

Appendix:

The Realistic Living League of Next Christianity Organizers

The "RLL" or "League" for short

League: an organization of persons sharing a common interest or purpose.

The Realistic Living League is a proposal for meeting the need for leadership for organizing a Next Christianity. Each region of the North American Continent and each local Circle of group practice needs leadership that is well versed in this specific experiment in Next Christianity. These five pages are intended to define this project:

Members

The Realistic Living League is composed of members who make these three commitments:

I. To meet at least weekly with at least two other League members who are open to the Spirit Journey implied in accessing profound humanness through the mediation of a vital Next Christian religious practice, and who are committed to this and the next two commitments.

II. To create and do a daily practice of solitary exercises and study aimed at the Spirit maturity needed for leadership in organizing a workable expression of this Next Christianity.

III. To commit to read the basic books in the following mini-library that define the core understandings of this particular movement in Christian resurgence. Many other books have contributed and need to contribute to this movement, but the first books listed on the next page form a backbone of commonality that will allow us to know and say who we are as this movement and this exploration. Other books for further enrichment reading are also listed on the following page. These are optional relative to this study commitment.

The books and manuals listed on the next page provide the resources for developing a curriculum for a home-conducted, seminary-level, leadership training program for this movement. Finding a way to encourage this reading is a key reason for launching the **Realistic Living League of Next Christian Organizers**. We need leadership who enjoy a significant degree of commonality, enabling them to work together successfully across the North American continent and beyond. On the third, fourth, and fifth pages is an outline for a curriculum of study spread over three years.

PS: Many more people than these league members will be involved in the overall experiment of a Next Christianity. This program of further training for a self-selected leadership role is not intended to negate our operating principle that all members of the Next Christianity are asked to **lead** in the various ways that are appropriate to each person. Also, we want to extend and deepen the principle of the priesthood of all believers. We have no desire to create a new clergy-laity stratification in the Next Christianity.

A Mini-Library for The Realistic Living League of Next Christianity Organizers

Basic Books in Classic Post-Kierkegaardian Theology

Søren Kierkegaard -- *The Sickness Unto Death*
H. Richard Niebuhr -- *Radical Monotheism and Western Culture*
Paul Tillich -- *The Shaking of the Foundations*
Dietrich Bonhoeffer -- *Life Together*
Rudolf Bultmann -- *Primitive Christianity in its Contemporary Setting*
Simone Weil -- *Waiting for God*
Joseph Mathews -- *Bending History: Talks of Joseph Wesley Mathews*
editor John Epps with: John Cock, George Holcombe, Betty Pesek, and George Walters
Bending History: Talks of Joseph W. Mathews, Vol. II, toward a New Social Vehicle
editor John Epps with: James Campbell, James Wiegel, Clarence Mann, Marilyn Crocker, and George Holcombe

Key Symposium-Inspired Works in Theology and Mission

The following were composed to enable a 21st Century social vision, theological clarification, and journey practices rooted in decade-long discussions and writing projects related to the Research Symposium on Christian Resurgence.

The Road from Empire to Eco-Democracy by Gene Marshall, Ben Ball, Marsha Buck, Ken Kreutziger, and Alan Richard
Also by Gene Marshall with significant help from Joyce Marshall, Marsha Buck, Alan Richard, and others:
The Call of the Awe: Rediscovering Christian Profundity in an Interreligious Era
Great Paragraphs of Protestant Theology: A Commentary on the 20th Century Theological Revolution
Jacob's Dream: A Christian Inquiry into Spirit Realization
The Enigma of Consciousness: A Philosophy of Profound Humanness & Religion
The Love of History and the Future of Christianity: Toward a Manifesto for a Next Christianity

Key Methods Resources

Brian Stanfield -- *The Art of Focused Conversation: 100 Ways to Access Group Wisdom in the Workplace*
-- *The Workshop Book: From Individual Creativity to Group Action*
-- *The Courage to Lead: Transform Self, Transform Society*
Joyce Marshall -- *Solitary Exercise Manuals*
Priscilla Wilson - Kathleen Harnish & Joel Wright *The Facilitative Way: Leadership that Makes the Difference*

