Conceptual Framework
There is a pervasive form of contemporary violence. . . [and that is] activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence.

To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything is to succumb to violence.

The frenzy of our activism neutralizes our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.

Thomas Merton
Trappist monk, social activist, mystic, priest and monk, Thomas Merton points out the violence we do to ourselves when we fail to take time for retreat and sanctuary (Heifitz 1994) to refresh spirit, mind and soul. If, indeed, as our mission statement states, our work is to "develop the critical imagination required to embrace individual, organizational, and global change from a stance of hope and courage." (Mission Statement) we must find ways to rest and renew. Effective leaders need a place and a time to consider their inner life and find inspiration to continue the difficult work of leading to transform the world.

This class is designed to provide a structure for rest and contemplation based on Judaism's understanding that the Sabbath is more than simply a time to rest from secular work, it is an obligation to enter sacred time, devoted to learning and discussion of what is core to the community. Because hospitality is a central value to the community, the subject of discussion for the Sabbath will be our understanding of servant and transformational leadership in a multicultural, technologically mobile and diverse work world.

Some of the questions we will address are: Who is the stranger in our organization? How are people made to feel welcome? Who has the power to include or exclude? How do we create communities in a multicultural environment? How does globalization affect our notions of hospitality? How do we create welcome environments using information technology?
The retreat will be held at St. Joseph Family Center http://www.stjosephfamilycenter.org starting February 12 at 5:30 p.m. and ending on February 14 at 5:00 p.m. We will stay in two houses with 17 bedrooms, each person will have their own room. We will have use of the kitchen, conference room, laundry facilities, etc. The activity fee of $175 will cover the use of the facility, 2 overnight stays and all food and drink. This fee is payable to Silvia Behrend on Friday night before the retreat starts. (no money exchanged on the Sabbath!) This retreat is limited to 16 participants.

**Format**

**Friday:**
5:00 - 5:30 Check - in
5:30 - 6:00 Welcome and cheese and wine reception
6:00 - 10:00 Sabbath dinner, prayers, meditation and discussion of religious themes of hospitality

**Saturday**
9:00 am - 12:00 pm: Breakfast, prayers, meditation and discussion of organizational issues of hospitality
12:00 - 5:00 pm: Lunch, prayers, meditation and discussion of multiculturalism
5:00 - 6:30: Personal meditation time
6:30 - 10:00 Dinner, prayers, meditation and integration of organizational issues of hospitality with issues of multiculturalism.

**Sunday:**
9:00 -12:00 : Breakfast, prayers, meditation and discussion of globalization and technological issues in creating welcoming environments
12:00 - 3:00: Lunch, prayers, meditation and integration of all material
3:00 - 4:00: Personal time
4:00- 5:00 Closing

Students will have read all material before the class session and completed the written assignment.

Meals will be communally prepared, Details will be provided after registration closes.

**Required Readings**


Choose one or two pivotal passages from your own religious/spiritual tradition that speaks to you of the importance of hospitality from a spiritual perspective to bring to the class discussion. This can be biblical or secular.
Assignments
Molz, J. & Gibson, S. (Eds.) (2007). Mobilizing Hospitality: The Ethics of Social Relations in a Mobile World. Choose one of the essays which speaks to the issues most germane to your experience. Write a 3-5 page paper addressing the impact of that essay on your personal experience. Due: February 6, 2010. You can email me your paper at revdocsil@gmail.com. If you have any questions, you can also call me at 360-259-3971.

Read the other books and be prepared to use the material in your discussions.

Assumptions about the class
The retreat takes place at the St Joseph Family Center and begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 2010 and ends on Sunday at 5:00 pm on Sunday, February 14, 2010.

This is an overnight retreat, please bring appropriate sleeping clothing and personal hygiene. Each person will have her or his own bedroom.

We will cook in teams and clean up in teams. We are responsible for leaving the center clean.

This class is specifically designed as a retreat, therefore, it is crucial that students be prepared to participate fully and be prepared to discuss the material assigned. Unless you are on call for specific reasons, phones and other forms of communication are strongly discouraged.

The only grades given will be an S or an incomplete. Failure to turn in the written assignment on time or lack of preparation will result in an incomplete.

The cost per person is $175 includes two overnight stay, all meals, material and refreshments. The fee is payable to Silvia Behrend before the beginning of our time together.

References