

# FAITH & CULTURE

INTEGRATING PROFOUND CULTURAL AWARENESS  
INTO CRISIS MANAGEMENT, COMMUNITY GROWTH, AND NEW COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS



  
Participants

up to **35**

  
Project timeline

**4** sessions

Leaders from across the Federation.

**4** days each, spread over **two** years.

## WHY IT IS NEEDED

- > Over the last fifty years, the vision and mission of L'Arche has stirred the hearts of people all over the world. L'Arche communities have formed in 38 different countries: in some of the poorest places in the world, in some of the richest places in the world, and in a wide variety of cultural contexts.
- > L'Arche has many success stories to share, but L'Arche also has examples of significant struggles or cyclical patterns of crisis.
- > Faith and Culture was developed to help us understand and address these struggles directly.

## WHAT IT IS

- > A two-year program that trains L'Arche leaders to integrate profound cultural awareness into crisis management decisions, community growth challenges, and new community foundations.
- > Helps our leaders build a healthy Federation by encouraging each L'Arche Community to be rooted in, and emergent from, their own cultural context.

## WHY IT IS UNIQUE

- > Program content was developed in conjunction with cultural anthropologist Gerald A. Arbuckle, SM, PhD, and educator in systems and group development, Sr. Brenda Hermann
- > Each participant selects a real L'Arche case study that is relevant to their role in L'Arche, and works with it throughout the two-year period.
- > The values of the gospel (of the Christian Scriptures), and the values of L'Arche, are the reference points to help us discern where we need to question and challenge cultural values, and where we need to respect and nourish them. This process of critical interaction leads to a culture transformed by faith and a faith that is culturally re-expressed. This process can also be useful to people of other faiths or of no particular faith.

## FUNDING NEEDS

- > Facilitator and translator fees.
- > Travel expenses for the formation team, and some participants.
- > Accommodations.
- > Supplies.
- > **Detailed budget available upon request.**

