

Comment

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One of the reasons for the Evangelical Covenant Church to publish *The Covenant Quarterly* as its primary scholarly journal is to remember, reflect upon, and celebrate the important milestones of our denominational life. With this issue we celebrate the beginning of the twentieth year of the C. John Weborg Center for Spiritual Direction at North Park Theological Seminary (the Weborg Center) and present seven articles on themes representing the diverse voices and perspectives of staff and alumni who have been impacted by its work and ministry. We praise God for the good work of the Weborg Center and look forward to the newest cohort starting their training toward certification as spiritual directors.

To begin this anniversary issue, we are privileged to present “Living with God,” an article written by John Weborg previously unpublished in this journal. Following this, current Weborg Center director Rob Peterson interviews Weborg reflecting on themes found in the first article. Peterson also presents the impact of spiritual direction through awareness, hearing, living, and discovery in his article “The Gift of Spiritual Direction.” We include a personal testimonial, “Our Life Stories in Christ,” written by professor emeritus of communication and biblical interpretation Paul Koptak. Pastor of the largest African American church in the Covenant (Oakdale Covenant Church) D. Darrell Griffin introduces the work and world of Howard W. Thurman as Christian mystic and social justice advocate in his article, “The Centering Moment: The Spiritual and Soul Care Practice of Howard W. Thurman.” Christina Burrows shares her perspective on various tools and practices that contribute to a growing spirituality by introducing “Intercultural Agility in Spiritual Direction.” Lastly, five alumni of the Weborg Center share their personal recollections

of the process of completing the two-and-a-half-year academic program to become spiritual directors in “Selected Essays by Alumni of the Weborg Center for Spiritual Direction.”

We believe the five book reviews included in this issue provide the reader with suggestions for input to enrich spiritual formation in several levels of life. All of these will be expansive and informative for ministry in your setting.

Special thanks for the initial suggestion for this issue goes to Rob Peterson and Paul Koptak, who are also alumni of the Weborg Center. Their contributions to this issue are many and the work they both do continues the legacy of the Weborg Center in what has remained NPTS’s most successful certificate program for many years. We would be remiss not to mention that the Weborg Center continues to welcome new cohorts each summer. More information about enrollment in NPTS’s certificate of spiritual direction can be found at <https://covchurch.org/2022/03/16/apply-now-for-next-npts-spiritual-direction-cohort/>. Thanks also to the Covenant’s Marketing and Communications team and the team of Serve Clergy, and all who serve on NPTS’s Library and Publication Committee who help with layout, edits, funding, and personal support.

May this issue enrich your spiritual formation in ways that equip you to lead others to a deeper faith, a more receptive mind, and an awakened heart to creative ways of participating in God’s reconciling mission in the world. We welcome further submissions from our readership for future journal issues at <https://covquarterly.com/index.php/CQ/about/submissions>.

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