

GUIDE FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING

SCIENCE OF MIND

Colors of Leadership



Rev. Andriette Earl

Crystal Davis, Ph.D.

Tracy Brown, RScP

Rev. Cynthia James

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*Honoring Black History Month
Special Section: Sacred Travel*

Colors of Leadership

A Panel Discussion With Four Dynamic Religious Science Leaders



Tracy Brown, RScP



Dr. Crystal Davis



Rev. Andriette Earl



Rev. Cynthia James



PART OF THE
**2020 Spiritual
Living Convention**

February may be considered the month of love. It also is the month when the world celebrates and honors black history. Within Centers for Spiritual Living, it is the month of our annual convention.

In recognition of all that February is to so many, we gathered together four black women in leadership within CSL for a virtual conversation. Below we offer perspectives given to us by:

- Tracy Brown, RScP, CSL leadership chair and Religious Science practitioner from Dallas, Texas;
- Dr. Crystal Davis, CSL laity leader, professional consultant and servant leadership expert from Kansas;
- Rev. Andriette Earl, founding spiritual leader from Heart and Soul Center of Light in Oakland, California; and
- Rev. Cynthia James, longtime CSL minister and voice of “The Science of Mind” audiobook with a global virtual and sacred travel ministry based in Colorado.

You can access the entire panel discussion exclusively on our website at ScienceOfMind.com/Colors-of-Leadership.

What’s one way the principles of Science of Mind help you navigate the complexities of your daily life?

Brown: The principles of Science of Mind call me to the highest standard of personal responsibility. Instead of being a victim or making other people villains, I use the principles to ground me in the good that is possible for me and the world. Then I use our practices to help me embody that good.

Davis: The principles of Science of Mind help to keep me centered as I go about busy days with my teenage son and my new foster son. These principles are a part of my daily spiritual routine and remind me to always “breathe first, respond second,” knowing that every situation is God.

Earl: I came to this teaching in the early 1980s, feeling very broken and fearful. As I learned how to understand and apply the principles, I simultaneously transformed my life and realized a level of certainty and a sense of focus or control that I never had before. Science of Mind principles continue to inspire me toward my greatest yet-to-be. They help me to know that I know how it is that my life is unfolding and that I am able to engage the essential resources to support my life expressing and manifesting in the ways I desire.

James: There are a few ways I use these principles. First and foremost, God is in everything, everyone, every circumstance. This helps me remember that acting out of any other belief or behavior is

a place of separation. It does not support my health, my well-being or my success. If there is nothing opposing God, there is nothing opposing my dreams, my desires or me.

Second, I always pray first. Pausing to pray before I make a decision, send an email or speak out of discontent has supported me in ways that I cannot even describe. I travel a great deal and interact with many different communities and cultures. The core concepts of this philosophy remind me to stand in the center of my being in any given moment. They remind me to trust that I am a manifestation of the one power and, therefore, the universe conspires for my good.

Please share your favorite Ernest Holmes quote and explain why it's meaningful to you and your ministry.



Brown is a successful author, coach and leader in the realm of diversity.

Brown: The Ernest Holmes quote I use the most is, "Hope is a subtle illusion." He wrote this in the context of spiritual mind treatment, reminding us that when we pray, we are declaring what we believe and know. Whenever I hear myself saying, "I hope that happens" or "I hope I get that," I remind myself that hope is a subtle illusion. What do I really believe?

Davis: My favorite quote from Holmes is, "Freely ye have received, freely give. It is only as we allow the Divine current to flow through us, in and out, that we really express life. Let the one who is sad, depressed or unhappy find some altruistic purpose into which he may pour his whole being and he will find a new inflow of life which he has never dreamed." This quote is meaningful to me and my message and works through

servant leadership, as when we give and serve, we are at our greatest joy and love for one another. Holmes taught this very message. My former work in community outreach at CSL Kansas City aligns with this message directly. Even in my own nonprofit organization, Servant Hearts, we practice service to the students, children and families of Junction City, Geary County, Kansas, and in so doing, we can spread the message of love and service to create a world that works for everyone.

