic Living. Everyone will cover their own transportation, food, and lodging. We have a transportation assistance fund and some home housing for those who request it.

Please make your reservations for these events soon. These are invitational meetings with limited spaces.