

# Prophetic Imagination--The Men's Retreat First Congregational Church

Based on the book "The Prophetic Imagination," by Walter Brueggemann

## Part 1: Orientation: What *Were* the Prophets up to?

The task of the prophet is to imagine and dream a new way of being. But what did that new way look like? What was that new vision in opposition to, and what was so problematic about the old way of being?

In this first session, we'll begin to identify the general orientation of your best self:

- Where is your life headed?
- What does your life stand for?
- How does being in a faith community help you create and move toward this vision?

## Part 2: Guides: The Prophets as Spirit-Guides. *Who are Your Spirit Guides?*

What did the prophets look and act like as they did their work of orientation? Can you identify those guides who helped you find the orientation, the purpose, and the meaning of your life's work?

In this session, we'll begin to create a timeline of important moments/events in your life.

- Who was with you in those moments?
- What did their guidance mean for your life and life's work?

- How does being in a faith community help you receive and offer guidance?

### **Part 3: The Prophets' role of Energizing, Criticizing, and Renewal: The Way Forward**

The prophets can serve as reminders of our deepest aspirations and dreams. We often find our way, lose our way, and remember or re-orient our way.

In this last session, we'll compile our 'general orientation' and our timelines of crucial events, and identify those moments:

- When have you lost your way?
- When, and how, was the way re-found and renewed?
- What can we learn about the *rest* of our lives upon seeing the timeline of the lives we've led so far?