

Too Big

By Rev. Donna Schaper
Reports from COP22
November 18, 2016

The Center of Strategic Thinking and Defense of Democracy, based in Sarah, Morocco, has one idea. Real people have to be involved in big policies. Participation is crucial. We need “local mechanism on human Rights containing indicators for evaluating the performance of climate change.” Big words. Even bigger idea. And it has to learn how to get smaller.

Four Billion people in the world are already water insecure at least one month every year. (see photo from previous) You may not know one of them. And you can't care for all of them. So what can you do? Think one foot in front of the other. We are more like infants learning to walk than we are people who know how to think strategically, or defend democracy, or grow up in a world where water is bought and sold.

Morocco rates high in its water difficulties. Uniquely Morocco is also a spiritually based culture. It's not just the call to prayer ringing through the skies five times a day but also the clothing, the food, the ambiance of a culture that mixes religion in the same way that multiple spices are ground to become tagines. My hotel is in the souk, the Jewish quarter. COP22 is located on the other side of town. Both places connect seamlessly in a city that knows itself and has an odd confidence. It also has a king and a terrible water crisis.

When it comes to participating in climate chaos, we are like infants learning to walk. Or people who live most of their lives in wheelchairs behave when they begin to motor on their own again. My friend, who lives in a chair, describes walking as "continuous, controlled, forward stumble." She also talks about what her rehab is like: “if you've ever had to do balancing exercises to improve your balance, they deliberately put you on things that cause you to "stumble" so you can maintain some control, thus keeping balance amidst and against obstacles.”..

I agree with the Center for participation. What I wonder is whether we can call stumbling participation. I think so. If you are disabled or differently abled in

terms of democracy, must you resign yourself to the kings? The kings would love to tell us that without them, we won't find our way to water or other environmentally created gifts. Interesting that with them billions don't have water either. Who is really stumbling? The people with water glasses in their hands or the kings?

What I have learned here in Morocco at COP22 is that I have a lot to learn. Here follow some links to the places I know of who teach spiritual sustainability. It's pretty amazing how many there are. Spiritual Rehab anyone?

[Spiritual Sustainability | Facebook](#)

We are committed to combatting climate change through prayer and contemplative action.

[Restorative Leadership Institute](#)

www.restorative-leadership.org

Restorative Leadership® Institute. Listen to On Leading. RLI cultivates **leadership** and enterprise that fulfills humanity's potential to thrive in balance with all life. Uses a mindful approach to business and entrepreneurship.

goodworkinstitute.org **Good Work Institute** is an independent 501(c)(3), non-profit organization conceived and incubated by the fine folks at Etsy, Inc. Meet the Team. Embodies Integrity and develops spiritual entrepreneurs.

www.spiritualecologyfellowship.org The fellowship is designed by the Kaliopeai Foundation to offer an experience of deep study and practical application of the principles of spiritual ecology. The central component of the fellowship will be the development and implementation of pilot projects that have the potential to be catalysts for change.

Chicago Theological Seminary: Hybrid Doctor of Ministry. On line spiritual leadership and action.

SheEO is a new model to radically transform how we support, finance and celebrate female entrepreneurs who are creating a better world. A thousand radically generous women Activators per region commit to a \$1100 contribution, 90% of which is loaned out interest free to local women-led ventures, paid back over five years, and reinvested perpetually.

“Your new tribe: the ladies are coming.”

Justice Ministry Education at Auburn www.auburn/jme

Re:Generate Fellowship program

February 16-19, 2017

Winston Salem, NC, USA

Applicants must be 40 years old or younger

Application deadline: November 15, 2016

<http://divinity.wfu.edu/fieldwork/education/regenerate/>

And if you don't have time to prehab and rehab in a formal program, these are the two best books coming out of this COP.

Global Muslim Climate Network

Religion and Sustainable Agriculture: World Spiritual Traditions and Food Ethics

Edited by Todd LeVasseur, Pramod Parajuli, and Norman Wirzba

University of Kentucky Press, 2016

http://www.kentuckypress.com/live/title_detail.php?titleid=3409#.V-g01sn6WCS

Light for a New Day, an interfaith energy ethics essay collection, was presented to a Green Zone event hosted by GreenFaith. The collection includes essays from faith leaders and scholars from the world's major faith traditions, including Cop indigenous communities. The essays articulate the specific application of religious values and principles to concrete energy issues in diverse geographic regions. They express the distinctive values, scriptures, and ethical principles of each tradition in

order to develop and expand a shared moral vision regarding energy: our essential moral obligation to support a sustainable and fair transition to a renewable energy future.

[http://www.greenfaith.org/programs/Light%20for%20a%20New%20Day%20-%20Interfaith%20Essays%20on%20Energy%](http://www.greenfaith.org/programs/Light%20for%20a%20New%20Day%20-%20Interfaith%20Essays%20on%20Energy%20)

Democracy requires participation. Climate chaos requires participation. Learning how to participate and knowing we need to learn is the prelude to participation.