

Rory D. McEntee

P.O. Box 223, Des Moines, New Mexico, 88418
 (323) 334-5782 / rmcentee21@gmail.com
 Charis Foundation Website: CharisInterSpirituality.org

Educational History

PhD, Theological and Philosophical Studies in Religion, 2022

Drew University; Madison, NJ

PhD (ABD), Applied Mathematics; 2009

University of Southern California; Los Angeles, CA

M.A., Applied Mathematics; 2008

University of Southern California; Los Angeles, CA

B.A., Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude; 1999

Lake Forest College; Lake Forest, IL

Selected Professional Experience

President, Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer;

Charis Foundation for New Monasticism & Interspirituality

Des Moines, NM, 2015 – Present

Charis Foundation is dedicated to the emergence of contemplative values in all areas of life, embracing the ideals of the world's wisdom traditions. As ED and CFO, I oversee a broad and strategic array of programs and partnerships, while as Co-President, I hold Charis' contemplative vision through teaching, writing, and maintaining responsibility for the direction of the organization.

Treasurer, Board of Directors; *Contemplative Outreach of Colorado*

Denver, CO, 2023 - Present

Organization founded by Fr. Thomas Keating in 1987, supporting Centering Prayer, contemplative life, and interspiritual dialogue. It is comprised of the Center for Contemplative Living in Denver, Colorado, and the Snowmass Retreat Center in Snowmass, Colorado.

Retreat Director; *Charis Mandala*

Des Moines, NM, 2022 - Present

Director of the Charis Foundation's 120-acre retreat center. Responsibilities include programming, finances, maintenance, operations, and team management.

General Manager / Owner / Co-Founder; *Slackwater Inn*

Buena Vista, CO, 2021-2022

Started a new hotel, working as the founding General Manager. Implemented new systems, including contactless check-in and a new website, hired and managed all employees, developed advertising and marketing, and ran overall operations.

Adjunct Professor; *Drew University*

Madison, NJ, 2020-2022

Taught "Contemporary Spiritualities" in the Doctor of Ministry program.

Adjunct Professor; *Kean University*

Union, NJ, 2016-2018

Taught "Introduction to Philosophy" in the undergraduate program.

Co-Founder; *Charis Snowmass Dialogues*

2016 - Present

The Charis Snowmass Dialogues, held in monasteries and spiritual communities around the country, are modeled on and continue in the lineage of the Snowmass InterSpiritual Dialogues (2005-2015), themselves the successor to the groundbreaking Snowmass Interreligious Dialogues (1984-2005) convened by Father Thomas Keating, founder of the Centering Prayer movement.

Administrator; *Snowmass Inter-Spiritual Dialogue Fellowship*

Snowmass, CO, 2010-2015

These annual dialogues were part of a 30-yr. experiment began by Father Thomas Keating in 1984, bringing contemplative teachers from different religious traditions together for intimate dialogue in extended retreat settings. I was a participant and their administrator for the final five years. Accomplishments included fundraising, the production of a PBS documentary on the dialogues, and the planning of a 30-yr. anniversary reunion.

**Vice-Principal / Chair, Math Dept / Math, Physics, SAT Teacher;
*Valley Torah High School***
Los Angeles, CA 2008-2012

- Taught Physics, Geometry, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Algebra I, Algebra II, and SAT
- As Vice-Principal, responsible for curriculum development, evaluating and hiring teachers, teacher development, overseeing student council, implementation of community service program, student discipline, and monitoring of student achievement. Chaired accreditation committee on School Instruction for Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation in 2011-2012, receiving the highest level of accreditation.
- As Math dept. chair, I implemented widespread structural changes to curriculum, founding the school's first advanced track of AP Calculus AB / BC. It was a significant achievement, as the most advanced math class upon my arrival consisted of two seniors in Pre-Calculus.

Mathematics Instructor; *Viewpoint School*
Calabasas, CA, 2012-2013

Taught all levels of mathematics at the secondary level. Directed “Math Mentors” program, pairing Upper and Middle School students in peer-mentoring program.

Assistant Lecturer; *University of Southern California*
Los Angeles, CA, 2008-2009

Taught mathematics at the undergraduate level.

