

OIIM
Open International
Interfaith Ministry
News and Events

Autumn
2012
Issue 26:1



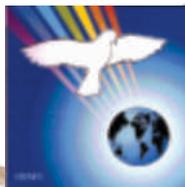
Connecting the Interfaith Movement

Welcome ... Page 2

Photo Gallery ... Page 3

OIIM-NTI University Seminars:

OIIM workshops, courses and programs are based on research. These articles summarize the research by our sanctioned Lay & Ordained Ministers, Registered Spiritual Practitioners, NTI Students and Instructors.



Chapters' and Practitioners' News and Calendars of Events:

OIIM-NTI University Seminars:

- ✂ Showers of Blessings Await Us!Pg 4
- ✂ Contentment and the Art of SerenityPg 5
- ✂ Earth-based SpiritualityPg 6
- ✂ NTI Graduation/OIIM Ordinations
Interfaith ExpressionsPg 7
- ✂ OIIM Registration Booklet LaunchedPg 8
- ✂ Loss and LovePg 11
- ✂ The Challenges of InterfaithPg 12
- ✂ A Spiritual Inferiority ComplexPg 13
- ✂ Engagement - A Key to Joy
Reason to Celebrate!Pg 14
- ✂ World Religions - BuddhismPg 15

OIIM Chapter Events and News:

- ✂ Stratford, ONPg 16
- ✂ Saint John, NBPg 16
- ✂ Prince Edward IslandPg 17
- AWAIC World Interfaith NewsPg 21
- OIIM's Interfaith Seminary Program/NTIPg 22

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Welcome to www.interfaithconnections.org

OIIM Ministerial Team

We welcome all members and visitors to the Open International Interfaith Ministry (OIIM). Our ministers, trained through our Interfaith seminary program, the iNtuitive Times Institute (NTI), qualify: to carry internationally recognized clergy cards through the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) - a member of the World Council of Churches, and with A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy (AWAIC); and as licensed Naturotherapists through the Canadian Academy of Naturopaths and Naturotherapists (ANN). We hope you enjoy our publication and invite you to attend any of our events and celebrations.

OIIM has specialized in the Spiritual Arts for over 26 years. OIIM's motto is:

***"The paths are many, the truth is one
~ Love thy neighbour."***

OIIM has three missions:

- ✧ ***to be a bridge amongst the many different religious and spiritual paths;***
- ✧ ***to validate mystical experiences in a reverent, respectful and safe context; and***
- ✧ ***to offer an Interfaith Faith-path to those seeking an inclusive spiritual alternative.***

Many of our congregants embrace the Interfaith Path as their spiritual path while others enjoy our services and workshops as a support to their own faith path. OIIM's approach is inclusive; celebrating the spiritual, uplifting and joy-filled aspects of all traditions and diverse approaches.

When we look at the beautiful, diverse world that God has created for us to live in, it is clear to us that God is a God of Diversity. There is not just one type of tree, or one type of bird, or one type of flower, or one type of person. The world is populated with a multitude of forms including trees, birds, flowers and people in all shapes, sizes and colour. This diversity makes the world more beautiful.

OIIM Ministerial Team:



Rev. Sandi King, OM, PhD(TC), RSPchmd, Master Spiritual Counsellor; Co-founder/Treas.

Rev. Barry King, OM, PhD(TC), RSPchmd, Master Spiritual Medium; Co-founder/Pres.

Rev. Susan Eaton, CASC, OM, RSPd, Master Spiritual Director; Senior Minister/Bd. at Large



Ellen Hicks, BSc, MEd, CCC, NTI Professor of Counselling; Private Practitioner

Margaret Flood, OIIM Office Manager

Rev. Debra Lynn Sinclair, CASC, OM, RSPd, Chapter Director

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WEB- SITES

OIIM: www.InterfaithMinistry.com

Spirituality/Holistic Health: www.iNtuitiveTimes.ca

Interfaith E-news: www.InterfaithConnections.org

Weddings: www.WeddingsOnPEI.ca

Educational Resources & NTI (Seminary): www.OIIM.net

Family/Personal Counselling: www.KingsWC.org

Psychic Readings/Resources: www.RevBarryKing.ca

🌐 NTI Graduates from any of the five NTI programs are eligible to have their services covered, through most clients' extended health care plans, as Naturotherapist (n.d.) through the *Academy of Naturopaths and Naturotherapists (ANN)* in Canada.

🌐 OIIM Ordained Ministers (OM) are automatically accepted into the *International Council of Community Churches (ICCC)* and *A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy (AWAIC)* with international recognition as clergy.

🌐 OIIM Lay and Ordained Ministers and Spiritual Practitioners adhere to the *International Code of Ethics for Spiritual Directors*, and the *OIIM Registration Board's Standard of Practise*.





Welcome to www.interfaithconnections.org

Photo Gallery



PEI SSF Interfaith Ministry's 25th Anniversary Pics



Happenings at the PEI Interfaith Centre



Showers of Blessings Await Us!

Ellen Hicks, BSc, BEd, MEd, CCC, Kingston, ON
NTI Professor of Counselling



How often do we talk about rain? *'I am so tired of it.' 'It ruined my plans for the day.' 'My holidays have been ruined.' 'Summer will be over soon and my garden is a jungle.' 'Where is the sun?'*

Although we may personally want the sun, for our farmers across North America, this summer has caused personal and economic hardship. Drought is causing severe effects on food production, prices for food are higher and farmers are in crisis.

This reminds me of a recent discussion I had with a woman who was struggling with her belief in Mother/Father/God. She felt that she had been in her spiritual desert for years – a drought of the soul, struggling to find spiritual nourishment, hungry for enlightenment yet finding the well dry.

Our discussion centered on her tiredness, exhaustion and feelings of hopelessness. She described her journey as one that had brought her to the brink of despair. She mentioned that she prayed daily, studied every doctrinal faith to which she had access, but still felt empty and alone.

During our discussion, she mentioned that when she was in nature and with animals, she was happiest, and so began our exploration of earth-based spiritual beliefs. We went for a walk in the woods and discovered a waterfall which neither one of us had seen before. The falls were not huge but were full of water which gushed with great abandon over the rock face.

