

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION FORM



INTRODUCTION

This is an evolving plan for a one-year development program for those who wish to become facilitators or enhance their skills as facilitators in the Work That Reconnects. We will be offering the first Facilitator Development Program (FDP) in the Fall of 2017 as one of several pathways available for deepening theoretical understanding and facilitation skills in the Work That Reconnects. The online program will begin in September 2017.

Your responses to the linked [APPLICATION FORM](#) will help us design the program to meet your needs, and finalize plans for the fall. Please respond as soon as possible, preferably before July 1, 2017. We will accept applications until the program is fully enrolled or by August 31.

In this moment in history, people are waking up to the realization that our society is not sustainable. Violence in its many manifestations is causing pain and suffering. Climate disruption, endless war and our political reality are some of the things creating fear for our people. We need ways to reduce fear and heal from trauma. People are looking for community and ways to be with the pain they experience from what's going on in the world. They also want to find their particular gifts and how they can contribute to the Great Turning. This program will give facilitators the support needed to make this transformational journey themselves and to assist others on the path to coming back to life.

One's ability to guide others through the Work That Reconnects is enhanced by one's own personal work, knowledge of and engagement in social and ecological challenges, decolonizing one's worldview, as well as developing one's skills as a facilitator. This course will weave all these dimensions together.

We want to meet the needs of people who want to facilitate the Work but don't yet feel confident to do so, as well as people already facilitating the Work who want to further develop their competencies. We have based the plan on the [Facilitator Competency Framework](#) developed by Joanna Macy, Chris Johnstone, Molly Brown, and Constance Washburn.

Our text books for this course include [Coming Back to Life](#) and [Active Hope](#), along with other materials on environmental challenges, systemic racism and other social justice issues, and facilitation skills. Those

participating in the program will also be expected to do homework between webinars, participate in regular study groups as well as engage in personal/spiritual practices and community activism.

Perhaps most importantly this program will help build a widening community of facilitators who support each other through sharing resources and experiences, as well as helping each other face the difficult times ahead with open hearts and minds.

The trainers/facilitators of this Program are Molly Brown, Mutima Imani, and Constance Washburn. Guest teachers are still being determined and invited, and will include both POC and White folks who have extensive experience in facilitating the Work That Reconnects.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Prerequisites:

At least one 4 - 10 day retreat with Work That Reconnects facilitator; read *Coming Back to Life* and *Active Hope*.

We recommend that everyone who is able attend Joanna Macy's seminar in ["Systems Thinking and the Work That Reconnects,"](#) September 3 through 8, 2017, at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville California. Molly Brown and Victor Lewis will be co-teaching with Joanna. This will be excellent preparation for our program. Joanna's presentations will be video-recorded for those who can't attend.

Structure:

A one year program with 11 monthly live interactive webinars and a closing weekend in California (with regional options for those unable to come to California). The webinars will follow the Spiral of the Work through the year-long course. Participants should plan to attend all monthly webinars (or viewing the

recording if circumstances prevent you from attending one), complete homework assignments, and participate in a study/support groups between webinars.

Homework between webinars includes:

- Required readings and videos for each webinar
- Study group meetings to share responses to relevant study guide questions on chapters covered so far and chapters for next session as well as support each other in planning workshops.
- Participation in local or online anti-oppression workshops or study groups for those with little experience in this arena.
- Self care, spiritual practice, time in nature.
- Planning, facilitating, and debriefing WTR workshops (evening, short series, or half-day).
- Engaging in an activity in each dimension of the Great Turning. Sharing learnings and challenges with your group
- Compiling poems, songs, art activities, theatre games, new practices.

Topics will include:

- WTR theory; systems thinking, deep time, the spiral, deep ecology, The Great Turning, confronting and exploring together current social, environmental, political, racial and spiritual crises.
- Facilitating WTR practices; workshop design; principles of inclusive, respectful facilitation; group process.
- Living the Great Turning: exploration of how each of us makes the Great Turning real in our personal, spiritual, and community lives.

Logistics:

Costs: We estimate the cost of the year-long program to be between \$800 and \$1200, not including the costs for the closing weekend (to be determined later).

Scheduling: Prior to final registration, we will schedule live webinars at times that are workable for the maximum number of participants. Recordings of the live webinars will be available for those unable to attend a session.

Application Process: Please fill out the [APPLICATION FORM](#) by July 1, 2017. The application process is open until the Program is full or until August 31, 2017