



Transcending Blah, Blah, Blah: Strategies of Interreligious Dialogue

Brian Wilson, Ph.D.

Comparative Religion, WMU

October 17, 2010 - Sunday Discourse

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Sambodh Center for Human Excellence

6363 N. 24th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49004

DESCRIPTION: There is a lot of talk these days about the urgency and necessity of interreligious dialogue, and much dialoguing is indeed going on. Around the world, Buddhists are talking to Christians who are talking to Hindus who are talking to Muslims who are talking to Jews. However, the question to be asked is whether any of this talking is productive, and if so, productive of what? Dialogue frequently is entered into by participants with a complete lack of mutual understanding as to the goals and the ground rules of such discourse. The result: people talking past each other with no concrete results. In his talk, Professor Wilson will discuss the importance of clarity on these issues before productive dialoguing can begin. Using the four simple models of interreligious dialogue developed by theologian Paul Knitter, Professor Wilson will highlight how unspoken assumptions can easily derail even the best-intentioned efforts to foster interreligious understanding and how this might be avoided.

Vegetarian Potluck follows the Service

You are welcome to bring a dish to pass.