We sat and marvelled at the beauty of this place. Its lushness was filled with deep greens and mosses. There was a freshness and coolness that began to fill our souls. As if led by a divine hand, my friend walked into the pool at the base of the falls and stood beneath the water. Her face was glowing as she drank some of the water that she held in her hands like one would hold a new born.

As she ascended from the water, I noticed a lightness in her step. Her shoulders were relaxed and her eyes were alive with emotion. She had found her spiritual home!



Let us remember to honour all paths which lead us to the sacred TRUTH.



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Contentment and the Art of Serenity

Debra Lynn Sinclair, CASC, OM, RSPd, Stratford, ON
Reiki Master/Teacher, Certified Hypnotist, Certified Prayer Practitioner



If there is any quality people in the world today deeply desire and yet are missing, it is contentment and serenity. Why do we so deeply desire these? I believe it is because contentment leads to serenity, and these are worth more than all the material possessions we could possibly accumulate in a lifetime.

If you were to look up the definitions of contentment and serenity you would find contentment defined as a state of happiness and satisfaction, and serenity defined as the absence of mental stress and anxiety. Count me in!

Yet it seems that as time goes by, our lives become more rushed and complicated by new technology and the greater demands often made by our jobs. Spending time with loved ones and raising a family become chores instead of the joy they should be. Urgency has become our new normal and it often defines the pace of our day. We think we must become what others are and have what others have.

But this kind of thinking will steal our joy. It is time to reclaim our peace of mind and find solace amid the chaos. It is time to find contentment and serenity and lay a claim to it.

Inner contentment and serenity is within reach of us all. Contentment and serenity is a decision to be happy with what we have right now and who we are right now. I don't believe that this means we have to accept everything that is going on in our lives and never want to change. It is good to want things to improve in ourselves, for others and in the world around us. But while we are working toward better days, we can learn to enjoy where we are on the way to where we are going.



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Earth-based Spirituality

Rev. Susan Eaton, CASC, OM, RSPd, Hunter River, PEI
Master Spiritual Director, Reiki Master



For many followers of Earth-based spirituality, as in the Interfaith Ministry, the Divine Source, the Creator, the Great Mystery, is seen in a different way by each of us, as we believe that no one else can look at the Creator from exactly our perspective. We each see the Divine in the way that is most appropriate for us. Earth-based spirituality, again similar to the Interfaith path, is a path of mystery, a path of experiences, rather than of books.

One of the ways in which I experience the Divine Source is in a balance of energy – yin and yang, female and male, intuitive and dynamic. The yin / female aspect may be seen as our home, the Earth, which sustains and nurtures us, and our ability to intuitively connect with the Divine. The yang / male aspect may be seen in the dynamic, life-giving energy of the Sun, our star among an infinite universe of stars.

The Earth is our home and we are all children of the Earth. But without the life-giving energy of the Sun, our planet cannot survive. Thus, we are also children of the non-physical world of creative energy as well as of the physical world of manifestation.

For most followers of Earth-based spirituality, the Creator is not seen as separate from Creation. The Divine is in everything, every person, every animal, every plant - the Earth herself, and at the same time, holds everything inside itself. We are all part of the greater Whole; we are all one family, children of one Creator.

Our true selves, our souls, exist in spirit and choose incarnations for learning and growth. As such, we are each born into this world with a life purpose. Each individual is different, unique, but neither less nor more than other individuals.

With our varied lives, our different gifts and talents, we each have something unique and vital to contribute. We do this in whatever way we are called, at any given time in our lives. We are always growing, always changing. As our skills and abilities develop and increase, we may be called to do different things in the world. We should not let awareness of another's talents discourage us; rather, we should realize and celebrate that whatever we do, great or small, is needed in the world.

We are sometimes so wrapped up, almost overwhelmed, in our daily work that we forget how important we are. We should be aware of how significant we can be to the people we see every day, with something as simple as a kind word. Sometimes we may have helped - intentionally or unintentionally - just by being there.

In order for one to give, someone must be willing to receive; there is a continuous give and take, learning when to be the giver and when to be the receiver.

Sometimes, our contribution is to know when to receive, so that another may give. We depend on each other for support and nurture; let us celebrate the Divine in ourselves and each other - the many faces of caring - as we share and support each other in growing and learning to know the Divine Source. Coming from an Earth-based perspective, let us strive to be in harmony with the All, for the greatest good of all, including our own.

Rev. Susan Eaton,
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Master Spiritual Director
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- religious ceremonies
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NTI Graduation and OIIM Ordinations

Rev. Sandi King, BA, BEd, MEd, PhD(TC), OM, CCC, n.d.,
Reiki Master., RSPchmd, Master Spiritual Counsellor, Ch'town, PE

Interfaith Expressions

The Open International Interfaith Ministry (OIIM), founded by the Revs. Sandi and Barry King on Prince Edward Island in 1987, expresses the Interfaith message through its motto: *The paths are many, the truth is one - love thy neighbor!* OIIM has 3 mission statements: 1) to be a bridge amongst the many different religious and spiritual paths; 2) to validate mystical experiences in a reverent, respectful and safe context; and 3) to offer an Interfaith Faith-path to those seeking an inclusive spiritual alternative and community. The Interfaith movement has seminaries around the world that ordain ministers in the Interfaith Tradition. NTI is the Interfaith Seminary Program for OIIM.

On Thursday, October 4, 2012 at 7PM in the Banquet Room (Room 246) at the Culinary Institute, NTI students from across Canada and the United States will dedicate themselves to being of service to the Interfaith movement and some will graduate after up to 6 years of study, dedication, and hard work. NTI mentors its students through a number of educational approaches – distance education, on-the-job training, apprenticeship and a 6-10 day Retreat here on the Island. This year's NTI Retreat is September 29 to October 6. The focus of NTI training is Interfaith Studies, Ministry and Spiritual Arts Practices.