The Above are Basic Reading for this movement. The following are important enrichments:

Readings in Christianity and Ecology

Thomas Berry -- *The Dream of the Earth* and *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*
Charlene Spretnak -- *The Resurgence of the Real: Body, Nature, and Place in a Hypermodern World*
-- *The Spiritual Dimension of Green Politics*
Wes Jackson -- *Altars of Unhewn Stone: Science and the Earth*

Readings in Liberation Theology and Feminism

Mary Daly -- *Beyond God the Father: Toward a Philosophy of Women's Liberation*
-- *Amazon Grace: Re-calling the Courage to Sin Big*
Charlene Spretnak -- *States of Grace: The Recovery of Meaning in the Postmodern Age*
-- *Relational Reality: New Discoveries of Interrelatedness that are Transforming the Modern World*
Gustavo Gutierrez -- *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics and Salvation*
James Cone -- *The Risks of Faith: The Emergence of a Black Theology of Liberation*

Further Witnesses in the Wake of the Joe Mathews Inspiration

John Baggett -- *Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus: His Revolutionary View of Reality & . . . Significance for Faith*
John Cock -- *The Transparent Event: Post-Modern Christ Images*
-- *Our Universal Spirit Journey: Reflection and Verse for Creation's Sake*
Richard Elliot -- *Falling in Love with Mystery: We Don't Have to Pretend Anymore*
Wesley Lachman -- *The Shortest Way Home: A Contemplative Path to God*
Also helpful are the following biographies for knowing the seven luminary figures listed in group one above:
Søren Kierkegaard -- *The Moment Before God* by Martin J. Heinechen
H. Richard Niebuhr -- *H. Richard Niebuhr: A Lifetime of Reflections on Church & World* by Jon Diefenthaler
Paul Tillich -- *Paul Tillich: His Life and Thought* by Wilhelm & Marion Pauck
Dietrich Bonhoeffer -- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: a Biography* by Eberhard Bethge
Rudolf Bultmann -- *Rudolf Bultmann: a Biography* by Konrad Hammann
Simone Weil -- *Beyond Power: Simone Weil and the Notion of Authority* by Desmond Avery
Joseph Mathews -- *Brother Joe: A 20th Century Apostle* by James K. Mathews

A Year-One Study Program for The Realistic Living League of Next Christianity Organizers

The idea here is that in the first year of this home-conducted, seminary-level curriculum, each of the following six books are studied or restudied to the extent appropriate for representing the whole movement in these breakthrough insights. Two considerations have predominated in choosing these selections for the first year: (1) accessibility to a wide range of persons, and (2) the most urgently needed insights with which to begin the encompassing this overall curriculum.

Basic Books in Classic Post-Kierkegaardian Theology

H. Richard Niebuhr -- *Radical Monotheism and Western Culture*
Paul Tillich -- *The Shaking of the Foundations*

Key Symposium-Inspired Works in Theology and Mission

Great Paragraphs of Protestant Theology: A Commentary on the 20th Century Theological Revolution
The Love of History and the Future of Christianity: Toward a Manifesto for a Next Christianity

Key Methods Resources

Brian Stanfield -- *The Art of Focused Conversation: 100 Ways to Access Group Wisdom in the Workplace*
Joyce Marshall -- *Solitary Exercise Manuals* (Using one or more of these manuals in solitary practice)

Also choose one or more of the following:

Readings in Christianity and Ecology

Thomas Berry -- *The Dream of the Earth* and *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*
Charlene Spretnak -- *The Resurgence of the Real: Body, Nature, and Place in a Hypermodern World*
-- *The Spiritual Dimension of Green Politics*
Wes Jackson -- *Altars of Unhewn Stone: Science and the Earth*