Earl: "The barriers between you and your greater good are not barriers in themselves. They are things of thought. It is because of

this that all things are possible to faith. Jesus summed up the whole proposition when he said, 'It is done unto you as you believe.' In interpreting this saying, however, you must pause after the word 'as.' Think about its meaning and you will discover that he was saying that life not only responds to your belief, it responds after the manner of your believing, as you believe. It is like a mirror reflecting the image of your belief." — Ernest Holmes

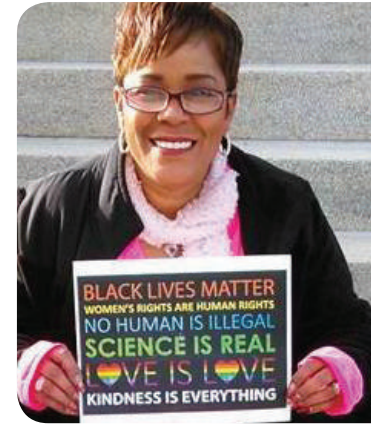
I love this quote. It has drawn me into a deeper understanding of the transformative power of belief. It always reminds me of the distinction between wishing I believed, saying I believe and actually believing. Holmes also illuminates how it is that it is "done unto us as we believe" — as we are yet believing. It is literally while we are believing that the real juice for transformation is flowing. This is the magnetic pull of our good corresponding to our belief, in real time.

Our Heart and Soul community has been working with this quote for a while now and understanding the distinction that it is done unto each and every one of us as we are yet believing. And that's a powerful shift to experience.

When we are at the effect of fear, concerned or reticent about making a shift and wanting to believe that we can, that is not where the juice is. The juice begins to flow when and as I am believing. Fear has to stand down because I believe that I must go, and I can go, so I am going. In that moment, everything changes.

James: Many years ago, I read "This Thing Called You." One paragraph jumped off the page and pierced my heart. It has never left, and I continue to return to it as a source of connection and clarity: "There is a pattern of perfection at the center of your being which has never been touched by disease or misfortune. Your intellect knows this through intuition, your imagination feels it by divine right, your inward consciousness knows it through faith. What you are trying to do is to awaken your whole being to spiritual awareness."

The work I do today supports people in awakening and remembering their perfection and extraordinary essence. I believe



Davis is a progressive voice in Geary County, Kansas.

that once we tap into that beautiful center, we can navigate life in powerful and expansive ways. Whenever I am out of sync, I know that, on some level, I have forgotten my perfection and drifted to sleep. In those moments, I dive deeper into my meditation practice, journaling and prayer.

This issue's theme is "All the Colors of Love."

What color — passions, skills, vision — do you bring in service to your Science of Mind community?

Brown: My passion for inclusion, my skills as a speaker and teacher, and my experience as a leader seem to all work together in surprising ways. I believe diversity is a divine idea, so everywhere I go I get to remind people that the fact there are so many different kinds of people cannot be a mistake or a problem to be fixed. In my local community in Dallas, Texas, I have been given many opportunities to teach and speak with a focus on helping others apply spiritual principles to their everyday lives. And as a leader in Centers for Spiritual Living, I have had the opportunity to participate in shaping the culture and influencing the strategic direction of the organization.

Davis: I have been so greatly blessed to bring my talents and skills as service to our beloved organization around community service and outreach, organizational development, relationship building, education and, more recently, serving on the board of directors of the Science of Mind Library and Archives, where the vision is to preserve and protect these teachings.

Earl: I bring bright, vibrant tones and offer a mature, clear voice for encouragement, empowerment and inclusion. I have considered that if Centers for Spiritual Living is not the place where I can bring my truth, then exactly where can I serve, invest and



Earl's community in Oakland, California, declared Harriet Tubman their "Matron Saint" in 2009.

contribute my color, my passion, my skills and my vision? I often think that if indeed CSL is not the place where people like me can be full contributors, then there's much work for us to do in CSL. I know I have a role in this work and that's why I serve — this is my contribution. My service in our community is to illuminate awareness that CSL must be safe, inclusive and accepting or we are not in alignment with our own vision. As a leader, I am here to remind us of our responsibility and commitment to each other to fully engage our vision and practice the principles among ourselves. Although we have not mastered this yet, we must engage the work in earnest.



James revels in nature.

James: I am a change agent and a champion for transformation. My zone of genius is transmitted through my coaching, speaking, teaching and music. My work with people assists in integrating emotional states of being that no longer serve. I am so honored to be a place that mirrors back to humanity that we are here to shine and bring our unique imprints. I work with women all around the world and teach them these principles to live more powerful, authentic and thriving lives.

Is there a black ancestor from our movement or within Religious Science who has inspired your work?

Brown: There is such a rich but hidden legacy created by black people who were involved and influential in our movement. It's hard to choose only one, but I will honor Sarah Flowers. The author of "Atomic Metaphysics: The Electrical Principle of Man" and at least five other books, Flowers graduated from the Major Course at the Institute of Religious Science in 1937. She worked with clients as a full-time practitioner, and like our founder Ernest Holmes, she hosted a radio program and was a popular lecturer on metaphysics. Her book "Common Sense" is a practical guide I refer to regularly for reminders of how to integrate spiritual principles into my daily life. I admire her example of full-time ministry, and I am amazed at her ability to explain quantum physics before that was even a term.

