

A Statement from the CSL Spiritually Motivated Social Engagement Committee

# **Shining Our Light in Challenging Times**

In times of global uncertainty, it's natural to feel overwhelmed by the challenges we face. Yet, history and human experience remind us that even small acts of compassion and resilience can illuminate the darkest times. As Clarissa Pinkola Estés writes, "We were made for these times."

At the heart of our collective vision is a commitment to unity and interconnectedness. CSL's Global Vision articulates this beautifully:

We envision a world in which we live and grow as One Global Family that respects and honors the interconnectedness of all life; a world where this kinship with all life prospers and connects through the guidance of spiritual wisdom and experience.

This vision comes to life through the actions of CSL communities around the world, including those in Ukraine, where individuals have demonstrated remarkable resilience and compassion amidst adversity.

### **CSL Bela Tserkva: Embracing Unity During Conflict**

In February 2022, as conflict erupted, a group of women in Bela Tserkva were concluding their practitioner studies. Led by Lyudmila and supported by her daughter Anastasia, they chose to focus on the interconnectedness of all people, transcending divisions. They continued their spiritual practices, holding vigils for peace and offering support to their community, embodying resilience and unity.

### **CSL Cherkasy: Cultivating Community Support**

In Cherkasy, under Olga's leadership, the CSL group initiated activities to support both civilians and soldiers. They organized community events, prepared care packages, and created spaces of solace and connection. Their efforts provided tangible support and reinforced the bonds within their community.

#### The Power of Collective Action

These narratives highlight that while we may not change the world single-handedly, our collective efforts can make a significant impact. By focusing on compassion, unity and proactive engagement, we contribute to the healing and betterment of our communities.

As Carl Jung observed, "As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being." Let us continue to shine our individual and collective lights, fostering hope and resilience in challenging times.

## **Engage Thoughtfully, Act Compassionately**

In these times, consider engaging in practices that promote unity and understanding. Whether through community involvement, supportive dialogues or personal reflection, each action contributes to a more compassionate world. Remember, it's not about grand gestures. Consistent, heartfelt efforts bring about meaningful change.

With love, gratitude and infinite possibilities,

### **Spiritually Motivated Social Engagement Committee**

- Rev. Dr. Sunshine Michelle Coleman, Chair
- Rev. Beth Linguri
- Ayodele McClenney, RScP
- Luisa Rivera, RScP
- Rev. Obakeng Gaitate
- Rev. Dr. Soni Cantrell-Smith, Spiritual Leader

We envision humanity awakening to its spiritual magnificence and discovering the creative power of thought, a world where each and every person discovers their own personal power and ability to create an individual life that works within a world that works for everyone.