

I Have Learned So Much From God (by Hafiz)

I
Have
Learned
So much from God
That I can no longer
Call
Myself A Christian, a Hindu, a Muslim
A Buddhist, a Jew.
The Truth has shared so much of Itself
With me
That I can no longer call myself
A man, a woman, an angel
Or even pure
Soul.
Love has
Befriended Hafiz so completely
It has turned to ash
And freed
Me

Many thanks to Centers for Spiritual Living, Rev. Faith Woods, Rev. Dr. John B. Waterhouse, Rev. Dr. Michelle Wadleigh, Dr. Tracy Brown, RScP, Jami Hudson Craig and the CCSL House Band, the CCSL Board of Trustees, the CCSL Ecclesiastical Team, the Ordination/Installation Hospitality and Decorating Teams, to those who hosted our guests, AND to everyone who has ever given and who continues to give so freely of your time, talents and treasures to manifest our Beloved Columbia Center for Spiritual Living Community.

I am truly grateful beyond words!!

Rev. Rafe

Columbia Center for Spiritual Living
welcomes you to the
Ordination and Installation of
Reverend Rafe A. Ellis.

**Flowing
in the
Mystery**

August 27, 2023



FLOWING IN THE MYSTERY

Prelude Music—Jami Hudson Craig & CCSL House Band

Processional—Dr. Lisa Gordan

Welcome—Julia Mattis, RScP & CCSL Board President

Invocation—Idalia Romero, RScP

Declaration of Principles & Global Vision

- ◆ Rebecca Beall, RScP
- ◆ Reggie Kapp, RScP
- ◆ Debra Ellis, RScP
- ◆ Eugene D. Holden, RScP
- ◆ Julia Mattis, RScP
- ◆ Rev. Jenna Wexler

Music—Miracle Power by We the Kingdom

The Moments of My High Resolve—Rev. B. Amon James

Music—I Will Be by Michael Gott

Ordination Ceremony

- ◆ Rev. Faith Woods
- ◆ Rev. Michelle Wadleigh
- ◆ Rev. Dr. John Waterhouse
- ◆ Rev. Rafe A. Ellis

Presentation of Ordination Stole

- ◆ Rev. Dr. John Waterhouse
- ◆ Dr. Tracy Brown, RScP
- ◆ Debra Ellis, RScP

Music—Holy Now by Peter Mayer

Intentionally Stepping Into the Mystery—A Community Ritual

Music: Let Go of the Shore by Karen Drucker

Message: *“The Man, The Minister, The Mystery”*

- ◆ Debra Ellis, RScP
- ◆ Dr. Tracy Brown, RScP
- ◆ Rev. Dr. John Waterhouse

Music—Thank God I Do by Lauren Daigle

New Minister Installation

- ◆ Rev. Faith Woods
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Michelle Wadleigh
- ◆ Rev. Rafe A. Ellis

Music: (Reprise) Let Go of the Shore by Karen Drucker

“Flowing in the Mystery”—Rev. Rafe A. Ellis

- ◆ Installation of Columbia Center Members
- ◆ Installation of Columbia Center Trustees
- ◆ Installation of Columbia Center Practitioners

Conscious Giving—Rev. Rafe A. Ellis

Offering & Closing Remarks—Rev. Rafe A. Ellis

Music—When I Forget by Micheal Gott & Melissa Phillippe

Benediction—Eugene D. Holden, RScP

Recessional

Reception



MEET REVEREND FAITH WOODS

Rev. Faith began her spiritual journey in 1993 at Celebration Center in Falls Church, Virginia.

Thoroughly smitten with the idea that others shared concepts she believed, but rarely voiced, she began classes and became a Practitioner in 1997.

New adventures began leading to graduation from Holmes Institute in 2007 and ordination in 2010.

She served Celebration Center for Spiritual Living in Falls Church, Virginia for several years as Staff Minister, Assistant Minister, and Director of Family Ministries. She also formed the Stafford Study Group which met for seven years.

Rev. Faith served as Senior Minister at Celebration Center for three years as they formed a search committee for a new minister.

Currently, Rev. Faith is a Regional Support Coordinator for Area 10 which supports her in staying connected to groups in the area.

Born and raised in Ohio, she is the daughter of a Methodist minister, with two brothers and a sister. Her summers on her grandmother's farm are some of her fondest childhood memories. She is the mother of two grown boys and blessed with four grandchildren.