At this special Interfaith Celebration Service, the Interfaith message will be well expressed through a number of artistic mediums. Performing a solo, an Interfaith adaption of 'Go Light Your World,' is NTI student Susan Killen with a background that includes early classical and operatic training, teaching voice for 30 years and performing in various genres: opera, oratorio, Broadway, jazz and folk. She has been a member of two opera companies and an artist in residence. Now she wishes to concentrate on singing for spiritual purposes as well as singing for groups experiencing Spirit. Sharing

her gift of music leading the congregation in song is NTI student, Jean Frost-Stone. Jean has been playing the guitar, singing and songwriting for over 30 years. She has shared her gift playing in church choirs, Cursillo weekends and weddings. Marie Nantes will offer NTI graduates a dedication through the song *Pass It On*.

NTI student Soleila Elliot and her partner are performing a sacred contemporary style dance to India Arie's song that was featured at the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Ceremonies. Incorporating some interpretation of the words of the song as well as some symbology, they integrate dance and spirituality perfectly from an Interfaith perspective. Through movement, we will see Interfaith expressions of how we might work with diversity, inspiring acceptance and connection.

Most NTI students bring to the Interfaith movement training in a number of certificate programs with specializations in specific spiritual and healing arts. All graduates, as OIIM Spiritual Arts Practitioners, qualify as Naturotherapists through the Academy of Naturopaths and Naturotherapists in Canada. Practitioner services, in addition to being covered by most extended health care plans, find a home within the professional context of the OIIM Registration Board, offering the public both protection (complaints can be lodged to the Board who will take appropriate action) and tools to discern what is a credible practitioner and what are appropriate fees for services offered.

All OIIM Registrants adhere to the International Code of Ethics for Spiritual Directors, pledge to be of service first, and maintain current practices by completing a number of Continuing Educational Units (CEUs) per year. OIIM Ordained Ministers – those graduating from NTI - are also eligible to carry internationally recognized clergy cards through the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC), a member of the World Council of Churches, and through A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy (AWAIC).



This is not the only tool available to the public, but it is one. The *OIIM Registration Booklet* is now available at www.interfaithconnections.org or in print at your Interfaith Centre or Spiritual Arts Practitioner's office.

The following is a brief summary of the current designations approved by the OIIM Registration Board.

Interfaith Ministry Professional Designations:

1. LM stands for *Licensed/Lay Minister*.

- a. This requires graduation from OIIM's Interfaith Seminary – the iNtuitive Times Institute's (NTI) first-year foundational program – Certificate of Applied Spiritual Counselling (CASC).
 - b. Dedication of oneself to continue with studies as a Spiritual Arts Practitioner apprenticing in one of our 4 areas of specializations.
 - c. This designation requires mentorship under a CASC, LM, OM or RSP with extensive experience.
 - d. Most LMs are Directors of an Interfaith Centre or Practice in their home community. These are typically home chapels or centres.
 - e. Further study in one's area of specialization involves up to 4 years for a LM designation.
 - f. LMs are trained to perform some spiritual ceremonies such as weekly or monthly services, present workshops and public demonstrations, and officiate at religious ceremonies such as baby blessings and house blessings.
- ##### **2. OM stands for *Ordained Minister*.**
- a. This requires, beyond the CASC, a further 4 years of study and 2 additional internships.
 - b. Most OMs are Directors of an Interfaith Centre as well as a Practice.
 - c. OMs are trained to offer a full range of religious services including officiating at weddings and funerals.
 - d. OIIM OMs (graduates of the NTI Interfaith Studies Program) are recognized through the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC), a member of the World Council of Churches (WCC). This affords our Ministers International recognition worldwide.

Lay Ministry or Spiritual Arts Practitioner Designations:

1. CASC stands for *Certificate of Applied Spiritual Counselling*.

- a. The CASC program is NTI's first-year foundational program and is required by all NTI students.
- b. An *applied certificate* means that the designate has qualified to be a full apprentice. *Applied* means a hands-on training with a focus in a particular field, preparing graduates to work in a specific profession and gain practical skills in combination with relevant theory while also earning a Certificate. *Certificates* are typically a one year or less program of study.
- c. CASC designation requires graduation from NTI's first-year foundational program which includes extensive distance education, on-the-job training and apprenticing as well as attending a 6-10 day NTI Retreat.

2. RSP stands for *Registered Spiritual Arts Practitioner*. RSPs have a specialization in one or more of 4 specific spiritual art practices. Their specialization will be designated with a small *c, h, m* or *d*.

- a. **RSP_c** – Registered Spiritual Arts Practitioner specializing in *Spiritual Counselling*. This requires, beyond the CASC, an additional 3 years of study and 3 internships.
- b. **RSP_h** – Registered Spiritual Arts Practitioner specializing in *Spiritual Healing*. This requires, beyond the CASC, an additional year of study and 1 internship.
- c. **RSP_m** – Registered Spiritual Arts Practitioner specializing in *Spiritual Mediumship*. This requires, beyond the CASC, an additional 2 years of study and two internships.
- d. **RSP_d** – Registered Spiritual Arts Practitioner specializing in *Spiritual Direction*. Only Ordained Ministers graduating from the 4-year NTI Interfaith Studies program are recognized as **RSP_d**.
- e. **RSP_{chmd}** – would be an example of someone who has studied the four areas of specialization.
- f. The NTI programs for the RSP designation are Diploma programs. Diplomas are typically 2 years or more of training.



Master Spiritual Arts Practitioners:

The title **Master** is awarded by the OIIM Registration Board to those OMs and RSPs that have 20 to 30 years experience and have received significant recognition for their community contributions, achievement, artistry and craftsmanship in their field of specialization. The public or other OIIM Registrants can nominate, at any time, a current OM or RSP for this awarded title.

The OIIM Registration Board established for protection of the public:

The OIIM Registration Board's goal is to assist the general public by offering a vehicle to discern qualified professionals in the Interfaith Ministry Professions and Spiritual Arts Practices through the following hallmarks of a professional body in the helping fields.

1. The OIIM Registration Board requires its registrants to:
 - a. Meet specific in-depth educational requirements – beyond a weekend course or workshops designed for personal development.
 - b. Maintain continuing educational units (CEUs).
 - c. Pledge to and adhere to a recognized professional Code of Ethics.
 - d. Complete Internships and Practicums that train one's natural talents into a craft or art, under experienced mentorship.