Readings in Liberation Theology and Feminism

Mary Daly -- *Beyond God the Father: Toward a Philosophy of Women's Liberation*
-- *Amazon Grace: Re-calling the Courage to Sin Big*
Charlene Spretnak -- *States of Grace: The Recovery of Meaning in the Postmodern Age*
-- *Relational Reality: New Discoveries of Interrelatedness that are Transforming the Modern World*
Gustavo Gutierrez -- *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics and Salvation*
James Cone -- *The Risks of Faith: The Emergence of a Black Theology of Liberation*

Further Witnesses in the Wake of the Joe Mathews Inspiration

John Baggett -- *Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus: His Revolutionary View of Reality & . . . Significance for Faith*
John Cock -- *The Transparent Event: Post-Modern Christ Images*
-- *Our Universal Spirit Journey: Reflection and Verse for Creation's Sake*
Richard Elliot -- *Falling in Love with Mystery: We Don't Have to Pretend Anymore*
Wesley Lachman -- *The Shortest Way Home: A Contemplative Path to God*

Also helpful are the following biographies for knowing the seven luminary figures listed in group one above:

Søren Kierkegaard -- *The Moment Before God* by Martin J. Heinechen
H. Richard Niebuhr -- *H. Richard Niebuhr: A Lifetime of Reflections on Church&World* by Jon Diefenthaler
Paul Tillich -- *Paul Tillich: His Life and Thought* by Wilhelm & Marion Pauck
Dietrich Bonhoeffer -- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: a Biography* by Eberhard Bethge
Rudolf Bultmann -- *Rudolf Bultmann: a Biography* by Konrad Hammann
Simone Weil -- *Beyond Power: Simone Weil and the Notion of Authority* by Desmond Avery
Joseph Mathews -- *Brother Joe: A 20th Century Apostle* by James K. Mathews

A Year-Two Study Program for The Realistic Living League of Next Christianity Organizers

In the second year of this home-conducted, seminary-level curriculum, each of the following seven books are studied or restudied to the extent appropriate for representing the whole movement in these breakthrough insights. The selections are considered to be: (1) somewhat more difficult than the first-year selections, and (2) somewhat dependent upon the insights of the first-year selections.

Basic Books in Classic Post-Kierkegaardian Theology

Dietrich Bonhoeffer -- *Life Together*

Joseph Mathews -- *Bending History: Talks of Joseph Wesley Mathews*

editor John Epps with: John Cock, George Holcombe, Betty Pesek, and George Walters

Bending History: Talks of Joseph W. Mathews, Vol. II, toward a New Social Vehicle

editor John Epps with: James Campbell, James Wiegel, Clarence Mann, Marilyn Crocker, and George Holcombe

Key Symposium-Inspired Works in Theology and Mission

The Road from Empire to Eco-Democracy

The Call of the Awe: Rediscovering Christian Profundity in an Interreligious Era

Key Methods Resources

Brian Stanfield -- *The Workshop Book: From Individual Creativity to Group Action*

Joyce Marshall -- *Solitary Exercise Manuals* (Using one or more of these manuals in solitary practice)

Also choose one or more of the following:

Readings in Christianity and Ecology

Thomas Berry -- *The Dream of the Earth* and *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*

Charlene Spretnak -- *The Resurgence of the Real: Body, Nature, and Place in a Hypermodern World*

-- *The Spiritual Dimension of Green Politics*

Wes Jackson -- *Altars of Unhewn Stone: Science and the Earth*

Readings in Liberation Theology and Feminism

Mary Daly -- *Beyond God the Father: Toward a Philosophy of Women's Liberation*

-- *Amazon Grace: Re-calling the Courage to Sin Big*

Charlene Spretnak -- *States of Grace: The Recovery of Meaning in the Postmodern Age*

-- *Relational Reality: New Discoveries of Interrelatedness that are Transforming the Modern World*

Gustavo Gutierrez -- *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics and Salvation*

James Cone -- *The Risks of Faith: The Emergence of a Black Theology of Liberation*

Further Witnesses in the Wake of the Joe Mathews Inspiration

John Baggett -- *Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus: His Revolutionary View of Reality & . . . Significance for Faith*

