



Decolonizing Women's Spirituality

11 June, 2022 11am - 3pm
Mini Retreat at Lancaster Priory

Admission £5 (all profits donated to the non-profit Tehom Center)
Lunch and Refreshments included

Sponsored by FASS Decolonizing Lancaster University Events Fund
and ELCW's Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

On June 11, Rev. Dr. Yarber will offer a retreat: "Decolonizing Women's Spirituality". During the retreat, there will be a presentation, discussion, a guided drawing process, ritual, embodied exercises, guided reflections, and Q&A.

During the presentation portion of the mini retreat, Dr. Yarber will present an engaging lecture alongside art on the topic of Decolonizing Women's Spirituality. Deconstructing the role of art in #whitewomensspirituality, she will unpack the differences among appropriation, appreciation, and what it means to engage in spirituality alongside otherwise underrepresented perspectives, in addition to exploring understandings of queerness and queering.

The same quote by black feminist author, bell hooks, that anchors her book, *Queering the American Dream*, grounds her presentation: "Queer not as about who you're having sex with (that can be a dimension of it); but queer as being about the self that is at odds with everything around it and has to invent and create and find a place to speak and to thrive and to live."

With both decolonization and queering in mind, Dr. Yarber examines what it means for women's spirituality to be at odds with everything around it, and how, together, we can invent and create places to speak, thrive, and live. After the presentation and discussion portion of the retreat, participants will engage Dr. Yarber's Intentional Drawing Process.

With creative writing, drawing, embodied exercises, and ritual, "knowing" is decolonized by approaching women's spirituality with more than written and spoken words. Participants create their own art as a place to speak, thrive, and live differently than merely within #whitewomensspirituality.

Following the Intentional Drawing Process is a time of guided reflection, a closing spiral dance, and an opportunity for Q&A before a book signing and pop-up shop of books, art, and prints, with all sales benefiting the Tehom Center non-profit.



About Rev. Dr. Yarber

Rev. Dr. Angela Yarber is the author, artist, and founding Executive Director of the Tehom Center, a non-profit teaching organization about revolutionary women through art, writing, academic courses, and retreats. An ordained clergywoman, she holds a PhD in Art and Religion and has been both a Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, as well as a professor at multiple divinity schools.

Four of her eight books were listed in the Top LGBTQ Religion Books of their respective publication years. Her work has been featured on NPR's *Progressive Spirit*, *Ms. Magazine*, Maya Angelou's memorial celebration, and on the television show *Tiny House Nation*. Her recent memoir, *Queering the American Dream*, was featured in *Forbes*.

You can learn more about her work at www.tehomcenter.org