She currently resides in Stafford, Virginia with her husband Sandy.



MEET DR. TRACY BROWN, RSCP

Tracy is a Licensed Practitioner with Centers for Spiritual Living and is the author of "I Turn To Prayer," a collection of original prayers in different formats and 10 other books. In addition, she has also published two journals to support her clients who want to reveal or reclaim joy.

Since 1986 Tracy has used universal spiritual principles to infuse her life with peace and joy. She created a 28-day prosperity process titled, "Are You Ready to Receive." And, her signature programs, "Reclaim Joy" and "Journey to Joy" help you tap into the things that bring personal satisfaction and identify ways to reconfigure your life so you can experience deep and lasting joy.

Tracy is a nationally recognized expert on diversity and inclusion. She founded Stained Glass Spirit to provide resources that help navigate the intersection of diversity, spirituality and inclusion. And she hosts the Intentionally Inclusive podcast that focuses specifically on what leaders in spiritual communities should know and do to be inclusive.

In 2017, Tracy became the first Licensed Practitioner to receive the Ernest Holmes Award; the highest honor conferred by Centers for Spiritual Living upon a person who exemplifies and personifies the teachings of our founder, Rev. Dr. Ernest Holmes.

In January 2022, Tracy received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Centers for Spiritual Living.

Dr. Tracy provides spirituality-based guidance and coaching services. So, if you need a life coach or want to participate in group coaching circles focused on applying spiritual principles and spiritual practices to achieve your goals in life, contact her.



MEET REV. DR. JOHN WATERHOUSE, PHD

Dr. John has been learning, teaching and practicing Science of Mind principles for over 30 years. With this as his foundation, he contributes to the human experience in a variety of creative expressions.

He holds a PhD in Organizational Psychology from Union Institute and University and is the author of two books, *Five Steps to Freedom: An Introduction to Spiritual Mind Treatment* and *The Sorry Syndrome*.

He served as the first elected President of Centers for Spiritual Living. Within United Centers for Spiritual Living, Dr. John served as Dean of Holmes Institute Midwestern Campus, President of United Clergy of Religious Science, an elected member of the UCSSL CORE Council (governing body), Chief Financial Officer, and the Integration Coordinator on the Design Team, bring together United Centers for Spiritual Living and Religious Science International.

He is a co-founder and Minister Emeritus of Center for Spiritual Living, Asheville. His business experience includes owning and operating multi-million-dollar businesses in the oil and construction industries, and he has managed national non-profit programs for organizations such as Robert Schuller Ministries.

Dr. John's calling is to provide clear guidance and strong, yet flexible leadership to individuals that seek a better life and organizations that desire greater success. His intention is to pair his skills and abilities with a passion for the full expression of all ideas and possibilities to every endeavor and experience in life.

His life is about revealing and celebrating the divine power and presence that dwells within each person he meets.



MEET REV. DR. MICHELLE WADLEIGH, D.D.

Rev. Dr. Michelle Wadleigh is an inspiring and exciting Coach, Master Teacher, Speaker, Workshop and Retreat Facilitator, and sought-after Prayer Practitioner. Michelle is the co-founder of Planned Happiness Institute and the PHI Coaching Academy with her husband Rev. Neil Pinkman. Michelle

founded the Center for Spiritual Living North Jersey 19 years ago and continues to serve as Spiritual Leader and Pastor.

Michelle is an incredibly unique, practical teacher who is passionate about you mastering a fully expressed life. She is grounded in solid metaphysical principles and brings to her teaching a wide-open heart along with a sense of humor joyfully demonstrated through her laughter and her engaging style. Her focus as a teacher is empowering others for their own spiritual and emotional liberation through the application of practical tools and methods including the Science of Mind. She is a straight shooter who calls things as she sees them while using her easy-going, personal style. Michelle brings a wealth of experience from having helped thousands of people to experience great transformation in their lives. Some of the lessons that she brings everywhere are: Everything is consciousness. Consciousness first, consciousness always. There is no other.

Being one who continually looks for ways to reach people with this powerful teaching, Michelle also hosts a show on the New Thought Media Network called *Jersey Girl Wisdom* with Rev. Jersey Girl.

Michelle has spent years developing her courses in Forgiveness, Shadow Work, and perfecting her unique approach to working with individuals called the Radical Release Method. Michelle is the author of five books.



