

Eco-zoic Wisdom Circles

with Deep Time Spiritual Direction

In a small group (min 3, max 6), we will share insights into

- where we have come from,
- how we are applying a deep time and eco-zoic perspective to our everyday lives and
- what intentions we are setting for a future within our fragile economic, ecological and ethical contexts.

Origins and Upbringing:

It is important in these days to articulate the beliefs, practices and rituals that in some way defined us in our upbringing and from which we have found a need to vary our stance. Without throwing the baby out with the bathwater, we seek to affirm the good, the true and the beautiful in this upbringing. We recognise the roots and the nourishment of these earlier days and stretch beyond them to what the rising context requires of us.

Applying a deep time perspective to our everyday lives:

As we explore the multitude of offerings within health and wellbeing circles as well as sustainability and resilience movements, we discover practices that bring wholeness and peace to our lives and to our communities. Sharing these with others in the group enables us to refine our daily spiritual, mental, emotional and physical ways of being and become better equipped to live with ourselves and inter-relate with others.

Intentions for the future:

From the group sharing we are encouraged to set our personal goals and intentions for defined periods ahead of us, whether these be changing life stages, transitions or short-term periods of review or retreat. The integration of economic, ecological and ethical principles will be valued together with a wisdom perspective that is based in a spirituality of wholeness. We will attend to our allurements as well as recognizing any cataclysms that occur in our journeying.

Zoom sessions of 60 minute duration will be held every two weeks over three months for each session in a series. Participants may elect to stay with the group for more than one session.

Also available: **Deep Time Spiritual Direction.**

Deep Time Spiritual Direction on a 1-1 basis is available. In general, the spiritual direction conversations are held over a full calendar year on a monthly basis, then reviewed for continuance or cessation.

You are invited to contact Dr Di Shearer, dishearer@icloud.com to discuss your interest in involvement in an Eco-zoic Wisdom Circle or Deep Time Spiritual Direction.

Please read on for more information and for an application to join a Circle.

What does Eco-Zoic mean? What's new about it?

The term Eco-zoic combines all the words beginning with Eco, especially ecology and economy, and all the words ending in Zoic, especially life in all its forms. A literal translation would be Home of Life, a place in which to dwell in balance, harmony, and wonder.

We have lived for tens of thousands of years in what has been called the Ceno-zoic era. Ceno means New and zoic again means Life. So the period of New Life which arose after the time of the dinosaurs and has existed in more or less the same pattern over 60 millennia. All the conditions of our present existence suggest a new form of life needs to emerge, especially among the human species.

What wisdom systems are drawn on?

Eco-zoic Wisdom Circles are small groups of people committed to four foci identified by Thomas Berry. These are:

- the wisdom of indigenous peoples the world over,
- the wisdom of ancient religious systems both institutional and the free-flowing wisdom of spiritual practices in parallel to these and largely lying hidden from majority cultures,
- the wisdom of women across cultures, and
- the wisdom of science especially as new advances in cosmology, mathematics and newly formed field of scientific enquiry take shape and contribute to traditional forms.

Who or what belongs in an Ecozoic Wisdom Circle?

Any human being may belong and because Eco-zoic Wisdom wants to recognize the interconnection of human life with non-human life, all creatures, plants, animals, minerals and so forth, all belong and are brought to or given consciousness within the circle. It is based on the principle also elicited in the writing of Thomas Berry: *We are not a collection of objects. We are a communion of subjects.*

How big is an Ecozoic Wisdom circle?

Eco-zoic wisdom is needed globally. As members of the human species, we are growing a global nervous system, or mind, if you like across the planet, called by Teilhard de Chardin and others, the noosphere (from 'noos' mind and sphere, envelope). We are the Universe becoming conscious of itself. But to be meaningful to everyday life and to draw some sense from history, we need national wisdom circles, cultural wisdom circles and religious wisdom circles. First of all, we need small cells, or circles, of 3-6 people who in some way represent the four aspects of wisdom above and come together on a regular basis to share insights that bring us out of the old New Life, the Cenozoic, into the New New Life, the Eco-Zoic. This is our changing identity as a species that is currently shaping the well-being or otherwise of the planet.

Who is welcome and how do I join?

Eco-zoic wisdom circles are an unfettered movement that is already practised under many ecological and spiritual names. New circles will be formed as people respond.

Suggested Internet Resources to start or further your Eco-zoic journey:

Centre for Eco-zoic Studies (directed by Herman Greene) <https://www.ecozoicstudies.org/>
Deep Time Network (directed by Jennifer Morgan) <https://dtnetwork.org/>
The Work that Reconnects (directed by Joanna Macy) <https://workthatreconnects.org/>

There are many others which you are welcome to share
with your group and beyond your group to similar groups across the world.

Some Basic Reading to be shared as we meet:

For borrowing or purchasing
Thomas Berry: The Dream of the Earth
Thomas Berry: The Great Work
Thomas Berry: Sacred Universe

Available for free download
Jennifer Morgan: Foundational Resources:
<https://dtnetwork.org/category/foundational-resources/>

Expression of Interest:

Please complete and return the section below to dishearer@icloud.com

Di will seek to assist you in joining or setting up a small group in your local context
and foster international, intercultural and interfaith dialogue within and between groups

Name:

Email address:

Traditions that have influenced my life:

Previous and current experience/expertise:

Commitment to the four sources of Eco-zoic Wisdom:

Further information you consider relevant or questions you may have:

Send to dishearer@icloud.com