

JCMA Winter Conference 2018
Provisional Program

Theme: Listening to God and to each other: Prayer and Dialogue

TIME	SUNDAY – SEMINAR
1:00	Gathering and registrations
2:00	Welcome by the President Monique Toohey Chair of the Committee, David, explains the JCMA Winter Conference background and 2018 format Ginette runs through the JCMA rules of dialogue
2:15pm	Starting the Conversation Three members of JCMA (Jewish / Christian / Muslim) have a conversation about what Prayer and Dialogue mean to them
3:00pm	Afternoon tea
3:30pm	Speakers Panel John Dupuche: “Listening to God in Contemplative Prayer” Gabbi Sar Shalom: “Listening to God and one another in Pastoral Care” Monique Toohey: “Listening to one another in Interpersonal Relationships”
	Panel Conversation between the speakers
	Questions and discussion from the Conference participants for the Panel
5:30pm	Muslim evening prayer
6:00pm	Vegetarian Soup Dinner
7:00pm	Jewish evening prayer
7:30pm	“Compassionate Listening” project: Introduced and workshopped by Jim Cyngler
8:30pm	Closing Sunday conference section of the JCMA Winter Conference
8:45pm	Christian night prayer
9:00pm	Free time (Meeting of Cluster Group leaders and Conference Planning Committee)
	MONDAY – RETREAT
7:00am	Breakfast
8:30am	Cluster Groups I
10:00am	Morning Tea
10:30am	Divine Reading: Christian (whole group exercise) Introduction to <i>Lectio Divina</i> (Latin for “divine reading” – see next page for an explanation of this method) Listening to God and each other in a Gospel text: Mark 4:1-20: “Parable of the Sower”
11:30am	Free time till lunch
12:30noon	Lunch
1:30pm	Divine Reading: Muslim (small groups) Listening to God and each other in a Qur’an text: Sura Ta Ha 20:1-36 “Call of Moses”
2:30pm	Afternoon tea
3:00pm	Divine Reading: Jewish (small groups) Listening to God and to each other in a Torah text: (Yet to be selected)
4:00pm	Cluster Groups II
5:00pm	Giving Thanks: Closing gathering and reflections
5:30pm	End
	(Meeting of Cluster Group leaders and Planning Committee Members)

Lectio Divina

There are various ways of going about this, but in a group setting the following can be done:

1. A passage of scripture is pre-chosen for all to read together – generally a single chapter or a surah or section of the sacred text. Everyone participating has the written text in front of them.
2. Sit quietly for a few moments, recollecting oneself, becoming restful and attentive.
3. **First Reading:** Someone reads aloud the text for all to hear.
4. **First Silence:** Time is spent silently re-reading and considering – “listening” – to the text to hear what it is saying to me as individual. Mark especially the one word or phrase that stands out as significant or meaningful for you.
5. At the end of the period of silent reading, the group leader asks members of the group just to say out loud **the word or phrase** that struck them for others to hear. No additional comment at this stage.
6. **Second Reading:** Another reader reads the text aloud once more.
7. **Second Silence:** Further silent reflection / meditation on the text.
8. This time the leader asks members of the group to **elaborate further on why that word or phrase struck them**, what it says to them, why it has significance. **Everyone else simply listens as each one shares.** This is not time for commentary on the text – rather how one is hearing the text.
9. **Third Reading:** The text is read aloud by another reader for a third time
10. **Third Silence:** Once again the reading is followed by silence – this may be time for private prayer about the text.
11. The ringing of a bell, saying of a prayer (eg. Lord’s Prayer, 1st Surah, Hear O Israel) brings to an end the third period of silence.
12. Now there can be general discussion of the experience and of the text for as long as you have left.