MEET DEBRA ELLIS, RSCP

Debra Ellis, RScP was born with a servant's heart and is a natural community organizer and connector of people.

Debra brings a unique perspective founded in her experience as a biracial child of an African American father and white British mother who

married in 1955 when interracial marriage was illegal in the United States, her multi-cultural exposure growing up in the military, and her experiences being married to a white female-to-male transgender man.

Debra has been a Licensed Mental Health Professional for over 45 recognized by her peers as a "Public Health Champion" and a "Woman of Color Humanitarian" by the Commission on the Status of Women for her work in the field of harm reduction and advocacy for active drug users.

She most recently served as a crisis stabilization professional, a member of the local BIPOC Coalition working with local government agencies to create a more equitable community in Nevada County California, and a panelist with local LGBTQI+ organizations.

Debra has practiced Science of Mind since 1999, becoming a Licensed Practitioner in 2013. She has served the Center for Spiritual Awareness West Sacramento, Center for Spiritual Living Vallejo, Mountainside Center for Spiritual Living and Sierra Center for Spiritual Living before coming to Columbia Center for Spiritual Living.

She is currently serving her second term as an elected member of the Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioner Council where she served as the coordinated of the Practitioner Regional Rep Program during her first term and now as the Treasurer.



MEET REVEREND RAFA A. ELLIS

Rev. Rafe A. Ellis is the new Senior Minister and Spiritual Leader of Columbia Center for Spiritual Living as of March 1, 2023. He is an Ordained Minister of Centers for Spiritual Living (CSL). Rev. Rafe brings 63 years of lived intersectionality having been born as a female-to-male (FTM) transgender person,

raised as a cisgender female, lived as lesbian for more than 20 years of his adulthood before coming full circle undergoing his FTM gender alignment process at the age of 43. He now lives his authentic self as an open, out and highly visible FTM transgender man.

Rev. Rafe holds a BA in Social Work and Psychology with a minor in Philosophy from Warren Wilson College, an MBA with a special certification in Organizational Psychology and Development from American InterContinental University, an MA in Consciousness Studies from Holmes Institute and a Certificate of Ministerial Education from the Centers for Spiritual Living School of Spiritual Leadership. His ministry is enhanced by his secular professional experiences as a Social Worker, Fire Fighter, Emergency Medical Technician, Deputy Sheriff, business owner and lapidary artist; and his 40+ years of recovery from heroin addiction and alcoholism.

Rev. Rafe is a life-long spiritually motivated social activist. He has served as a security lead for Rhythm Fest, Southern Womyn's Music and Comedy Festival, and the 1993 March on Washington for LGBTQ Rights. He has served on the PFLAG Speakers Bureau in numerous states and was an active member of Interfaith Nevada County speaking at several Black Lives Matter events and co-facilitating a Memorial Service honoring the lives of Nevada County residents lost to COVID (8' 2018 thru 2' 2023). He is already connected with

Howard County Clergy Alliance and recently spoken on a panel of LBGTQIA+ Faith Based Leaders at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center.

Rev. Rafe has been an active member of the Centers for Spiritual Living since 2003. He has served as a Licensed Practitioner since 2008 and as a Licensed Minister since 2017. He has served the CSL organization as a member and Chair of the CSL Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission, a member of the CSL Nominating Council, a member of the CSL Lifelong Learning Steering Team, and a member of the CSL Events Committee. He has facilitated workshops at the CSL Annual Convention, CSL Minister's Gathering, and was a General Sessions Speaker at the Asilomar SOAR Retreat in 2019.

Rev. Rafe is one the most compassionate people you'll ever meet. His life experiences have been broad and often dramatic having navigated abject poverty, multiple forms of abuse, gang violence and addiction. He has done the internal work of forgiveness and now treasures every messy moment as essential to his authentic Self and the Wholeness of Life. He is an inspirational speaker, a gifted counselor, a master teacher and lifelong spiritually motivated social justice activist.

As Rev. Dr. Deborah L. Johnson, the founding minister and president of Inner Light Ministries and an Instructor at the Holmes Institute said:

"Rev. Rafe is one of the most promising ministerial students I have ever had. He is truly someone with a call on his life. His wisdom is profound, his heart an open embrace and his words cut straight to the chase. He is a true ally in the world of healing and transformation in his uncompromising stand for Oneness. I expect great things out of his career."