

How do I find an Interfaith Minister?

Information about Interfaith Ministers living or working in the UK and Ireland, and the services they offer, can be obtained from The Association of Interfaith Ministers and Spiritual Counsellors (AIMS):

AIMS
Halsecombe House
Parsons Hill
PORLOCK
Somerset
TA24 8QP

T 01643 862621
E info@interfaithministers.org.uk
W www.interfaithministers.org.uk

Halsecombe House Retreat Centre

For more information about programmes and services offered at our retreat centre and place of healing, call the number above or visit:

www.halsecombe.org.

Local services

If you would like to talk in person about spiritual counselling, arranging a ceremony, or to find out about fellowship and healing services locally, please contact your local Interfaith Minister:

Graham Wilson
(Rev Dr)

Counselling: London, Oxon, Berks
Celebrations: UK & Worldwide

† 07785 222380
e graham@inter-faith.net
w www.inter-faith.net

Are there professional standards for Interfaith Ministers?

The Association for Interfaith Ministers and Spiritual Counsellors (AIMS) is an international professional body that provides ongoing training, supervision, and support for graduates of *The Interfaith Seminary* and other ordained ministers with an interest in Interfaith.

All practising members of AIMS agree to abide by its code of ethics and to hold appropriate insurance cover for their activities.

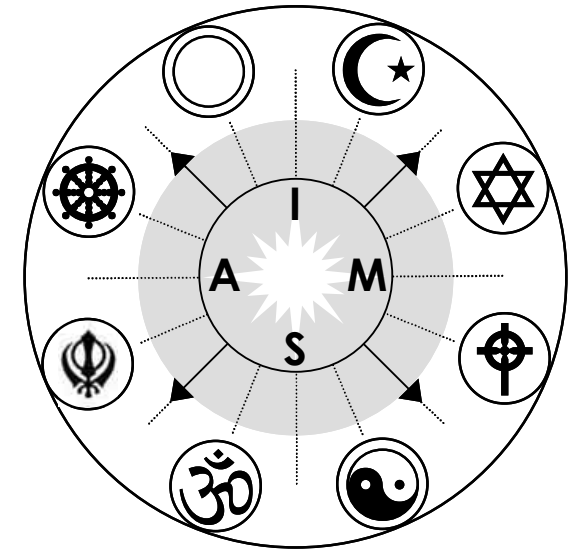
The Interfaith Seminary

Rev Miranda Holden founded *The Interfaith Seminary* in 1996, under the name *The New Seminary UK*, as an independent sister programme to *The New Seminary* in New York, where Miranda was trained and ordained. The US organisation was founded in 1981 by Rabbi Joseph Gelberman, with the support of religious leaders such as Swami Satchidananda, Methodist minister Rev Jon Mundy and others wishing to explore the areas between and beyond the boundaries of their own Faith.

The first group of Interfaith ministers in the UK was ordained in 1998 and they number about 120 today.

The Interfaith Seminary
Elms Court
BOTLEY
Oxford
OX2 9LP

T 01865 244835
E info@interfaithseminary.org.uk
W www.interfaithseminary.org.uk



INTERFAITH MINISTRY

Ceremonies, Services, Fellowship, Spiritual Counselling,
Teaching, Peace Making...

Interfaith Ministry

Interfaith Ministers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and faiths, and are trained to teach, counsel and serve all in their communities, regardless of Faith, religion or beliefs. We affirm the Truth in all religions, Faiths and spiritual traditions. We are rooted in our own Faith, yet recognise the universality of the teachings, values and, above all, the experience of the Sacred common to all authentic spiritual traditions, which is at the heart of true service.

As Ministers our work is not instead of, but in addition to, that of traditional religious ministers and teachers. Committed to serving all who seek a personally meaningful experience of connection with the Sacred, whether within or outside any established religious tradition, and to supporting and encouraging forgiveness and reconciliation in individuals, families and communities.

What do Interfaith Ministers do?

There is no dogma or fixed ministerial role for Interfaith Ministers. Each serves in their own way in their own community. Some choose to offer a public ministry, through spiritual counselling, services of healing and fellowship, celebrations to mark birth, marriage, death and other important life transitions. Other ministers work less publicly, for example, with the dying or bereaved, mediating in conflict, and teaching.

Spiritual Counselling

Spiritual counselling helps you connect with your inner strength, wisdom and spirituality, whatever your beliefs. In a safe space of complete acceptance, an Interfaith Minister helps you gain clarity and peace, and gather the inner resources needed to take the next step forward in your life. In addition to traditional counselling, if appropriate to your individual needs and beliefs, silence, prayer, meditation, and visualisation may all form part of spiritual counselling.

Services and Celebration

Fellowship Services

These opportunities allow people from all spiritual traditions and walks of life to join together - sharing insights, prayers, songs, gifts and meditations. Services focus on universal themes, such as forgiveness, gratitude and kindness. The experience of uniting with others in a common purpose is deeply uplifting and inspiring. It enables us to connect with our own joy, with the hearts of others and with the Sacred.

Ceremonies to mark transitions

Whatever our beliefs, ceremony is a very powerful way of integrating and honouring new experiences, life changes and personal commitments. These celebrations include weddings, welcoming a baby, moving into a new home, saying farewell to a loved one, or any important life transition. Interfaith Ministers work with you to create a moving, nourishing and personally meaningful occasion.

Healing ceremonies

The focus of a healing ceremony is on opening to Union, forgiveness and peace by letting go of past judgements, unhelpful defences and the need to suffer. Healing ceremonies may be held for an individual or involve a couple, family or whole community.

Social Change

A traditional and very practical service that ministers of all Faiths provide is to support communities of various kinds through times of difficulty. This may involve organising relief work in times of crisis, championing the needs of disadvantaged members of society, mediating among groups at times of conflict, or raising awareness through education and debate. Ministers also offer support through prayer and meditation.

What training have Interfaith Ministers received?

Interfaith Ministers enter their training with both a wide range of life experience and considerable time spent in personal reflection. They are actively committed to their own spiritual practice, to heartfelt service and to affirming the Unity of Spirit of all beings.

They then enter a two-year process of education, training and personal development with The Interfaith Seminary. They study the world's major Faiths and spiritual traditions and receive practical training in spiritual counselling, conducting celebrations and the heart of service.

