

Interfaith SCRIPTURAL REASONING

Presented in Annapolis by the Chesapeake Interfaith Environmental Group

an opportunity discuss sacred texts with people of many faiths

Sunday, February 21, 2016, 7-8:45pm

Calvary United Methodist Church

301 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact green@uccannapolis.org or (443) 569-8899

What is Interfaith Scriptural Reasoning?

Interfaith Scriptural Reasoning is a practice of interfaith reading. Small groups of Jews, Muslims, Christians, and people of other faiths, gather to read short passages from their scriptures.

Not consensus...

The participants don't have to agree. They may not accept one another's texts as scripture, nor agree with each other's reading of them. Scriptural Reasoning is a process that works even when the participants differ strongly, and when those differences really matter to them. It is not about seeking agreement, but about understanding one another's differences.

...but understanding...

Scriptural Reasoning deepens understanding. You learn more about the scriptures of other faith communities, and some of the ways in which they are read. You witness the passion others have for their scriptures, and hear their questions. But you also learn more about your own scriptures, because you read in the company of people who may never have read them before. You see your own scriptures in a new light, through their eyes.

...and friendship.

Scriptural Reasoning deepens relationships. You spend time with people of other religions, talking about scriptural texts they really care about – texts that are central to their lives. You share with them scriptural texts that you really care about, too. You don't have to politely agree about everything – you can wade in deep, and talk about issues at the heart of your faith. This doesn't lead to agreement, but we find that it does lead to friendship.

What to expect

When you arrive, you'll be seated at a table with people of other faiths. Copies of sacred texts in both English and their original language will be available for you. Our panelists will hold a brief "mock" session on water to show us that this is a fun, playful, and engaging exercise. We'll then invite each table to hold their own session, before having some questions and answers with the panelists. Our model comes from one pioneered by the Centre for Scriptural Reasoning at the University of Cambridge in England (www.scripturalreasoning.org).