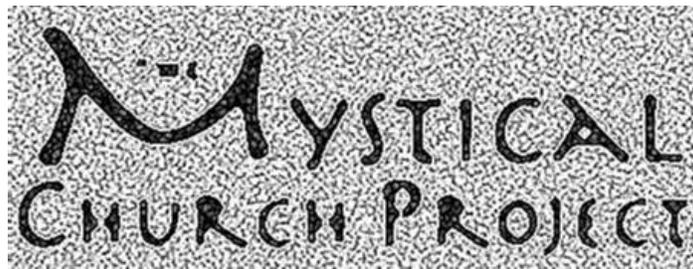


The Mystical Church

Network

A CONTEMPLATIVE COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT,
CREATIVITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

A Component of the



Cultivating The Edge of Integral Church Transformation

For More Information
Contact Jud Hendrix (judhendrix@insighttbb.com)

THE MYSTICAL CHURCH NETWORK

A CONTEMPLATIVE COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT,
CREATIVITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

Are you . . .

- looking for a contemplative community of support, creativity and accountability?
- seeking a more holistic spirituality that integrates matter, body, mind, soul and spirit?
- wanting to explore new ways of being Christian and practicing spiritual community that integrates our rich traditions with the realities of a postmodern world?
- seeking to expand your consciousness and deepen your spirituality through a variety of meditative and contemplative practices?
- interested in exploring esoteric and mystical traditions and practices?
- seeking to expand your boundaries of "self" to include more and more of creation?
- working to integrate scientific knowledge and diverse spiritual practices into your life and ministry?
- appreciative and affirming of the Christian tradition and its institutions, but wanting to explore and create other forms of spiritual community and ways of being church not currently being expressed?
- developing a progressive and integrative theology?
- trained and educated in mainline seminaries and institutions and yet looking for more diverse and progressive sources for your continuing education and personal growth?
- moving into, through, and out of a Postmodern Worldview?

If so . . .

you might be interested in the Mystical Church Network

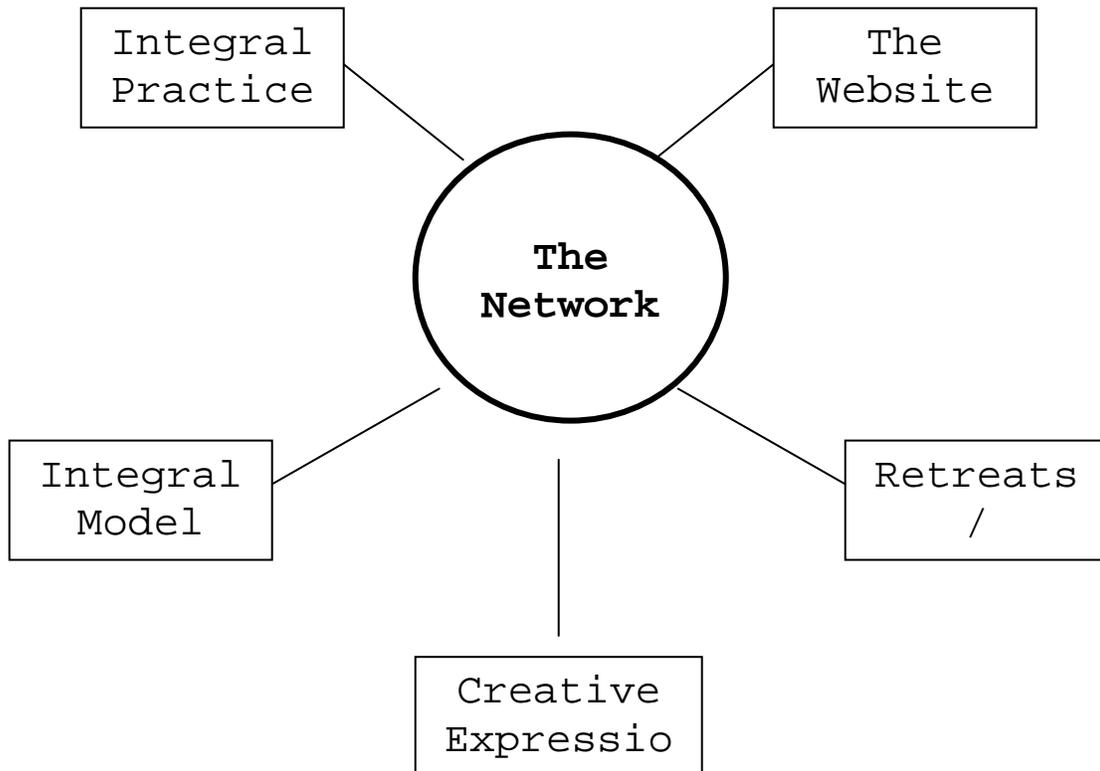
"Cultivating Integral Leadership for Emerging Spiritual Communities"

The rapid changes and rich complexities of the North American context are presenting unique challenges to leaders from all faith traditions as they seek to discern relevant and faithful ways to be community, practice spirituality and embody professional ministry in the Twenty-first Century. The rise of globalization, pluralism, scientism, postmodernism and technology, name just a few of the significant influences impacting the culture in which spiritual and religious leaders are seeking to practice their faith and nurture spiritual communities. The Mystical Church Network seeks to nurture "Integral Clergy" or "Engaged Mystics" through a variety of resources and a network of support, creativity and accountability. We believe that as religious and spiritual leaders expand their consciousness, develop integrative skills and abilities and nurture their own faith development they are able to create and lead spiritual communities with the capacity to integrate the changes and complexities of postmodern life.

