MOVEMENT CHAPLAINCY

What is Movement Chaplaincy? A guide from Faith Matters Network

Movement Chaplaincy is the work of spiritual accompaniment to justice movements and their leaders.

THE NEEDS

- ACTIVISM is spiritual work
- EMOTIONS are intense and high
- FATIGUE & OVERWHELM are real and may prevent absorption
- SPIRITUAL crisis, awareness, and awakening is happening
- MODELS of sustainable activism are needed
- STRESS & TRAUMA responses are normal; must be released

Movement Chaplaincy has three main areas of focus:

ACCOMPANIMENT

- "Ministry" of presence, showing up
- Bearing witness
- Holding space for the full range of emotions and experiences
- Meaning making where appropriate and when called forth

CARE

- Spiritual, emotional, relational - a kind or encouraging word, prayer, listening, smile, touch (consensual), and long-term support
- Physical care - tissues, water, bandage, blanket, snack, or connecting to who has these
- Referrals to extended care networks
- De-escalation and intervention in some situations (depending on training and capacity)

RESILIENCE BUILDING

- Celebration & lament: encouraging emotion, somatic release, spiritual expression and exploration
- Ritual & ceremony before, during and after protests & organizing meetings
- Your own resilience and healing

TIPS

- Build trust with organizers
- Work as a team
- Be aware of power, identification, etc
- Don't forget yourself

About Faith Matters Network: Faith Matters Network is an innovative organization centered on womanist wisdom that accompanies spiritually grounded leaders in their journey to heal themselves and their communities. For more information, visit our website at www.faithmattersnetwork.org. You can also follow us on social media on Instagram or Facebook.