John Cock -- *The Transparent Event: Post-Modern Christ Images*

-- *Our Universal Spirit Journey: Reflection and Verse for Creation's Sake*

Richard Elliot -- *Falling in Love with Mystery: We Don't Have to Pretend Anymore*

Wesley Lachman -- *The Shortest Way Home: A Contemplative Path to God*

Also helpful are the following biographies for knowing the seven luminary figures listed in group one above:

Søren Kierkegaard -- *The Moment Before God* by Martin J. Heinechen

H. Richard Niebuhr -- *H. Richard Niebuhr: A Lifetime of Reflections on Church&World* by Jon Diefenthaler

Paul Tillich -- *Paul Tillich: His Life and Thought* by Wilhelm & Marion Pauck

Dietrich Bonhoeffer -- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: a Biography* by Eberhard Bethge

Rudolf Bultmann -- *Rudolf Bultmann: a Biography* by Konrad Hammann

Simone Weil -- *Beyond Power: Simone Weil and the Notion of Authority* by Desmond Avery

Joseph Mathews -- *Brother Joe: A 20th Century Apostle* by James K. Mathews

A Year-Three Study Program for The Realistic Living League of Next Christianity Organizers

In the third year of this home-conducted, seminary-level curriculum, each of the following seven books are studied or restudied to the extent appropriate for representing the whole movement in these breakthrough insights. These selections are considered to be (1) the most challenging of their respective lists and (2) somewhat dependent upon the insights of the first and second year selections.

Basic Books in Classic Post-Kierkegaardian Theology

Søren Kierkegaard -- *The Sickness Unto Death*
Rudolf Bultmann -- *Primitive Christianity in its Contemporary Setting*
Simone Weil -- *Waiting for God*

Key Symposium-Inspired Works in Theology and Mission

Jacob's Dream: A Christian Inquiry into Spirit Realization
The Enigma of Consciousness: A Philosophy of Profound Humanness & Religion

Key Methods Resources

Brian Stanfield -- *The Courage to Lead: Transform Self, Transform Society*
Joyce Marshall -- *Solitary Exercise Manuals* (Using one or more of these manuals in solitary practice)
Priscilla Wilson - Kathleen Harnish & Joel Wright *The Facilitative Way: Leadership that Makes the Difference*

Also choose one or more of the following:

Readings in Christianity and Ecology

Thomas Berry -- *The Dream of the Earth* and *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*
Charlene Spretnak -- *The Resurgence of the Real: Body, Nature, and Place in a Hypermodern World*
-- *The Spiritual Dimension of Green Politics*
Wes Jackson -- *Altars of Unhewn Stone: Science and the Earth*

Readings in Liberation Theology and Feminism

Mary Daly -- *Beyond God the Father: Toward a Philosophy of Women's Liberation*
-- *Amazon Grace: Re-calling the Courage to Sin Big*
Charlene Spretnak -- *States of Grace: The Recovery of Meaning in the Postmodern Age*
-- *Relational Reality: New Discoveries of Interrelatedness that are Transforming the Modern World*
Gustavo Gutierrez -- *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics and Salvation*
James Cone -- *The Risks of Faith: The Emergence of a Black Theology of Liberation*

Further Witnesses in the Wake of the Joe Mathews Inspiration

John Baggett -- *Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus: His Revolutionary View of Reality & . . . Significance for Faith*
John Cock -- *The Transparent Event: Post-Modern Christ Images*
-- *Our Universal Spirit Journey: Reflection and Verse for Creation's Sake*
Richard Elliot -- *Falling in Love with Mystery: We Don't Have to Pretend Anymore*
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Dietrich Bonhoeffer -- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: a Biography* by Eberhard Bethge
Rudolf Bultmann -- *Rudolf Bultmann: a Biography* by Konrad Hammann
Simone Weil -- *Beyond Power: Simone Weil and the Notion of Authority* by Desmond Avery
Joseph Mathews -- *Brother Joe: A 20th Century Apostle* by James K. Mathews