Actuarial Outsourcer; *PriceWaterhouseCoopers*
Chicago, IL, 1997-2000

Responsibilities included interpretation of retirement plan documents, calculation of benefits, and communication with clients and beneficiaries. Major achievement was the development and implementation of a streamlined system to handle these needs.

Restaurant Manager; *Bella Via*
Highland Park, IL, 2000-2004

Managed “front of the house” for a top Italian restaurant in the Chicago area; responsibilities included produce maintenance, waiter scheduling, banquets, and coordination of main dining room.

Selected Publications

Books - Peer Reviewed

The Sacred/Secular Binary: Challenging the Divide in University Culture and Democratic Societies.
Doylestown, PA: Caladium Publishing, 2024 (forthcoming).

Journal Articles - Peer Reviewed

“Theology Without Wall’s Potential as Decolonial & Democratic Praxis: A Response,”
Journal of Interreligious Studies, 34, January 2022, 34-65.

“The Religious Quest as Transformative Journey: Interspiritual Religious Belonging and the Problem of Religious Depth,” *De Gruyter Open* 3, 2017, 613-629.

“Interspiritual Theology as a Radical Potential for New Vistas in Theological Thought,”
De Gruyter Open 2, 2016, 391-399.

Books

The New Monasticism: An Interspiritual Manifesto for Contemplative Living, Rory McEntee and Adam Bucko. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2015.

Book Chapters

“Theology Without Walls: an interspiritual approach,” in *Theology Without Walls: The Transreligious Imperative*, ed. by Jerry Martin. New York: Routledge, 2020, 85-97.

“Trinitarian Naturalism? Tehom, Word, and Spirit: A Constructive and Contemplative Journey Through Panikkar, Tillich, and Corrington,” *Nature’s Transcendence and Immanence: A Comparative-Interdisciplinary Ecstatic Naturalism*, ed. by Marilynn Lawrence and Jea Sophia Oh. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2017, 31-42.

“Spiritual Search,” *Awakening the Spirit, Inspiring the Soul: 30 Stories of Interspiritual Discovery in the Community of Faiths*, ed. by Wayne Teasdale and Martha Howard. Woodstock: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2004.

Journal Articles - General

“Interspiritual Revolution: How the Occupy Generation is Re-Envisioning Spirituality and [New] Monasticism,” Rory McEntee and Adam Bucko, *The Interfaith Observer*, May 2013.

“New Monasticism,” Rory McEntee and Adam Bucko, *Kosmos Journal*, Spring/Summer 2013.

“The Journey into New Monasticism,” *Contemplative Journal*, May 2013.

“New Monasticism: An Interspiritual Manifesto for Contemplative Life in the 21st Century,” Rory McEntee and Adam Bucko, published independently online, June 2012; subsequently featured in a three part series in *National Catholic Reporter*.

Selected Conference Presentations

“The Sacred/Secular Binary: Challenging the Divide,” *American Academy of Religion Annual Conference*; San Diego, CA, November 2024.

“Charis Circles” and “The Young Contemplatives,” Panelist, *Contemplative Outreach Annual Conference*; Atlanta, GA, Sept. 2024.

Facilitator and Teacher, *Charis Circles Retreat*; Des Moines, NM, June 2024.

“Interspiritual Dialogue Training,” *Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community*; Online, Mar. 2024.

Facilitator, *Charis Snowmass Dialogues*; Shelburne, VT, November 2023.

“Interspiritual: What is its Meaning and Significance,” Panelist, *The Parliament of the World’s Religions*; Chicago, IL, August 2023.

“New Monasticism & Interspirituality,” Panelist, *The Parliament of the World’s Religions*; Chicago, IL, August 2023.

“The Parliament and the Dawn of the Second Axial Age,” Panelist, *The Parliament of the World’s Religions*; Chicago, IL, August 2023.

Facilitator and Teacher, *Charis Circles Retreat*; Snowmass, CO, June 2023.

“Intercultural Exchange,” Talk to high school students; Kathmandu, Nepal, May 2023.

“Interspiritual Dimensions of Father Thomas Keating’s Work,” Keynote Speaker, *Contemplative Outreach of Colorado Annual Conference*; Denver, CO, Feb. 2023.

Participant, *Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace*; Abu Dhabi, November 2022.

“Dimensions of Interspiritual Love: Platonic Friendship, Agapic Interdependence, and Erotic Interference among Religions,” *American Academy of Religion Annual Conference*; Denver, CO, November 2022.

