



CSSSW NEWSLETTER

The Canadian Society for Spirituality and Social Work - Winter 2021

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Greetings CSSSW members. We are pleased to present to you our very first newsletter since the relaunch of the society! Here, you will find the latest news regarding initiatives, meditations, conference dates, a call for proposals, opportunities for volunteer involvement and feedback, information about events we are planning, and more.

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Year, Chinese New Year, or any other religious or spiritual holidays during the winter season, we are wishing you all a very peaceful and joyous season!

Happy Winter *Soulstice*

For those who celebrate, the Winter Solstice is upon us, on this 21st of December, as we are nearing the time when the "Sun stands still," the shortest day of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere, this is a soulful time to go within so we can be present for the return of the light and the rebirthing of the sun. The Winter Solstice is a time to celebrate the darkness of the womb from which creation arises. We honor the cycles of life, death and rebirth, the dark night of the soul and the rebirth of new hope and vision. This involves planning and designing for the year ahead, processes which our Board has been engaged and envisioning

This is a time to honour and celebrate the world of the unseen, a time of dreams and of intuition. When we cannot see with our physical eyes, we learn to trust the inner vision, the power of insight and inner knowingness. The journey into the darkness prepares the way for celebration: in gratitude we rejoice in the return of the light, the promise of the Sun lighting our path, the promise of new beginnings. Let us be in harmony with one another and envision the betterment of ourselves, families, communities, and our planet.

To see our full guided meditation in a Google Doc: click [here](#).



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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Our Partner Society in the U.S.A, the Society for Spirituality and Social Work (SSSW) is hosting a Conference with the theme *How the Spirit Moves Us: Sharing Our Collective Experiences*. This will be held on June 7-10, 2022, at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Call for Proposals

The Call for proposals for the SSSW conference *How the Spirit Moves Us: Sharing Our Collective Experiences* is open until January 10, 2022! **See Annex 1 below for the Call for Proposals Poster.**

Be sure to check our future newsletters for more information on the upcoming SSSW conference.

Save the Date

The CSSSW is planning a Conference for Spring 2023 in Halifax Nova, Scotia! The proposed theme is *Intersectional Eco-Social Work and Eco-Spirituality*. Are you in the Atlantic Canada area with an interest in joining our Conference Planning Committee? If so, please let us know by emailing info@spiritualityandsocialwork.ca.

Stay tuned for further details regarding our bi-annual conference!



RESEARCH CORNER

Here are some recent articles published by members of our CSSSW Board of Directors related to spirituality and social work!

Boynton, H.M., Mellan, C (2021). Co-Creating Authentic Sacred Therapeutic Space: A Spiritually Sensitive Framework for Counselling Children. *Religions* 2021, 12, 524.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/rel12070524> <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/12/7/524>

Cherblanc, J., Bergeron-Leclerc, C., Maltais, D., Cadell, S., Gauthier, G., Labra, O. & Ouellet-Plamondon, C. (2021). Predictive Factors of Spiritual Quality of Life during the COVID-19 Pandemic: a multivariate analysis. *Journal of Religion and Health*.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-021-01233-6>

Do you know of any recent and relevant publications or any current research developments in the realm of spirituality and social work? Let us know, and we will consider featuring it in one of our future newsletters!

Email info@spiritualityandsocialwork.ca or contact us through our [contact page](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are a few events being planned for the winter and spring to watch for:

1. Interviews with our Founding and Longstanding Members
2. Workshop on Ethics and Social Work
3. Compassion Satisfaction and Spirituality
4. Mahavakyam Meditation and a Mandala Exercise (interactive)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Want Your Input

We want to hear from you! We invite you to respond to a few questions (that will take only a few minutes of your time) on some proposed upcoming events. Your voice is important to us, and we want to ensure that we plan and host events that capture your interests and meet your needs! Scan the QR code below or click [here](#) to access our survey.



New Feedback Box

Have you ever attended one of our conferences or events in the past? Have you been involved with the CSSSW in any capacity before? We would love to hear about your experience! Check out our new feedback box on our [contact page](#). Eventually, we plan to create a wall of feedback comments on our website, so be sure to check back for updates to see if your comment is posted!

Society History

We are thrilled to announce one of our newest initiatives—an exploration of the CSSSW’s history! From the society’s creation to the present resurgence, we are going to cover it all! We will be interviewing some of the founders and longest-standing core CSSSW members. We will be updating the website content over the winter season, so be sure to check our website for updates, related interviews, blog posts, and more!

Community Spotlight

In each newsletter, we aim to have a brief community spotlight. Are you, or do you know a practitioner, educator, and/or scholar doing interesting work or who is contributing to the realm of spirituality and social work? Send us an email (info@spiritualityandsocialwork.ca) with a short write-up and an image of yourself or the person (with their consent) to be considered in a future newsletter!



OUR TEAM

CSSSW Leadership Team

Cassandra Hanrahan (President)
Heather M. Boynton (Vice President)
John Coates (Co-founder, Treasurer & Past President)
Dani Sherwood (Administrative and Research Assistant)
Cassie Guye (Communications)

Board of Directors

Lucille Villaseñor-Caron
Eric W. Crowther
Susan Cadell
Indrani Margolin
Jeannette Waegemakers Schiff
Veena Khatri
Buetta Warkentin
Hazel Palmer

To see more details regarding our team members, including our bios, please visit our website’s governance page, which continues to be updated.



The Society for Spirituality
and Social Work



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

“How the Spirit Moves Us: Sharing Our Collective Experiences”

Co-sponsored by the Morgan State University School of Social Work
June 7-10, 2022
Baltimore, Maryland

Guided by our conference theme, “How the Spirit Moves Us,” we hope to explore ways that social work and spirituality collectively address the political, racial, environmental, economic, and health disparity issues that separate us. Together we will examine the ways that these global concerns are addressed through social work practice, education, and scholarship.

This conference will bring together academics, practitioners, and students from various disciplines for an exciting and informative exchange of scholarship and ideas related to spirituality in research, professional education, social work practice, and social policy/social action. This year’s conference is made even more exciting because it is our first time on the campus of an HBCU. The 60-minute sessions include the following formats:

- Scholarly paper presentations
- Experiential workshops
- Panel discussions
- Roundtable discussions
- E-poster presentations
- Student-authored paper presentations (30 min.)

Submissions are invited on diverse topics related to the conference them focusing on ways to incorporate spirituality into social work practice, teaching, and scholarship. The deadline for abstract submission is **January 10, 2022**, with notifications sent out no later than **March 7, 2022**. Submissions will undergo a double-blind, peer-review and must include the following information:

1. Title of presentation
2. Presentation format
3. Three learning objectives
4. An abstract describing the topic or planned workshop activity
5. Brief presenter(s) biography

Submissions must include the name and contact information for each presenter. [click here to upload your submission.](#)

Conference registration begins **January 10, 2022**, and conference information can be found on our website. For questions, please contact Dr. Kimberly Hardy at spiritualityandsocialwork@gmail.com