The Mystical Church Network will engage clergy and religious professionals from a variety of denominations and religious traditions. The Network is one aspect of a larger multifaceted and organic movement called the Mystical Church Project which is being developed to support leaders, provide resources and create more integral communities of faith. The Project and the Network will support and supplement the work of denominations as together we work for the transformation of the church.

Network Components

The Network is a web of face-to-face and virtual relationships that are centered around shared values and a shared vision of cultivating dynamic and vital spiritual communities. The Network has five main components.



The Five Network Components

- 1) The Network is facilitated by a **Interactive Website** that functions as the main source for ongoing information, resources, education and dialogue. The site will use a variety of different formats, including
 - video and audio downloads of interviews and events
 - web discussions (blogging)
 - reviews of important resources and book
 - housing for the creative and practical work of participantsThis web site will be the primary place where participants can creatively share and express what they are experiencing and learning. It will be a gathering place for the Network participants, but will also be open to those in the wider public who share these values and interests.

- 2) The Network will help participants develop a personal plan of **Integral Spiritual Practices**. ISPs are consistent practices that integrate all areas of the human experience, namely - matter, body, mind, soul and spirit. The purpose of ISPs are to nurture the participants into a holistic spirituality and develop within them a life of selfless compassion. An emphases will be placed on developing contemplative and meditative practices from a variety of religious and spiritual traditions with the assumption that expanding one's consciousness is a primary task of integral leadership. The gatherings and retreats of the Network will always have a specific emphasis on the development of these Integral Spiritual Practices.

- 3) The Network will use an "**integral theory and model**" for the sustained study and reflection of pertinent issues of theology, ecclesiology, spirituality and pastoral leadership. A basic integral map, called the Mini Model, developed by Ken Wilber will guide the project as we seek to integrate the complexities of postmodern life and culture. The Mini Model will provide a holistic and integral framework as we seek to thoughtfully and creatively design and lead postmodern spiritual communities.

- 4) The Network will host **a variety of national gatherings** and will encourage local and regional gatherings as the network grows and develops. One gathering will correspond with the Annual 7% Event for Presbyterian USA clergy. The other gatherings will focus on the development of Integral Spiritual Practices and exploring the integral model in more detail. Future gatherings will bring together conversation partners and leading thinkers in the areas discerned to be important for creating an integral theology, ecclesiology and professional practice. In the second phase of the project ecumenical and interfaith partners will be invited to join in these gatherings and discussions.

- 5) The Network will encourage and provide participants with **opportunities for creative expression, focused research, and practical application**. One of the main purposes of the project is to find helpful and creative ways to embody the vision of the kinds of churches and spiritual communities we are discerning. Through the network website, publications, speaking engagements and their own local congregations,

participants will be encourage to publish and practically implement their insights and discoveries. The Network participants will seek to integrate their learning into their own local communities in order to ground their experiences in a particular community. Specific projects and areas of exploration and research will also be discerned and conducted by Network participants and published on the web sight.

Network Covenants

The network will be developed around the Biblical concept of covenant making. These covenants will give shape and structure to our relationships and define what we intend to be and do. These covenants will create the reality of the network and be the glue which holds us together as a relational and virtual community. These covenants will grow and change with the development of the network and be continually discerned as the network grows and expands.

Some of the covenants may include things like:

- 1) Developing and engaging in a personal plan of integral spiritual practices.
- 2) Participation in at least one face-to-face gathering each year
- 3) Participation in the Mystical Church Web community.
- 4) Developing a practical project or creative way of expressing and integrating what is being learned.

Texts

Guiding Text

- Integral Mini Model, (developed by Ken Wilber)
- In Over Our Heads: The Mental Demands of Modern Life, Robert Kegan
- Mystical Heart: Discovering A Universal Spirituality In The Worlds' Religions by Wayne Teasdale
- Mysticism - The Preeminent study in the nature and development of spiritual consciousness, Evelyn Underhill
- Spiral Dynamics: Mastering Values, Leadership and Change, by Beck & Cowan
- "What is Enlightenment" - Magazine

Supplemental Texts

- The Seeker's Guide: Making Your Life a Spiritual Adventure (formerly titled The New American Spirituality: A Seeker's Guide) by Elizabeth Lesser
- The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering A Life of Faith by Marcos Borg
- Integral Psychology: Consciousness, Spirit, Psychology, Therapy by Ken Wilber
- The Essential Ken Wilber: An Introductory Reader
- A Monk In The World: Cultivating A Spiritual Life, by Wayne Teasdale

**For more information or to be involved in the
Mystical Church Network
contact Jud Hendrix (judhendrix@insightbb.com)**