Participant, *International Conference on Cohesive Societies*; Singapore, Sept. 2022.

Facilitator and Teacher, *Charis Circles Retreat*; Snowmass, CO, June 2022.

“Dimensions of Interspiritual Love,” *Thomas Keating Interspiritual Seminars*; Shelburne, VT, May 2022.

“Theology Without Wall’s Relevance for the ‘Spiritual but not Religious,’” *American Academy of Religion Annual Conference*; held online, November 2020.

“Rising Scholars and the Future of Transreligious Theology,” panelist, *American Academy of Religion Annual Conference*; held online, November 2020.

Panelist, *Interreligious Conference at the Vatican*; Vatican City, Italy, 2019.

Panelist, *Colloquium for Contemplative Studies*; San Diego, CA, 2019.

“Walking in Luminous Darkness: Howard Thurman and New Monasticism,” *Dawn of Interspirituality Conference*; Casa Siloé, Costa Rica, March 2018.

“Beloved Community as Cosmic Symphony: A Betwixtment of *Nepantla*,” *Ecstatic Naturalism Conference*, Drew University, Madison, NJ, April 2018.

“Rising Scholars and the Future of Transreligious Theology,” panelist, *American Academy of Religion Annual Conference*; Boston, MA, November 2017.

“The Religious Quest as Transformative Journey: Interspiritual Religious Belonging and the Problem of Religious Depth,” *The Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference*; New Brunswick, NJ, March, 2017.

“Sacred Activism,” *Science and Nonduality Conference*; San Jose, CA, October 2017.

“Trinitarian Naturalism? A Constructive Journey with Panikkar, Tillich, and Corrington,” *Ecstatic Naturalism Conference*; Madison, NJ, April 2016.

“New Monasticism,” *Dawn of Interspirituality Conference*; Mount Vernon, WA, 2013.

“Interspirituality,” *Science and Nonduality Conference*; San Rafael, CA, October 2013

Further Interreligious / Interspiritual and Social Work Experience

Shared Sacred Story Project, 2022-2024, A flagship project for the Fetzer Institute, which brought together teams from different religious traditions to write a sacred story from their own tradition, while being in dialogue with each other. Served as head of the “Interspiritual Team,” and lead editor of the “Shared Sacred Story of Interspirituality.”

Dawn of Interspirituality, 2013, Steering Committee, Featured Speaker: Helped to plan and organize an international conference on interspirituality, featuring speakers from South Africa, England, Ireland, America, Columbia, Canada, Germany, Holland, India, and the Middle East.

The Parliament of World's Religions, worked for the Parliament on its “Spiritual Life Circle,” an interspiritual group dedicated to studying the mystical paths of the world’s religions as part of the 2004 Parliament in Barcelona, Spain. We published a book through our work, *Awakening the Spirit, Inspiring the Soul* (Skylight Paths, 2004).

Friends of Compassion, 2000-2002: Original member of a nonprofit foundation based in Chicago, dedicated to “helping people help themselves.” Traveled twice to India to implement building of a meeting house with computer and internet access for a women’s group in a rural Indian village.

Association for Global New Thought, 2001-2002: Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director. Helped organize the month long “Season for Nonviolence” dedicated to the work of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., as well as their annual conference in Palm Springs, CA.

Exploring the Sacred, Co-founded an interreligious dialogue group in Steamboat Springs, CO in 2003, bringing together the religious leaders in the community. The group has continued to hold monthly meetings and bi-annual public events for over twenty years now.

Awards

Maxine Clarke Beach Leadership Prize, 2017; awarded to one student each year in the Graduate Division of Religion at Drew University for outstanding academic excellence in coursework.

Ralph Waldo Emerson Prize, 2016; Best paper by a junior scholar, Ecstatic Naturalism Conference; Drew University, Madison, NJ, April 2016.

Interesting Facts

- Spent time on multiple occasions with His Holiness the Dalai Lama at his private residence in India; had a private audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican while participating in an Interreligious Conference
- Played college Basketball and Rugby at Lake Forest College; in high school, led the state of Utah in scoring in basketball
- Lived in India for nearly a year; on other occasions have spent time in Nepal, Bhutan, South Africa, Thailand, and throughout Europe