

My Journey

By Steve Moore

Steve Moore is a convener for the emerging chapter in Alabama.

How and when were you introduced to male spirituality?

My journey started in 12-step programs in the 1990s. We developed some Men's Accountability Groups to work with specific issues that weren't easily addressed in open meetings. I was involved in some local men's sweat lodge work and there I was introduced to the talking stick and "mitakuye oyasin": "we are all related," from Lakota tradition. As I was falling into my fifties, I found Richard Rohr's work, which is probably the reason that I can still call myself Christian today. I started on a new path of men's work after I discovered Illuman. I am very new to Illuman and very enthusiastic about the work.

How has your participation in Illuman fostered the use and development of your gifts?

I am hungry for community and, because of that, I have found others who are as well. This has allowed my passion for building and developing authentic community to be put to good use. I am also very interested in the paths to maturity and authenticity.

Describe a recent Illuman event you attended. What was the impact on you?

In September of 2017, I attended a retreat with the Louisiana Chapter of Illuman. It affected men in many ways. Jim Clark was the retreat leader and, as I recall the moment, he said, "Now go and do your work. No one can do it for you. You know what you came to do." It was challenging and empowering—and I did. I was also grateful to experience what a working local chapter could be and do. The men of Mississippi and Louisiana were great.

What's one thing you'd recommend to a man starting on the spiritual journey?

Show up. Be there and be transformed. Don't wait. If you are called, come.

What's the best thing about doing this work?

For me, the opportunity to do my own work in the company of other willing and able men is more valuable than anything else.

Concluding thoughts?

The need for this work seems great. There are many men who want this and our world needs it now.