WORKHORSES OR OVERFLOWING LOVE?
Spiritual Practices for Activists

We’re not meant to be God’s workhorses in the world, but the overflow of God’s Love.

Tilden Edwards
Workshop Overview

- Welcome & Introduction
- Definitions & Why We Engage in Spiritual Practices
- Spiritual Practice of Prayer
- Spiritual Practice of Sabbath-Keeping
- Spiritual Practice of Saying No & Saying Yes
- Spiritual Practice of Being Open to Joy and Surprised by Beauty
- Questions & Comments
- Closing
Definitions

Spirituality – the degree to which we relate to God, others and the world

Spiritual Formation – the process of being formed in the image of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit for the sake of the world

Spiritual Practices – those regular, intentional activities/disciplines that establish, deepen and nourish a personal, attentive relationship with God and by so doing, allow one to be formed and transformed
Why We Engage in Spiritual Practices

Our Spiritual Practices:
• Keep us grounded, centered & connected to God
• Help deepen our faith and trust
• Help us discern how to best live our lives
• Help us create and maintain mind, body, spirit balance
• Restore the rhythm between doing and being
• Help us move from our head to our heart
• Create the space for discernment
What Is Prayer?

Hanging out with God? A conversation between friends? Being intentionally available to God?

How, when, where, why and to whom do you pray?
Types of Prayer
For Activists

• The Examen – The examination of conscience
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• Meditation
• Faith Imagination
• Body Prayer
We cease our work so that God may do God’s work in us.

John Calvin

By separating and hallowing one day in seven, God invites us to play, to rejoice, to worship, to sing, to love, to gather at The Table and our tables, to pray and to rest.
We say “no” in order to make room for saying “yes.”

We say “no” to all the crowds God out, and “yes” to that which creates space for God.

What are the motivations behind our yesses and no’s?

Discerning what is in our basket to carry
Opening Ourselves to Joy & Beauty

Pay attention to what brings you joy and where you see beauty every day!
Recommended Reading in no particular order of importance

Soul Feast by Marjorie Thompson  
Sabbath by Wayne Muller  
A New Harmony by John Phillip Newell  
Praying with the Earth by John Phillip Newell  
Reforesting Faith by Matthew Sleeth, MD  
Inhabiting Eden by Patricia K. Tull  
Materiality as Resistance by Walter Brueggemann  
An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor  
Earth Prayers from Around the World edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon  
The Blue Sapphire of the Mind by Douglas Christie  
Practicing Our Faith edited by Dorothy C. Bass  
Earth Gospel by Sam Hamilton Poore