

# The Artistry of Convening Within Faith Based Communities

From the Participative  
Leadership Tradition of the  
**Art of Hosting**

"The greatest friend of the soul is the unknown. The single most important gift you can give yourself is the invitation to awaken to who you are and where you have landed."

John O'Donohue, Irish Poet, Priest

Salt Lake City, Utah  
November 28 - December 1, 2012

# Context for Gathering

*Convening is  
the work of  
awakening.*

In most faith traditions, a core part of our work is convening. Coming together to worship, to work for social justice, to work for personal and communal transformation, and to know and be known by others. We rely on the strength and memory of community. We yearn to improve collective discernment, to serve marginalized communities, to form partnerships with emerging communities, to animate a future uninhibited by current obstacles.

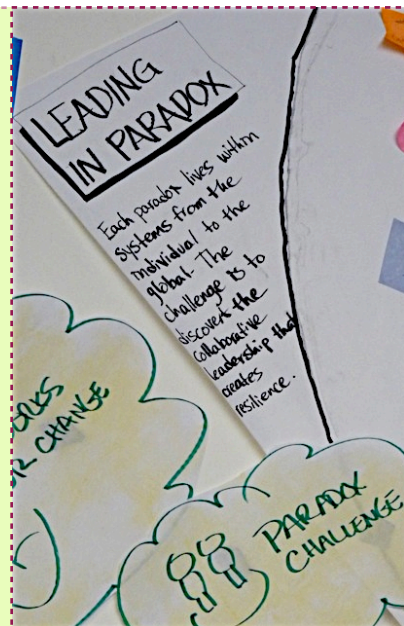
At every scale, human beings live in a time of unprecedented demand. We are confronted with chaos, upheavals, and continual encounter with surprise and uncertainty. Many of us choose to hunker down, buffeted by that which we cannot understand or manage.

The **Art of Hosting** tradition was born to answer the question, "How do we lead together when we don't know where we are going?" From the personal to the global, practices of participatory leadership are helping to co-create resilience, opportunity and renewal in organizations, communities and families.

This gathering is for individuals and teams in faith communities who yearn to awaken. For those who yearn to become the leaders for whom our institutions and communities yearn. In social justice efforts. In leading congregations. In considering the future directions of our institutions and of our communities. In befriending individuals. We need the support and skills that we are called to offer to others.



- ➔ What if, in all of this chaos and order, there was a call to a different form of leadership?
- ➔ How could we be creators of meaning as communities of people?
- ➔ How could we tap into the source of inspiration that gives us the kind of institutions, communities, and leaders that we are so in desperately in need of?
- ➔ How could we leave this world in a better place for the generations that come after us?
- ➔ What could the evolved role of faith communities now be?
- ➔ What could be possible across faith traditions in the broader narrative of change needed in the world now?



Rooted in the work of courageously hosting conversations that matter, the **Art of Hosting** is a field of practice that helps groups of people tap into and unleash the creativity that is needed to deal with unprecedented circumstance.



"The Art is about helping people connect from their deepest longing and in this emergent time. Listening to each other in a hopeful and pregnant way and noticing all we have in common."

"The Church is not certain of how to reinvent itself for these new times."

"In the church we have spent too long looking to the experts, to the leaders for the answers. The church was started from community. The answers are in the community. We have what we need. It is in the community we find life and gifts and the path forward."

## What We Study

The Art of Hosting tradition was born out of the field of large group facilitation, where self-organization and "a leader in every seat" are prime organizing principles. From our experience with these methods and modes, we began thinking about the new leadership paradigms brought to us from complexity science and living systems theory. And we seek to marry these practical methodologies and these large scale world views with accessible design tools and frameworks that keep us in the dynamic and creative dance of chaos and order.

"There is a deep hunger in me for these new ways. I can't in integrity lead, in these times, without these kind of tools, this kind of community. It is unknown what the future is. There is a huge hunger in the world and huge brokenness. I am called to respond authentically and prophetically to this time."

## At this event, you will experience:

- ➔ **Powerful Conversations:** With other passionate people about the real issues facing faith community leadership today.
- ➔ **Group Convening Tools:** World Cafe, Open Space Technology, PeerSpirit Circle, The Work of Byron Katie, Appreciative Inquiry, Pro-Action Cafe, Collective Story Harvesting, Applied Improvisation
- ➔ **World Views and Theory:** Living Systems, Emergence, Self-Organization, Theory U, Complex Adaptive Systems
- ➔ **Design Frameworks:** Participatory Decision Making, Cynefin, Chaordic Design

The Art of Hosting is an experiential learning workshop where we select from these and other tools to build a learning container where participants can bring their real questions and challenges and, working with others, use these as a basis for learning and developing or improving participative leadership practice.

# What will this do for me?

Previous participants have reported that their learning...

- ➔ Increased their confidence in facilitating complex strategic conversations with large groups of people from their congregations and communities
- ➔ Helped them unlearn limiting beliefs that were preventing them from taking bold steps into difficult situations
- ➔ Gave them a way of making sense of their challenges and provided a framework for action
- ➔ Shifted their leadership practice to become more resilient, more inclusive and better able to deal with surprise and difficult dynamics
- ➔ Increased their abilities to be in relationship with others and to be open to change



## Tuition and Materials: \$650 - 850

We offer a sliding scale to help enable diversity of financial ability and ideological perspective at this event. \$650 is the minimum that will help keep this event sustainable. If you are in position to offer support with others, please share what you can..