- e. Complete an Apprenticeship (on-the-job supervision – usually 2-5 years) of 2000 hours.
2. The OIIM Registration Board offers the public:
 - a. A means of discerning who is a credible professional.
 - b. A Board to lodge a complaint with, should one believe a registered or apprenticing practitioner caused harm, worked outside their scope of practice or breached their Code of Ethics.
 - c. A Board to administer disciplinary action to registrants when deemed appropriate.
 - d. Credentialing that affords you coverage through most extended health care plans.

We recognize that a great deal of trust is placed in your Practitioners and Ministers. We consider it an honour and a privilege to assist you in your journey of deepening your connection to the Divine and caring for your Soul and Spirit. We take that trust seriously.



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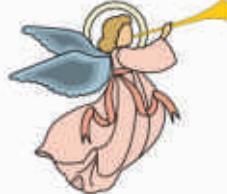
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Loss and Love

Margaret Flood, BA (Hon. Soc. Dev. St.), York PEI
NTI Student - CASC Candidate, Gestalt Therapist

The summer has passed too quickly
The little boy that I was sure would never grow up
has
The little boy who needed his Mother
doesn't
The little boy who wasn't going to leave home
has
I am feeling sad



My youngest has just left, very happily, for university, leaving me with his future and my past. Having raised him to follow his heart and he is doing just that. Unfortunately his heart is in another province! I want him to be happy and become who he is. He has a soul filled with music and adventure and believes that if you let things be, they will turn out as they should. I am happy, yet at the same time I feel a loss as he moves on "to be" his own self.

Loss is something that we all feel. Some are small and some are big. And they all need to be grieved. Every time there is a change there is a loss. And a chance for growth.



What is my loss? As my son grows up and moves away what I lose is the time with him. I lose the day-to-day togetherness. After 18 years of him always being here, suddenly he isn't. I miss seeing his little curly head on his pillow. And so I grieve this separation. With time, I will move into the joy of his world – the excitement and possibilities that he sees and is chasing. The space between us will be filled with the happiness and pride I feel as I watch him move along his path (occasionally send money) and begin the journey that is his alone. My Mother's love has said 'Be who you are' and his love has said 'Here I am.' By letting go and starting anew, we both take a fresh look at that very important question: What is my purpose? And bonus ... my house is cleaner and tidier!



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The Challenges of Interfaith

Rev. Suki Garson BA, MBA, D.H., NLP
CASC, OM, Dundas, ON



I am an Interfaith minister, and, as part of my work I have been afforded the opportunity to discuss with clients how they will bring their respective traditions, culture and faith to a united table.

To my surprise, I am personally facing the same challenges. Initially, when my partner Paul and I met, we were both delighted that the other one was Jewish and felt that it would make life easier. It did and it does for all things Jewish. However, my thoughts, my beliefs and my interests stem, in addition, outside Judaica. My interests go into the realms of spiritual. His do not, or at least not in the way mine do.

I must pay Paul a complement because he did ask to read some of my books so that he might better understand me; however a lot of it is “woo woo” to him. I can understand that, but it creates a challenge at times. For example, last year I created a vision tree

and part of my board was my new home. I designed a home that had a second floor overlooking the first, one massive grand room for the kitchen, dining and sitting area and no hallways. About three weeks after Paul and I purchased a lot and chose the new home we wanted to build there, I realized that it was my home from the vision board. At the time, I had not even heard of the word bungalow, and yet that is what I envisioned, and that is what we purchased.

I was very excited about how my desire had manifested itself, yet Paul was somewhat skeptical, even uneasy.

How does one proceed? Can one proceed? Absolutely one can proceed in the relationship. It is, I think, as I share with my clients, a matter of respect and a matter of community. We each need to respect the other's views even if they are not our own beliefs and thoughts. “Woo woo” has become a tender term to mean, 'I don't really understand what you are talking about but I know it is important to you.' If I need to discuss my spirituality, then I turn to my community. My spiritual community serves a role similar to what my community of other mums did when my children were babies.

It has been quite enlightening to recognize that even within the same faith, we can be Interfaith and that the same principles apply - be respectful of differences, talk about and discover other ideas. As time goes on, I have come to believe this process will make me a better Minister with a greater understanding of Interfaith.

Interfaith Wedding Ceremonies

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Rev. Barry King, Rev. Sandi King
& Rev. Susan Eaton PEI
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A Spiritual Inferiority Complex

Heather Séguin, Charlottetown, PE
NTI Student - CASC, LM Candidate



In a counselling session, I was bemoaning the fact that I was feeling somewhat spiritually unworthy. In my mind, this was not a good feeling to be having in light of the fact that I had just embarked on a course of spiritual studies with the hope of assisting others on their life journeys. I'm not sure why I was feeling this way. Probably because I was meeting more and more like-minded people and was feeling a bit bedazzled by what I perceived to be their impressive gifts and extensive knowledge.

As I contemplated my feelings of inadequacy, I found myself wondering, "How can I serve when I know so little? What can I possibly bring to the table?" After listening patiently, my spiritual counsellor said, "You bring yourself and your experiences." Wow! Talk about simple but profound! Later it dawned on me ... my spiritual knowledge may be limited, and I don't know everything, but maybe, just maybe, I know enough.

For example, I know we're all souls with a purpose. I know that because we have chosen mortality, we all have challenges, difficulties, questions and doubts. Yet in spite of this, I also know that we are not alone and that we have enormous spiritual reservoirs of light and truth available to us. I may not be a spiritual guru, but I do know that the spiritual journey is the process of a lifetime and probably other lifetimes to come.

Have I completely laid this inferiority complex to rest? Not yet, but I've decided not to be quite so bedazzled anymore. I've decided that I can find

inspiration from the gifts, knowledge, and work of others but that I won't relegate my sacred role to them no matter how spiritually aware they seem. In other words, I'm going to concentrate more on finding my own power, my own wisdom, and my own voice so that I can make my own contribution.

