



The Deconstructing & Reconstructing Faith Program at ECMCCS

Millions of people around the world have found themselves disenchanted with fundamentalist and evangelical Christianity. We have discovered its hypocrisy, masochistic teachings, unloving practices, and controlling tendencies. Most notably, we have noticed how essentially different fundamentalist religion is from the life and teachings of Jesus. Many have given up on Christianity completely, which is justified by the way they have been treated. But others of us continue to desire faith community and we still love Jesus. We are seeking a better way. So Emerald City MCC is providing ways of deconstructing harmful faith, and reconstructing life-giving, authentic, truly loving faith.

Part of this process is being part of a faith community that practices a deconstructed and reconstructed Christianity. We encourage you to try out attending worship with us. But we also understand that spiritual and emotional wounds can be open and fresh, so a worship service may be too painful for some. In that case, the other part of the process is more appropriate. That equally important part is *education*. At MCC, we are seekers of truth and students of life. We believe that learning is a life-long process. And so we offer this curriculum that is based on scholarly works that have proven to change lives for the better- from the roots up.

We want to make clear to you that this is not an indoctrination process. We have no aim but to help you heal from religious trauma and grow into a faith that you can be proud of. Metropolitan Community Churches is a 50+-year-old Progressive Christian movement that blends beliefs and traditions of many Christian denominations. We celebrate the best of theology in seeking to follow Jesus. We invite you to this curriculum of healing:

1: Deconstructing Toxic Faith: The Essentials

Class 1: *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism: A Bishop Rethinks the Meaning of Scripture* by retired Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong

Class 2: *Saving Salvation: The Amazing Evolution of Grace* by Stephen Smith

Class 3: *How the Bible Was Built* by Charles Merrill Smith & James W. Bennett

Class 4: *How the Bible Actually Works* by Peter Enns

2: Deconstructing Faith: Sexuality and Gender

Class 1: *What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality* by Daniel A. Helminiak, Ph. D.



Class 2: *The Bible and the Transgender Experience: How Scripture Supports Gender Variance* by Linda Toro Herzer

3: Reconstructing Faith: The Essentials

Class 1: *Remedial Christianity* by Paul Allen Laughlin

Class 2: *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus* by Rev. Dr. Peter Gomes

4: Reconstructing Faith: Queer Theology

Class 1: *Radical Love* by Rev. Dr. Patrick Cheng

Class 2: *Where the Edge Gathers* by Bishop Yvette Flunder

Class 3: *Peculiar Faith: Queer Theology for Christian Witness* by Rev. Dr. Jay E. Johnson

5: Reconstructing Faith: Nuanced Considerations

Class 1: *A Theology of Love: Reimagining Christianity through A Course in Miracles: A Spirituality Based on Love, Not Fear* by Richard Smoley

Class 2: *Original Blessing* by Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox

Class 3: *Friends in High Places: Tracing the Family Tree of New Thought Christianity* by Thomas Shepherd