

Virtues and Character in Social Work Practice Introduction and Session Outline

Summer and Fall, 2014 Special Issue of Social Work and Christianity

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Introduction to Training:

This home study text-based training, focused on “Virtues and Character in Social Work Practice,” is based on a series of articles which were published as a part of the Summer and Fall, 2014 special edition of *Social Work and Christianity*. This special issue of *SWC* was by guest edited Terry Wolfer, Ph.D. and Cheryl Brandsen, Ph.D.

Abstract: Social work practitioners are social change agents that spend much of their time examining social structures and advocating for policies and programs that advance justice and increase opportunity. Social justice is central to the mission, professional development, and ethical decision making process in social work practice. However, the development of character traits and virtues within Christian social workers is equally important in furthering social justice and working with diverse populations.

This training brings to light questions about professional identity, relationships, and the ability to thrive and sustain social change through the understanding and development of a virtue framework. This framework combines philosophy, theology, and pedagogical practices to offer a holistic approach to professional development and explores the traits of charity, faith, generosity, gratefulness, and justice in social work practice.

Training Outline

This training contains 8 separate articles from the Summer and Fall, 2014 issue of *Social Work and Christianity* addressing this topic including:

- Preparing Christians for Social Work: Forming Character and Fostering Virtue by *Terry Wolfer and Cheryl Brandsen* – 30 minutes
- Introducing a Virtue Perspective for Social Work and Helping by *Jill C. Schreiber, Ruth E. Groenhout & Cheryl Brandsen* – 60 minutes

- Innovative Social Work Field Education in Congregational and Community-based Settings Serving Persons Fifty Five+: An Interdisciplinary Training Initiative for BSW and MSW Students:by *Jay Poole, John C. Rife, Fran Pearson, Lelia Moore, Antonia Monk Reaves, & Wayne Moore* - 45 minutes
- Faith as Virtue in Social Work Practice by *Joseph Kuilema* - 45 minutes
- Gratitude: Duty, Virtue, and Practice by *Charity Samantha Vo* - 45 minutes
- The Virtue of Generosity by *Rebecca Burwell & Mackenzi Huyser* - 45 minutes
- Justice as a Core Virtue for Social Work Practice by *Linda Plitt Donaldson & Lynn Milgram Mayer* - 45 minutes
- Adding Virtue to Faith: Strategies for Developing by Character in Christian Social Work Students by *Marleen Milner* - 45 minutes