What I'm coming to realize is that although there are days where I may feel inadequate and unprepared, I can take comfort in the fact that although I'll never know everything, I really do know enough.



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Our world view ... includes the principle of the Higher Self. Each of us has this 'utterly trustworthy parental being' to use the Huna phrase, who is part of the super-conscious mind and a counterpart to our subconscious mind ... There are really no accidents because our Higher Self stages situations and experiences which are essential for our inner progress.

George Trevelyn -
A Vision of the Aquarian Age



Engagement - A Key to Joy

Rev. Barry King, *BSc(Hon.), PhD(TC), OM,*
Reiki Master, n.d., RSPchmd, Master Spiritual Medium



Reason to Celebrate!

Every day I step into the world with a sense of wonderment and awe. I have been blessed with a physical life and yet I have also been blessed to know with certainty that I am Spirit. I have been blessed with opportunities to be of service both in my work and my vocation. Rev. Sandi and I work long hours and we have forgotten what a day off is but we are filled with joy. At an early age we both recognized the value and worth of stepping out and following our passion. It was not always easy. As a matter of fact, there were times when it was really hard but we trusted our vision and the universe and stepped forward, took chances and learned. We have lived and laughed and cried. Every day we stepped into the world with a sense of joy and a desire to be engaged in life, to make a difference and to be of service.

Rev. Sandi and I became involved in the Interfaith Ministry over 30 years ago because we were called to celebrate the simple truth that we are all children of the one light and that all spiritual traditions have their foundations in that truth. We were also called to free people from the fear of death and guilt by sharing the absolute awareness that we are Spirit and that we are all eternal. When we began our journey, these truths were not popular and there was much fear and misconceptions associated with being Interfaith in perspective. Today the Interfaith perspective is much more acceptable but still little understood.

We continue to work to articulate what it means to be Interfaith and to follow an Interfaith Faith-path. When we founded the PEI Interfaith Ministry and the Open International Interfaith Ministry we felt that it was important that those who embraced an Interfaith perspective have a home – a ministry where they could feel safe and secure to explore their spiritually with reverence and love. There are those who believe that it is enough to just be spiritual and that religions have no relevance in today's world. I cannot accept that. It has been my experience that people need community and that it is important that we have structures to explore our spiritual natures

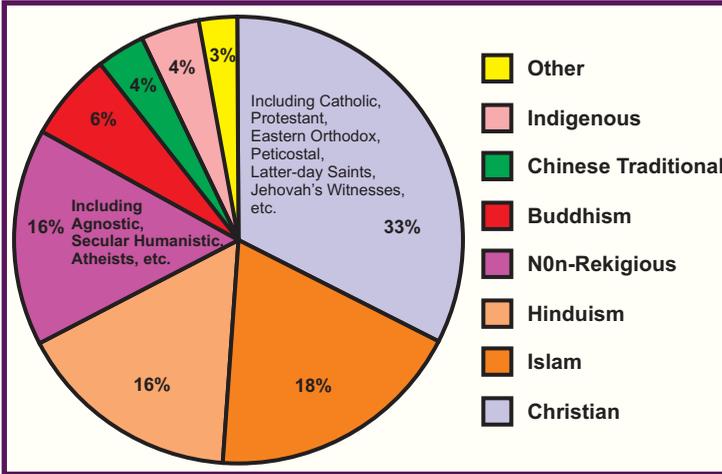
with reverence and safety.

The challenge is to create structures that will support diversity and self expression. As a community we celebrate all of the world's diverse religious and spiritual traditions and reject fear and intolerance in spiritual practice. We understand that we are spiritual beings living a physical existence. We know that God is love and that there is not just one path to the divine source. We celebrate the fact that the God source – the ALL – is the foundation of all religions and spiritual paths.

Once we established the Ministry, the next step was to create a seminary to allow students to become Ordained Interfaith Ministers and follow a path of service. This was not a simple thing to undertake but after several years of work the OIIM Seminary – the iNtuitive Times Institute (NTI) – was created. Through it, we offer a number of 4-year programs with the goal of creating a community of trained professional Interfaith Ministers and Spiritual Arts Practitioners who have made a choice to be of service and celebrate diversity.

As we prepare for our upcoming 10-day NTI Spiritual Retreat, I am filled with great joy and optimism for the future. Our NTI students will attend from across the country to participate in the program. They will explore areas such as counselling, ministering, working with Spirit and the Interfaith movement. They are the foundation which will shape the future of the Interfaith Faith-path. I see in them the presence of the God source, the joy of living, the passion for truth and the desire to make a difference which Rev. Sandi and I felt years ago and still feel. We have been blessed to have had the privilege to help nurture a new generation of Interfaith truth-seekers who will continue to work to change the world one person at a time. In time, we will succeed.





The World Religions ~ BUDDHISM

Rev. Debra Lynn Sinclair,
CASC, OM, RSPd, n.d.

Each issue of www.InterfaithConnections.org will feature a world religions. For more info go to www.sacred-texts.com/hin/ or www.unification.net/ws/



Buddhism originated some 2500 years ago in the 6th century, in Nepal. Today there is an estimated 350 million followers worldwide. Buddhism is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama who, as a young man, left the high ranks of society to meditate on the causes of human suffering as well as the nature of life, death and existence. Six years later Siddhartha experienced enlightenment and became the Buddha. For the remainder of his life, he taught others how to realize enlightenment for themselves.

Although the main focus of most religions is God or gods, the Buddha taught that believing in gods was not useful for those seeking to realize enlightenment. Rather, he taught that enlightenment came from one's own experience, not through beliefs and dogma. What is important is a personal spiritual journey that includes meditation, religious practices, a development of mindfulness and freedom from attachment.

