

DISCOVERING A SENSE OF PLACE

A EIGHT-SESSION COURSE FOR THE WORKPLACE, FAITH CENTER OR HOME

PURPOSE

∞ To understand the meaning of a bioregional perspective and what it would mean to develop one.

∞ To consider the benefits of consciously developing an intimate relationship with your place.

∞ To explore what it might mean to protect the place we live in.

"I am amazed at the connections – internal and external – I am making as a result of taking this course ... connecting with the land, with people and with myself."

- participant,
Nanaimo, BC



SESSION THEMES

A Sense of Place: Wendell Berry, the U.S.'s best known bioregionalist, says *if you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are*. With a sense of place, your identity is defined – to a significant extent—by the natural features of the place you live. Without a sense of place, what will fill the void?

Responsibility to Place: There is a difference between living *on* the land and dwelling *in* it—understanding its rhythms, its potential, and its limits. Those who develop intimacy with a place over time tend to accept responsibility for it?

Knowing Your Bioregion: Your bioregion is a unique place with its own watershed, soils, climate, plants, animals, and history. How much do you know about it?

Living in Place: Living in place means consciously trying to satisfy your needs and find your pleasures in your local bioregion and working to assure the long-term health of the bioregion?

Mapping Your Place: Mapping can be learned by local groups and individuals to give a new sense of place. A typical map show political subdivisions and transportation routes. A bioregional map delineates regions based on watersheds, climate, and plant types—and helps people relate to their natural surroundings.

Building Local Community: A bioregionalist assumes responsibility for the health and continuity of a place, not only its natural features, but also the social bonds of its people.

Empowerment: Knowing a place can inspire and empower one to take action to preserve it or take part in its restoration. How important is individual and group action in modern society?

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DEVELOPED BY NWEI

Motivating individuals to examine and transform personal values and habits,
to accept responsibility for the earth, and to act on that commitment.