

**Are you called?
Spiritual Deepening for Global Transformation**

This invitation begins with the closing lines of **“A Brave and Startling Truth”**, an anthem written by Maya Angelou to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in 1995. The poem speaks of human stupidity, of human awakening, and of amazing human grace, honoring the courageous and stunning reality that:

When we come to it
We must confess that we are the possible
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world.
That is when, and only when
We come to it.



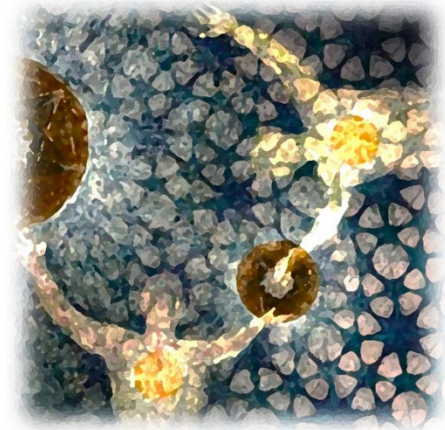
What a brave and startling truth to realize that global transformation happens only as individual souls deepen, one by one, relationship by relationship, and practice by practice --- shaped by all the myriad choices we each make. That you are reading these lines is a wonder. That you are part of the Christine Center circle is miraculous. And our common lure to soul depth, supportive community, and heartfelt unfolding is our daring and astonishing truth.

Spiritual Deepening for Global Transformation (SDGT) was first designed in 2006 from the desire of the Catholic sisters in residence to support the spiritual awakening so many people had experienced through introductory retreats and workshops. It was their dream to invite seekers to mature in their personal practice and to gather for mutual learning and deepening in a nurturing multi-spiritual community. Six cohorts have completed the formal SDGT three-year commitment. Many still continue to gather for depth and encouragement in smaller, informal ways. We continue to discover that all experience, all that is, is a great complex, ongoing, communal, energetic and alive “one thing”.



Key to the SDGT program is that while our pathways inward might differ, we share together from the growing edge of what we discover on the way. We come together, all of us, as both teachers and learners in an intentional community committed to depth and transformation. Now, miraculously and wonderfully, a fresh cohort is being convened, beginning the weekend of August 14, and continuing through February of 2027. Might you be called to join us?

We are not human beings having a spiritual experience.
We are spiritual beings having a human experience.
Teilhard de Chardin



How the new SDGT is shaped...

Becoming the transformation that we desire is at the heart of the SDGT experience. The first year primarily intends the consolidation and **deepening of personal spiritual practice and heartfulness**, of becoming aware that inner work is ultimately Earth work. The second year is for the **integration of body, earth and soul**, realizing that we “matter” together for the sake of world soul. The third year, as Maya Angelou suggests, is for **coming to it**: for finding our way forward through our hearts and practice, deeply listening for what the world needs from each of us, now.

Covid has taught us new possibilities for convening, and we have learned from past experience. We will meet six times a year (once every two months). The two longer on-site retreats (Thursday evening to Sunday midday) are offered each year in the natural sanctuary of the Christine Center. With the trees as our sentinels, and the natural elements our guardians, the intention is to host gracious space for communal intensive practice, supportive sharing, heartfelt ritual and personal restoration. An additional four Saturdays each year offer rich opportunity for online learning and integrative conversation. The two 2-hour Saturday sessions (morning and afternoon) will feature selected deepening conversations presented by seasoned teachers for ongoing exploration.

Meet the new core team of SDGT conveners...

As the new SDGT emerges Ss. Johanna and Henrita offer their blessing and support. With happiness for the continuation of the Christine Center commitment to transformative deepening in compassion and oneness, they look forward to greeting and supportively participating as time and energy permits. Visit the SDGT webpage to meet your guides: christinecenter.org/sdgt/

Some discernment considerations...

Wondrously and miraculously, as Maya Angelou suggests, you might feel your heart quicken at the invitation to join our newest SDGT community. Here are some considerations to hold in your heart as you discern:

Do you have a sense of “more” possible in your spiritual practice?

The SDGT is intended for those who are experiencing a sense that more is possible, or that the depth of practice they sense as possible is eluding them. Perhaps you feel a sameness, a dullness with your practice... Perhaps there is no freshness or enthusiasm. Consider these experiences as threshold guardians, waiting for you to engage in a heartfelt, renewed willingness to break through into the not-yet-known of what is possible.

Is a call to join with other spiritual seekers something you are yearning for?

Do you experience a heartfelt desire for spiritual companions?

More than self-directed study and individual retreats, joining an intentional community of seekers offers a synergistic field that opens portals not possible on a solo path. The time of the solitary scholar or

mystic is over. Consider the desire for spiritual companionship as a call to participate in a mutually supportive community. The SDGT invites a commitment of three years of deepening together --- to create together a new way of being fully human, fully present, fully conscious for the sake of the world and all beings. Is such a commitment desirable to you at this time?

What is spiritual deepening anyway? How will this help me? How will this help our world?

While there are many ways to deepen, common among them is the human experience that we are more than our body, and more than what we know ourselves to be. Do you have a desire to experience life fully -- to thrive and flourish wholly? Spiritual deepening practices of all lineages open us to the experience of both our human vulnerability and our infinity of soul. We learn the awesome simultaneity of the tangible particular and the transcendent whole. The SDGT draws on nature and metaphysics, and on the many traditions both east and west, indigenous and classical. Participant seekers are encouraged to deepen in the path that is most resonant for them. Are you ready to discover who you truly are and why you are here? This is how our world is transformed, one person, one community at a time.

What can the facilitators offer that can be meaningful and helpful to me?

Gabe, Joanne, Sharon and Ron are long-term dedicated seekers, each with an established and strong personal practice. They each have over 30 years of intensive practice. Each in their own way



understands the world in which we live, its precariousness and its splendor. Spiritually multilingual, they are skilled docents on the soul-deepening path, suggesting practical and embodied insights and practices. They offer their questions, their experiences and what they are currently learning. They invite participants to bring their own wisdom and current queries. We will enter the not-yet-known together, helping each other find the just right next step. The retreat and learning sessions are one of a kind, tailored to what is emerging in the community of seekers.

An ongoing contemplation...

Humans have never lived in such a critical time of both peril and promise. A poem by Adrienne Rich captures it well:

My heart is moved by all I cannot save, so much has been destroyed.

I have to cast my lot with those who age after age, perversely,
and with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world.

As we face cultural shifts on a planetary scale how shall we hold in our hearts our own well-being, that of those we love and even those who cause us grief? Mystics all through the ages have asked the same question. Now in wonder, and through miraculous circumstances, it is our turn to puzzle out a fresh world-creating answer. As we enter into another year with countries in critical combat, another presidential election cycle, another series of climate change natural disasters, where will we find refuge and restoration, hope and possibility? Can it be we are being called together to bless and reconstitute the world, one encounter at a time? If you would like more information and to experience what it might be like to participate in the SDGT 3-year experience, join us for a “come and see” retreat the weekend of March 28-30, 2025 Specifics will be forthcoming on the website.