The foundation of Buddhism is based on the Four Noble Truths:

1. The truth of suffering - life is suffering.
2. The truth of the cause of suffering - desire.

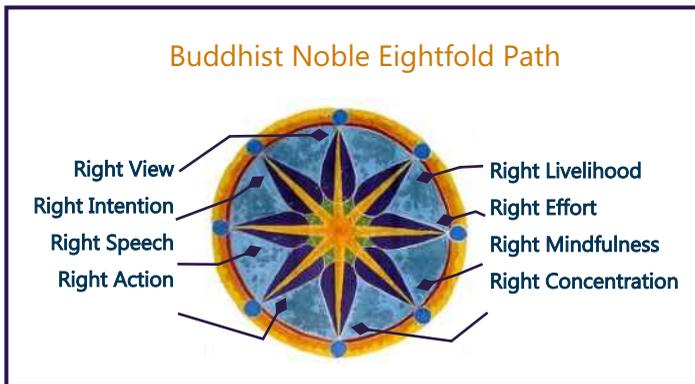
3. The truth of the end of suffering - removing desire.
4. The truth of the path that frees us from suffering - following the eightfold path.

The Noble Eightfold Path is contained within the Four Noble Truths and represents the means to cease the suffering of existence and open the way to peace:

1. Right view or perspective.
2. Right intention.
3. Right speech.
4. Right action.
5. Right livelihood.
6. Right effort.
7. Right mindfulness.
8. Right concentration.

The Five Precepts, which constitute the earliest Buddhist moral code, are to be viewed within the context of the Noble Eightfold Path. They are chanted regularly in rituals by Buddhist monks and are regarded as general ideals applicable to everyone:

1. No intentional destruction of life.
2. No stealing.
3. No sexual misconduct.
4. No lying.
5. No intoxication.



Both a religion and philosophy encompassing a variety of traditions, beliefs and practices, Buddhism offers an explanation for the purpose of life and the reason for suffering as well as a path to true happiness.





Stratford, ON Interfaith Centre ~ Schedule and News

Register with dgsinclair50@yahoo.com

AUTUMN 2012 PROGRAMS

2nd Sunday of the month
2:00-4:00 pm
EFFECTIVE PRAYER
Facilitator - Deb Sinclair
Stratford Interfaith Centre

Tuesday afternoons
1:30-3:00 pm
THE HEALING JOURNEY PART 1
Facilitator - Deb Sinclair
Wellsprings, Stratford, Ont.

2nd Tuesday of the month
7:00-9:00 pm
AN INTRODUCTION TO ARCHANGELS
Facilitator - Deb Sinclair
Queen St., St. Marys, Ont.

Wednesday afternoons
1:30-4:00 pm
REIKI
Practitioner - Deb Sinclair
Wellsprings, Stratford, Ont.

2nd Wednesday of the month
7:00-9:00 pm
THE CELESTINE
PROPHECY
Facilitator - Deb Sinclair
Stratford Interfaith Centre

4th Wednesday of the month
7:00-9:00 pm
AN INTRODUCTION TO
CHAKRAS
Facilitator - Deb Sinclair
Stratford Interfaith Centre

3rd Friday of the month
7:00-?
Spiritual Cinema
Stratford Interfaith Centre

Ongoing: Private Sessions - By Appointment
REIKI, SPIRITUAL DIRECTION, SPIRITUAL
WEIGHT LOSS, PAST LIFE REGRESSIONS
Practitioner - Deb Sinclair
Stratford Interfaith Centre



*Debra Lynn Sinclair,
CASC, LM, RH, Reiki Master,
Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice
Director of the
Stratford, Ontario
Interfaith Centre*



Saint John, NB Interfaith Centre ~ Schedule and News

More info, to register or to be put on our e-list RevSandiKing@gmail.com

506-214-1753

AUTUMN 2012 PROGRAMS

***SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
MEDITATION GROUP**
Wednesdays 7-9PM
October 24, November 28
Fee \$30 / OIIM Members'
suggested donation \$20

**INTERFAITH CELEBRATION
SERVICES**
Sundays 7-9PM
October 21, November 25
Donations welcomed

PRIVATE SESSIONS - BY APPOINTMENT
October 19-25 and November 23-29
*Spiritual Readings with Rev. Barry
*Spiritual Counselling with Rev. Sandi
\$75 / 45 minute sessions (readings are recorded)
*covered by most extended health care plans





Prince Edward Island Interfaith Centre

Register with Rev. Sandi RevSandiKing@gmail.com

TENTATIVE Schedule of Events Autumn 2012 - Prince Edward Island Interfaith Centre:

To register and/or make an appointment for private sessions and/or ask to receive regular emails, contact RevSandiKing@gmail.com. **Thursday Wksh Fee: \$30 (covered by most extended health care plans);**

OIIM Members are entitled to free participation at most Thursday night OIIM Events - Recommended donation: \$20 per event. Other workshops and course fees are noted and are usually covered by most extended health care plans (when presenters have n.d. after their name).

Check out the full Interfaith Connections
Volume 26-1 Autumn 2012 at
www.interfaithconnections.org

WEBSITES

OIIM: www.InterfaithMinistry.com
Spirituality/Holistic Health: www.iNtuitiveTimes.ca
Interfaith E-news: www.InterfaithConnections.org
Weddings: www.WeddingsOnPEI.ca
Educational Resources & NTI (Seminary): www.OIIM.net
Family/Personal Counselling: www.KingsWC.org
Psychic Readings/Resources: www.RevBarryKing.ca

Workshop Facilitators and Service Officiants

- ✧ **Rev. Sandi King, BA, BEd, MEd, PhD(TC), OM, CCC, n.d., Reiki Master, RSPchmd and Master Spiritual Counsellor**
- ✧ **Rev. Barry King, BSc(Hon.), PhD(TC), OM, n.d., Reiki Master, RSPchmd and Master Spiritual Medium**
- ✧ **Rev. Susan Eaton, OM, CASC, Reiki Master, RSPd and Master Spiritual Director**

VISITING MINISTERS

- ✧ **Rev. Debra Lynn Sinclair, OM, CASC, n.d., Reiki Master, Certified Hypnotherapist, RSPd and Registered Spiritual Director**
- ✧ **Rev. Suki Garson, OM, CASC, BA, MBA, D.H., NLP, n.d., Master Hypnotherapist**

SEPTEMBER:

TH 13, 7-9PM - INTERFAITH CELEBRATION SERVICE - Enjoy an evening of sharing, meditation, uplifting talk, song, prayer, and messages or healing from Spirit. (*Donations welcomed.*)

TH 20, 7-9PM - WORKSHOP - Connecting to Spirit - Divination Tools with Rev. Susan: ✧ An experiential workshop for personal use; ✧ Devoted to enhancing one's personal connection to Spirit; ✧ Exploration of various tools such as angel, tarot or I Ching Cards, rune stones, crystals, stones, etc.

