



## **Call for Papers: Religion and Spirituality in Competency-Based Social Work Practice Special Issue of *Social Work & Christianity***

**Guest Editors: Altaf Husain, PhD and Michael Sherr, PhD**

Educators, researchers and practitioners are invited to submit papers with an emphasis on demonstrating religious and spiritual competence in practice. Building on the growing interest among practitioners in the role of religion and spirituality in social work practice, this special issue of *Social Work & Christianity* seeks to call attention to the diversity among both longstanding and emerging religious and spiritual traditions, while highlighting the implications for Christians in Social Work. Renewed professional interest in religion and spirituality has manifested itself in the formation of a work group on religion and spirituality convened by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Representatives of NACSW serve on the work group along with members from other diverse religious and spiritual traditions. The co-editors of this special issue are members of the CSWE work group, and are exemplars of religious diversity representing a Muslim, Jewish, and Christian perspective, respectively.

The intended audience for this special issue will be social work educators and practitioners although it is understood that the depth and breadth of the final selection of papers for inclusion in the journal will be of benefit across disciplines. Interested authors can choose to focus on various aspects of how religion and spirituality influences the practitioner-client therapeutic relationship. One level of focus could be to delve deeper into the scholarly knowledge base upon which a particular religious or spiritual intervention is rooted. Another approach could be to describe in detail how a particular religious or spiritual intervention came into being, what considerations developed its design and implementation and with what particular population of clients or communities. Utilizing an outcomes approach, interested authors could submit a manuscript to assess strengths and weaknesses and to convey lessons learned and best practices which have emerged from the implementation of a religious or spiritually based intervention. And yet another approach could be to focus on recommendations for the future of religious and spiritual competence in practice.

### **About the Journal**

*Social Work and Christianity* (SWC) is a refereed journal published by the North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW) in order to contribute to the growth of social workers in the integration of Christian faith and professional practice.

For this special issue, the editors welcome articles, shorter contributions, book reviews, and letters which deal with issues related to the integration religious and spiritual traditions and professional social work practice. This special issue welcomes contributions from across the religious and spiritual spectrum that address building competence in professional practice.

### **Instructions for Authors**

Please submit an abstract as an email attachment (preferably in Microsoft Word) of no more than 750 words by **September 16, 2013** to [altaf.husain@Howard.edu](mailto:altaf.husain@Howard.edu). The co-editors will review and assess the suitability of the abstract for inclusion in the special issue. Pending the outcome of the review the co-editors will inform the author(s) to submit a full-length manuscript according to the manuscript submission guidelines of SWC which can be found at: [http://www.nacsw.org/Publications/nacswpubs\\_submission.html](http://www.nacsw.org/Publications/nacswpubs_submission.html)

The deadline for full-length papers will be **January 31, 2014**. Manuscripts should be written according to the guidelines of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition). Papers will be peer-reviewed following the policies of the *SWC*.

Inquiries may be sent to either Altaf Husain ([altaf.husain@howard.edu](mailto:altaf.husain@howard.edu)) or Michael Sherr ([Michael-Sherr@utc.edu](mailto:Michael-Sherr@utc.edu)).