

The Forest Floor Manifesto

LIVE 'fully' as it invites us to embrace joy, hurt, anger and disgust;

all states of mind that can contribute to sustainable change. **LEARN CONTINUOUSLY**

and aspire to live in balance and influence on life balance. **BE PROUD** to make a living; through productivity come the gifts of art, craft and science. **LEARN FROM NATURE** and appreciate the self-organization that comes from it. **LIVE COMFORTABLY WITH DOUBT AND UNCERTAINTY** and engage with predicaments rather than problems, to find a better way. **ASK POWERFUL QUESTIONS** and engage in inquiry rather than jump to closure or solutions. **UNDERSTAND EMERGENT CHANGE** and recognise that small changes can make big differences. **INFLUENCE** bottom up change, open boundaries, and continuous growth. **VALUE DIVERSITY** and difference and recognise the paradoxical and irresolvable nature of many of the complex issues we face. **BE EVER CURIOUS** and looking with a child's eyes. **FOCUS** on abundance and grow to become our own personal experts. **LEAD FROM THE BOTTOM**, from the roots, confidently, in "new ways of doing business" recognising that there are many paths on this journey. **INCLUDE, CONNECT, SHARE** and work with a whole-brain approach with groups, systems, communities and cities. **LEARN AND LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND FIRST**, meet people and groups where they are and go courageously where the issues are. **SHARE DIFFERENT AND NEW WAYS** of seeing, feeling, being and thinking and aim for ambitious alternatives. Recognise that people, all of us, don't know what we don't know.

GUIDE AND BE GUIDED, inspire and enrich, rather than convince, persuade or diminish.

SERVE AND SUPPORT the community with compassion and innovative delivery. **HONOUR ANCIENT WAYS** such as the Way of Council, nomadic life and teaching and the importance of pilgrimage. **BRING RADICAL HOPE** Radical in that it is "directed toward a future goodness that transcends our current ability to understand what it is".

CREATE MEANINGFUL SPACES for creativity and dialogue aimed at finding the right questions and deeper understanding. **CREATE NEW CULTURES** for improvement, including offering radical acceptance, both of

our crappiness, and our beauty. **SEEK AWARENESS** of what may be unconscious and in shadow as part of working authentically and with people's whole selves - engaging head,

heart and hand and working with deep purpose.

BRING THE LEARNING HOME BY ASKING

"What does it mean to your purpose?"

COMMUNICATE with personal responsibility by speaking for self, getting our "own houses in order" and limiting or checking our assumptions.

STAY OPEN, LISTEN

carefully and be mindful of how easy it is to attach labels.

BEGIN WITH AND MAKE VALUABLE USE OF OUR

ASSETS and strengths – we know what we know.

WORK WITH INTEGRITY AND ETHICAL INTENT.

HAVE FUN as we continue this journey, recognise that most things are easier and our connection to people and the world is strengthened if we find joy in what we do.

THE FOREST FLOOR: WE STAND FOR LIFE.

THE FIVE "DEEP COMMITMENTS" OF THICH NHAT HANH FOR LIVING WELL

PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE WORK AND LIFE:

Cherishing all life; Responsibility in relationship; Generosity and social justice;

Loving speech and deep listening; Mindful consumption and eating.