THURSDAY 27, 7-9PM - COURSE - Reiki 1 with visiting Minister Debra Lynn Sinclair, n.d.: ✧ An experiential course for personal use, devoted to enhancing one's personal connection to Spirit through Healing Energy; ✧ Brief open discussion; ✧ Introduction to Reiki 1 and Healing Energy; ✧ Introduction to the Reiki 1 symbols; ✧ Names and pronunciations of the Reiki symbols, as well as the learnings (intentions) of each symbol. **CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE A REIKI LEVEL 1 PRACTITIONER! Fee: \$75 (covered by most extended health care plans).**

SEPTEMBER: (continued)

FRIDAY 28, 4-8PM - COURSE - Reiki 2 with visiting Minister Debra Lynn Sinclair, n.d.: ✧ An experiential course for personal use, devoted to enhancing one's personal connection to Spirit through Healing Energy; ✧ Brief open discussion; ✧ Review of Reiki 1; ✧ Introduction to the Reiki 2 symbols; ✧ Names and pronunciations of the Reiki symbols, as well as the learnings (intentions) of each symbol; ✧ Receive attunement; ✧ Draw the symbols, write the symbols and give the meaning of the symbols; ✧ Review the use and power of each symbol; ✧ Experience the increased flow of the Reiki by placing the symbols into your body; ✧ Learn a step-by-step formula of using the symbols in sending Reiki long distance; ✧ Learn how to use surrogates as a focussing tool for distance healing; ✧ Discuss how Reiki can be sent into the past or the future; ✧ Question/answer period. **MUST have proof of Reiki 1. CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE A REIKI LEVEL 2 PRACTITIONER! Fee: \$150 (covered by most extended health care plans); includes course materials. ½ hour potluck supper.**



www.interfaithministry.com www.intuitivetimes.ca www.interfaithconnections.org

OCTOBER (continued):

3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH - OCTOBER 16, NOVEMBER 20 AND DECEMBER 18, 7-9:30PM - COURSE - Mediumship II with Master Spiritual Medium, Rev. Barry King: ☞ Deepen your personal connection to spirit; ☞ Strengthen gifts of Spirit through the exploration of guides and angels, prophets and sages; ☞ Experience being in touch with and the spiritual joy of channelling your higher power; ☞ See and experience the joy in channelling Spirit. ☞ **Must be an OIIM member, have taken Orientation to Meditation and Interfaith and Instructor to Mediumship, and have Instructor's permission. FEE: \$75.**



TH 18, 7-9PM - WORKSHOP - Healing Hands with Rev. Sandi joined by NTI Student, Robin Phillips: ☞ What is healing energy;

☞ Experience the sacredness of channelling healing energy; ☞ Deepen your connection to the Divine through healing energy; ☞ Discover how your hands can be healing and scan anomalies in one's body; ☞ Find a sacred stone that speaks to you; ☞ Let Spirit connect to you through your stone; ☞ Enjoy a deep relaxation while journeying into your sacred stone; ☞ Observe and explore your relationship to your healing stone. *Robin has been working with, learning about and acquiring stones for over three years and is currently enrolled in a two-year crystal resonance therapy certification program. Robin will have a stone for everyone.*



TH 25, 7-9PM - WORKSHOP - Earth Energies with Rev. Susan: ☞ *You are a child of the Universe, no less than the trees and the stars* - Desiderata; ☞ We are part of an interconnectedness of life

that we share with all Creation; ☞ We depend on each other and our planet Earth; ☞ As we explore this connection through meditation and visualization, we see the extraordinary in the ordinary, we touch the spiritual reality of our world and ourselves; ☞ Includes a guided meditation.

NOVEMBER:

TH 1, 7-9PM - INTERFAITH CELEBRATION SERVICE - Enjoy an evening of sharing, meditation, uplifting talk, song, prayer, and messages or healing from Spirit. (*Donations welcomed.*)

TH 8, 7-9PM - WORKSHOP - Soul Healing with Rev. Sandi joined by NTI Student, Heather Séguin: ☞ Journey into meditation while exploring your Soul Purpose in this incarnation; ☞ A good ending to our earthly life has a lot to do with how we lived our

NOVEMBER (continued):

lives on a day-to-day basis; ☞ Does the life you live reflect your values? ☞ Are you really living? ☞ How do you feel called by Spirit to live your life? ☞ If I died today, would I die happy? ☞ Am I satisfied with the direction in which my life is headed? ☞ Am I happy with the legacy that I'm creating? ☞ What's missing from my life? ☞ Do an exercise that helps you zero in on the meaning of your life; ☞ Explore ways of fulfilling that meaning; ☞ Heal your Soul through a clearer vision of your Soul Purpose and meaning of this incarnation. *From the Interfaith perspective, death is the passage into a new form of existence. Heather has a desire to walk with those who are making this transition, to listen to them, and learn from them. In addition to her NTI Studies, she is presently working towards a Certificate of Thanatology through Centennial College in Toronto as a first step in pursuing more advanced studies in this field.*

TH 15, 7-9PM - WORKSHOP - Engagement - A Key to Finding Joy with Rev. Barry: ☞ An experiential workshop for personal use; ☞ Devoted to enhancing ones personal connection to Spirit; ☞ Exploration of how we seek joy and how we sometimes stumble upon it; ☞ Discover the secret to a joy-filled life; ☞ Learn a more focused way of putting joy in your life; ☞ What is a natural 'high'? ☞ Which one's can I easily add to my daily routines?