## Register Here

[www.bit.ly/aoh-fbc](http://www.bit.ly/aoh-fbc)

Facebook Group

Facebook Page

Registration Deadline: November 7, 2012

For more information contact Tenneson Woolf  
([tenneson@tennesonwoolf.com](mailto:tenneson@tennesonwoolf.com); 801 376 2213)

## Room and Board: \$335

(meals, beverages, snacks and double occupancy rooms  
Wednesday evening through Saturday lunch)

If you are strongly inspired to join us, yet the cost is a  
barrier, please contact Tenneson Woolf;

[tenneson@tennesonwoolf.com](mailto:tenneson@tennesonwoolf.com) – 801 376 2213

# Our Team

You will be hosted by four experienced Art of Hosting Practitioners who, between them, have led hundreds of Art of Hosting events, and have been inspired by amazing Thought Partners and Co-Callers.



**Chris Corrigan** has 20 years experience hosting conversations in indigenous communities, not for profits, faith based and philanthropic organizations across North America and in Europe, Oceania and South Africa. He specializes in Open Space Technology, and design for large scale initiatives to work in high levels of complexity. He is a poet and a musician. Recent work has included design and hosting for

- ✓ a transformational national initiative for the US based Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Service on the subject of creating "extraordinary welcome" through community conversations hosted in World Cafes
- ✓ a year-long project to prototype new ways to address addictions related stigma in the health care system, initiated using Open Space
- ✓ the World Indigenous Housing Conference, including hosting three large scale World Cafes with over 600 people.

**Caitlin Frost** is a skilled facilitator and coach working with individuals and groups worldwide, to inquire into and transform their limiting beliefs and step fully into their leadership capacity and unlock creative possibility in life and work. She is a deeply experienced practitioner and trainer of The Work of Byron Katie, and hosts both leadership and personal retreats across North America. She is steward in the Art of Hosting international community of practice and a partner in Harvest Moon Consultants. Caitlin is also a gifted improviser and uses play and improvisational theatre in her work with leadership coaching. Recently she has:



- ✓ acted as lead faculty on a nine month leadership intensive for executives and emerging leaders in the community social services sector in British Columbia
- ✓ supported coaching communities of practice using applied improvisation and inquiry practice to help people identify their capacities for leading in complexity.
- ✓ coached and personally supported hundreds of clients including ministers, executives, entrepreneurs, actors, authors, musicians and diplomats.



**Teresa Posakony** works with organizations and communities who are seeking to put to work the ineffable and unnameable qualities of community to bring high levels of effective engagement, creative design and deep resilience to work. She was a long time member of The Berkana Institute, a former leadership and change specialist at Microsoft and now works as a host, rigorous coach and powerful accompanist to leaders who are walking in high levels of chaos and challenge. She is a deep practitioner of Circle and World Cafe. Her work has included:



- ✓ extensive work with faith communities including many women's religious communities, community based faith organizations, large conference design and work with faith leaders.
- ✓ long term strategic planning process for the Quinault Indian Nation in Washington state – bringing community and government together.
- ✓ work across Washington state and Illinois to build strong community networks supporting families and children.



**Tenneson Woolf** holds a deep inquiry about what might be possible if we worked with deliberate attention to the magic and beauty of community resilience. As a long time associate of Meg Wheatley and The Berkana Institute, he has deepened and extended the work that Meg started with her landmark book "Leadership and the New Science." Tenneson searches restlessly for the metaphors and stories that serve the emergence of new ways of being in the world. He is a World Cafe host and a beautiful practitioner of Circle. He has recently spent much time juxtaposing the needs of the simple -- being smart and real together -- with the deeper undertones of how that happens in participative leadership -- focusing on wellness, wholeness, and consciousness. The recent application of this inquiry has included:

- ✓ supporting faith communities in the United States in discovering new forms of leadership and conference design that can take them through periods of unprecedented restructuring
- ✓ hosting strategic conversations around the retention of medical personnel in El Paso, Texas
- ✓ convening The Art of Humans Being, an Art of Hosting format to help re-presence, re-pattern, and re-story our fundamental ways of seeing and helping

# Contributing Thought Partners & Co-Callers

Kathleen Masters, Global Ministries of United Methodist Church  
Glen Brown, Erin Gilmore, Tom Rehling: United Church of Christ  
Lori Adams, Stephen Lewis: The Fund for Theological Education  
Tom Brackett: Episcopal Church Center  
Patti Case: Disciples of Christ  
Andrew Himes, Author of "The Sword of the Lord:  
The Roots of Fundamentalism in an American Family"



## Location & Travel

The Wasatch Retreat and Conference Center is relaxing and quiet, a sanctuary space. It is located in the heart of downtown Salt Lake City, it is ten minutes from the SLC airport. WRCC is a new, eco-friendly, technology enabled venue, within the Episcopal Church Center; perfect for holding a deep inquiry like ours.

## Accommodations

This is a residential program. Most of the accommodations are onsite at WRCC. To expand registration space - some rooms are located at a nearby hotel, walkable from the program. Guaranteed single occupancy rooms are available offsite for an additional fee of \$40/night.

## Schedule

You are welcome to arrive and register November 28th after 4:00 pm. We will begin with dinner at 5:30 pm followed by an evening session.

For remaining days, sessions will run from 9 am - 12:30 pm and 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm. Meals will be at approximately 8:00 am, 12:30 pm, and 6:00 pm.

We will have opportunity for shared morning practices and evening offerings. These can include continued work and play together, walks, music, conversations and some team preparation work.

We finish December 1st at 12:30 pm, followed by lunch.

