

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Mastery Foundation is a non-profit interfaith organization established in August 1983. The programs and initiatives offered by the Mastery Foundation are designed to give participants new power and access to what they already know, and the ability to bring new possibilities to their current situation. The Mastery Foundation is staffed and supported almost entirely by volunteers who contribute their time and talent to lead programs, work with individuals and communities, and raise the funds that, along with program fees, allow for broad-based participation in its programs.

### THE MASTERY FOUNDATION

Empowering individuals and communities in

- Ministering to and serving others
- Reconciling and healing past divisions
- Creating new possibilities for the future

Contact for further information

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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

THE 2007 GULF COAST WORKSHOP

July 23 to 25, 2007

Beckwith Conference Center

Fairhope, Alabama

*(limited to 30 participants)*

A special workshop for local clergy of every faith and denomination who responded so immediately and wholeheartedly to the devastating hurricanes of the summer of 2005. They are still responding today, working to feed, house, and comfort those who lost everything, working to sustain their communities through the long process of recovery, working to rebuild what was lost.

In recognition of their commitment and effort, and aware that those who take care of others are often themselves overlooked or don't have the time or energy left to take care of themselves, the Mastery Foundation sponsored two workshops in the summer of 2006 which were both well-attended and well-received by the participants. At their request, a Making a Difference workshop will be given in Fairhope, Alabama in July 2007, directed specifically to those who have been at work in the Gulf Coast.

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE: A COURSE FOR THOSE WHO MINISTER** is an advanced, interfaith workshop for both lay and ordained persons in ministry. Its purpose is to challenge you to rethink what is possible both for yourself and for your ministry and to provide you with the tools to revitalize your commitment and successfully bring about a future that is a match for your vision. This program challenges those fundamental assumptions which shape people's actions and what they consider possible. Its fundamental premise is that ministry has the possibility not only of

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: A COURSE FOR THOSE WHO MINISTER challenges old assumptions and creates new tools to empower you to deal effectively with those issues that are most basic, most urgent — the daily business of ministry, the spirit and heart of fully living out your calling, making thoughtful choices, relating powerfully to others, and having your life and ministry make the difference you want them to make.

The course does not give easy answers, tips or rules. Instead it offers a technology for getting our hands on our own power and effectiveness. It is about moving beyond the constraints placed on us — the limits we have set for ourselves and those we feel have been set by others. It is about providing us with direct access to shaping what is possible for the future.

To do this, to create new possibilities, requires the willingness to suspend easy answers and quick solutions — to step beyond the familiar and the known into uncharted territory where there are no guideposts and the outcome is uncertain. Creating possibility ultimately is about risk, about courage — the courage to step beyond what is for what could be. This course is designed to bring about a fundamental shift or transformation in what is possible in our ministries.

#### WHAT HAPPENS IN THE COURSE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: A COURSE FOR THOSE WHO MINISTER includes lecture, active dialogue, and daily periods of teaching and practicing *Centering Prayer*. The root of prayer is interior silence. It is the opening of the mind and heart to God or the Divine Spirit we know by faith is within us.

*Centering Prayer* invites us to sit in the silence, guided by our own proper principles of faith and the convictions of our own religious traditions. We let go of everything to simply be present at the ground of our being. Whenever anything draws us to itself, we gently return to the Presence, letting all else go. *Centering Prayer* is a very simple way of prayer which can be used by anyone who wants to be with and to experience that love and presence.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE courses are conducted by a team of leaders extensively trained and experienced in the course technology. No theology is presented or discussed by the course leaders, although participants are encouraged to discover where the ideas presented can enrich and empower their own theology and faith.

#### THE OUTCOMES OF THE COURSE

1 This program is designed to bring about a fundamental shift in what is possible. This shift or transformation is the single-most powerful attribute of the program and one that sets it apart from any other. It produces a consistent and broad range of breakthrough results in both the spiritual and practical aspects of ministry.

2 You will come away renewed, with an experience of greater confidence, of your own gifts, and of the difference you make to others and to the community you serve.

3 You will enrich and deepen your prayer life, leaving you more centered and with a greater experience of serenity. Your own faith will be deepened and renewed and, at the same time, you will gain a new appreciation and respect for the faith and worship of others.

4 You will have the time to probe and challenge unexamined assumptions and conventional perspectives that may limit your thinking and your actions. Doing this gives you new freedom and power to create a future based on something other than what is predictable from the past.

5 You will develop a new appreciation for the power of listening. You will discover that listening alone can open up new worlds of compassion and possibility in your ministry.

6 You will benefit from your conversations and work with other participants in the course who share the challenges and concerns of making a difference through their ministries.