TH 22, 7-9PM - WORKSHOP - Sacred Art Meets Sacred Geometry in Mandalas with Rev. Sandi: ☞ Discover the sacred and healing power at the meeting point of geometry and art; ☞ Work with the sacred geometry pattern that speaks to you; ☞ Discover your healing pattern through a meditation journey; ☞ Prepare for a fun, participatory workshop that easily allows for artistic expression - even for those of us without artistic talents; ☞ Come away with a daily meditation tool to assist you in deepening your connection to the Divine.



TH 29, 7-9PM - WORKSHOP - Connecting to Spirit - Psychometry, Billeting and Symbols with Rev. Susan: ☞ An experiential workshop for personal use; ☞ Devoted to enhancing one's personal connection to Spirit; ☞ Exploration of psychometry (vibration in personal possessions), billeting (vibration in hand writing) and symbols (interpreting visions).

DECEMBER:

TH 6, 7-9PM - INTERFAITH CELEBRATION SERVICE - Enjoy an evening of sharing, meditation, uplifting talk, song, prayer, and messages or healing from Spirit. (*Donations welcomed.*)



PEI and Saint John Interfaith Centres' Schedules-at-a-Glance
Visiting Minister Programs / Special Courses

September 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 7-9PM Service	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Divination Tools	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 7-9PM Reiki 1	28 4-8PM Reiki 2	29 10AM-4PM Arch- angels
30 10am-4PM Orientation- Meditation/Intuitive Development/Interfaith 7-9PM FLR						

October 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 7:30-8:30PM Student Service	3	4 7-9PM Graduation Ordinations Culinary Institute	5	6 10-3PM Reiki 3
7	8	9 7-9:30PM Mediumship Orientation	10	11 7-9PM Message Circle	12 7-9:30PM Mediumship Orientation	13
14	15	16 Mediumship II - 1	17	18 Healing Hands	19	20
21 7-9PM SJ Service	22	23	24 7-9PM SJ Group	25 Earth Energies	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 7-9PM Service	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Soul Healing	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Engagement Key to Joy	16	17
18	19	20 7-9:30PM Mediumship II - 2	21	22 Sacred Art Meets Sacred Geometry in Mandalas	23	24
25 7-9PM SJ Service	26	27	28 7-9PM SJ Group	29 Psychometry Billing Symbols	30	

December 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6 7-9PM Service	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Aura Sensing/ Energy Awareness	14	15
16	17	18 7-9:30PM Mediumship II - 3	19	20 Seasonal Celebration	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
New Year Service on January 24 Workshop - Connecting to Spirit January 31						

DECEMBER (continued):

TH 13, 7-9PM - WORKSHOP - Aura Sensing and Energy Awareness with Rev. Barry: ✨ An experiential workshop for personal use; ✨ Discover the spiritual energy that surrounds and fills your body; ✨ Journey in meditation to see and channel your spiritual energy; ✨ Feel the healing power within your reach; ✨ See the many colours of your aura and interpret what they mean in your life; ✨ Enjoy a joy-filled evening channelling Spirit's healing energy.

Thursday December 20, 7-9pm
PEI Interfaith Centre's Seasonal Celebration

✨ We invite you to join us in celebrating the many holy traditions of the season, winter solstice ceremony, songs, fellowship in breaking of bread and a visit from Buddha Santa; ✨ A spiritually uplifting gift of \$5 or under, a finger food potluck contribution & food for the food bank are welcomed.





A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy (AWAIC)

Rev. Philip Waldrop, Board Chair



A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy Rep to Participate in NTI Retreat

Rev. Philip Waldrop, AWAIC Board Chair will participate in the upcoming iNtuitive Times Institute (NTI) retreat in Charlottetown. He will be a featured presenter on Friday October 5, on the topic of Visioning Your Ministry and the Roles of AWAIC.

Rev. Philip brings to this presentation an overview of Interfaith Minister education and formation around the world, focusing on North America and Europe as well as to introduce A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy. He will share his enthusiasm about the importance of wider connections among Interfaith Clergy, and invites you to consider that your ministry is local and personal, as well as communal, with a community that can be regional, national, continental, even global. The presentation will include a chance to be interactive.

Continuing Education Program for Interfaith Clergy in Process

In August the Board of A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy was busy at work deliberating the recommendations of the Continuing Education Steering Committee. Chief among these is the awarding of a "Certificate of Advanced Interfaith Ministry Training" to qualifying members.

The Steering Committee, which included Rev. Dr. Sandi King, focused its recommendations on a mix of Continuing Education Units including academic, experiential, and "in-service" requirements, over a period of up to four years. This ongoing training affords our membership the ability to enhance their knowledge, increase their public profile and credentials, and help them serve the people of their ministries.



Further information can be found at the website www.awainterfaithclergy.org Questions can be directed through that website too, or contact Rev. Philip Waldrop (phwaldrop@optonline.net) or by phone at 973-214-6589.



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Moving October 1 to 100 Capital Drive

iNtuitive Times Institute

Interfaith Seminary

Celebrating diversity and the Interfaith Perspective!

The Paths Are Many, the Truth Is One ~ Love Thy Neighbour



NTI - Interfaith seminary studies for OIIM (Open International Interfaith Ministry)

All NTI graduates qualify to be Naturotherapists (n.d.) with the Canadian Academy of Naturopaths and Naturotherapists (ANN) - able to issue receipts for clients to benefit from most extended health care plans.

Ordained Ministers qualify for international clergy recognition
with both the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) and
A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy (AWAIC)



8 Core Subject Areas:

- Ministering
- Comparative Religious Studies
- Spirituality
- Counselling
- Intuitive/Psychic Studies
- Before and After Life Studies
- Energy Work/Spiritual Healing
- Holistic Wellness

www.OIIM.net

Five Programs through distance education, on-the-job training and retreats
(choose the program that speaks to you):

- I. CASC** - Certificate of Applied Spiritual Counselling: complements an existing practitioner's training while providing the Foundation Year to the Interfaith Tradition
- II. RSPc** - Registered Spiritual Counsellor
- III. RCPH** - Registered Spiritual Healer
- IV. RCPm** - Registered Spiritual Medium
- V. OM, RSPd** - Ordained Interfaith Minister, Registered Spiritual Director

www.InterfaithMinistry.com

RevSandi@InterfaithMinistry.com

902-629-1385