



7 July 2009

Dear colleagues

I am writing to you on behalf of the British Association for the Study of Spirituality (BASS) as someone who might be interested in participating in our activities and/or as a member of an organisation that might wish to become involved. BASS is in the process of establishing itself as a collaboration of existing centres and individual researchers whose area of interest is some aspect of the study of spirituality or religion. We are an interdisciplinary organisation, including applied disciplines, and are keen to promote interdisciplinarity and inter-professional understanding in this field.

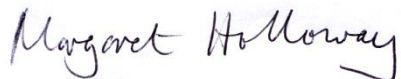
At this point in time, the work of BASS is being carried forward by a working Executive with a view to moving to the election of officers in 2010. At that stage membership fees will be requested. However, for the time being we are interested in gauging interest and establishing some key events and facilities as follows:

1. An international conference, *Spirituality in a Changing World*, is scheduled for 4-6 May 2010, to be held at Cumberland Lodge in the Windsor Great Park. Full information on abstract submission and conference booking forms will be sent out later this month. We are currently seeking additional members for the Scientific Committee to assist in the drafting of themes and review of abstracts.
2. We have been negotiating with publishers for a new journal (working title *Spirituality*) and are pleased to announce that Pavilion Publishing is keen to add this to their growing journals portfolio. The journal will be linked officially to BASS and a reduced subscription rate included in the membership package. Pavilion plan a first edition to coincide with the conference. This is quite a tight time-scale and we shall be looking for articles for this first copy. We should also value your views/suggestions on the title - Pavilion are worried that it does not sufficiently indicate its intended readership and may need a strapline.
3. We are exploring the possibility of a Launch event in London in November 2009. As we do not yet have any of our own funds we are approaching possible sponsors from the Houses of Parliament. However, it is important to know whether sufficient people would attend such an event. We anticipate one speaker but its main purpose would be to put BASS formally on the map and initiate the networking which we hope will be one of the benefits of membership.
4. You will see that BASS has a logo and strapline and we are in the process of setting up a web-site. For the time being, however, all communications will be handled by Jane McAteer, the administrator from the Centre for Spirituality Studies here at Hull

(j.mcateer@hull.ac.uk; 01482 462011). Jane will post BASS updates on the CSS web-site until the BASS web-site is fully operational.

The purpose of this letter is to disseminate information about BASS (and we should be grateful if you would forward it to your own networks). However, we also need rather urgently information on some of the matters we have outlined here, and should be grateful if you would complete and return the attached reply form at your earliest convenience. We very much hope that as wide a community as possible will join us in this exciting endeavour.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Holloway". The ink is dark and the signature is written on a light-colored background.

On behalf of the BASS Executive

Margaret Holloway, PhD, BA, CQSW
Professor of Social Work
Director of the Centre for Spirituality Studies

Reply slip – British Association for the Study of Spirituality	
Name:	
Affiliation:	
Tel no:	
E-mail:	
	Please state yes/no
I am interested in being on the BASS Mailing list	yes/ no
I should like information on the BASS conference	yes/ no
I am willing to help with the work of the conference Scientific Committee	yes/ no
I would attend a Launch subject to availability	yes/ no
My views/ suggestions for the journal title are;	

Please return ASAP via e-mail to – j.mcateer@hull.ac.uk

Or post to;

Jane McAteer
 Centre for Spirituality Studies
 Social Work
 The University of Hull
 Cottingham road
 Hull
 East Yorkshire
 HU6 7RX