Davis: I have always felt a connection to the life and service of Pearl C. Wood or Mother Pearl (1892 – 1974). What resonates with me

is that she was ordained in Kansas (my home state) before moving to Los Angeles where she began her Triangular Church in 1932. For 35 years, Mother Pearl led a growing New Thought church and published her monthly Daily Thoughts magazine. Triangular Church became a church of Religious Science in 1956.

Mother Pearl was followed in ministry by her son-in-law, Rev. Dr. Philip G. Pitts, and her grandson, Rev. Gregory Pitts. It is necessary that we learn, understand, appreciate and continue in the service of our ancestors to our beloved organization. This history and energy drive my work of continuing to get this movement and our teaching out into the world and to serve people.

Earl: Yes! It's Rev. Dr. Ernie Forks, who unfortunately seems to be one of our forgotten teachers. My first experience of Science of Mind principles being taught by a black person was with Forks. He was the senior minister of East Bay Church of Religious Science when they were meeting at the Berkeley House Hotel in Berkeley, California.

I found him to be clear, creative and grounded in the principles. In many ways, I modeled my own ministry and my own way of teaching after him. His absolute laser-like clarity, creativity and anchored presence were compelling and transforming.

He left the Bay Area in the late 1980s and went to Washington state. I traveled there shortly after to attend a workshop he led, and that was my last experience of him.

James: Juanita Dunn was a practitioner when I walked into Guidance Church more than 30 years ago. She was tall and elegant. She spoke with clarity, confidence and a profound connection to the Divine. I was inspired by her knowledge, wisdom and grace.

Her presence made me want to be a better person and have a closer relationship with God. I found myself many times just watching her and the impact she had on our community and other practitioners. For me, she was an angel who walked this planet.

Hearts Helping Shape the World

Rev. Cynthia James (below) travels around the world teaching Science of Mind principles to help empower women of all ages and from all cultures to live their best lives.



Rev. Andriette Earl (above, left) works with New Thought progressives like Iyanla Vanzant in her Oakland, California, community and beyond.



Tracy Brown, RScP (above) is a renowned speaker and life coach, seen here on stage during the TedX Southern Methodist University event in University Park, Texas. Dr. Crystal Davis (right) has a heart for international servant leadership and brings her passion and consulting work to organizations around the globe.



Colors of Leadership

Looking forward, what is your greatest desire for CSL's future?

Brown: Ernest Holmes described Science of Mind as “a faith, a philosophy and a way of life.” The original Institute of Religious Science was referred to as a teaching and healing order. Now is the time to go beyond the walls and structure of churches and expand into the center of communities and cultures in ways we have never done before. I see millions of people — all over the globe — living these universal spiritual principles to create lives they love. Our world is hungry for healing. We have the teaching and vision. We have the technology. Let’s feed the hunger of the world with the love, harmony, wisdom, peace and the wholeness of spiritual truth.

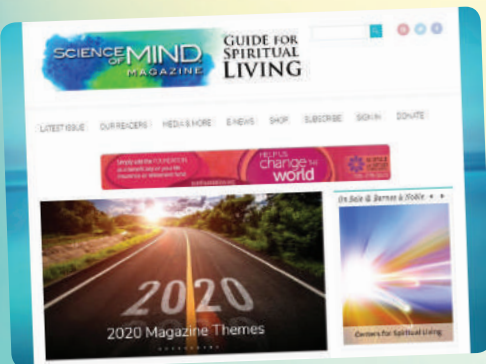
Davis: My fondest knowing for Centers for Spiritual Living is that we will continue to grow and expand as an organization in, as and through Spirit so that we live our mission on this planet.

Earl: My prayer for us is authentic acceptance and inclusion of *all* of our constituents. I pray we endeavor to better understand the consequences of white supremacy, white fragility and privilege for all of us, including people of color. That we work together to call forth what we have already envisioned — a CSL that works for all of us. This is the requisite precursor to a world that works for everyone.

James: That we step out into a more profound way of touching the hearts and the souls of the masses. I see us having a more powerful voice in the world and inviting people not called to our centers to take a deeper dive into their greatness. We have an extraordinary message, and it is time to boldly step forward. I also see us training young people to be leaders in our organization. I think we have an opportunity to lift up our young leaders into powerful positions that can transform and heal. ☘

More Online

Additional questions and responses appear in our exclusive online version of this feature. Find the full-length piece at ScienceofMind.com/Colors-of-Leadership.



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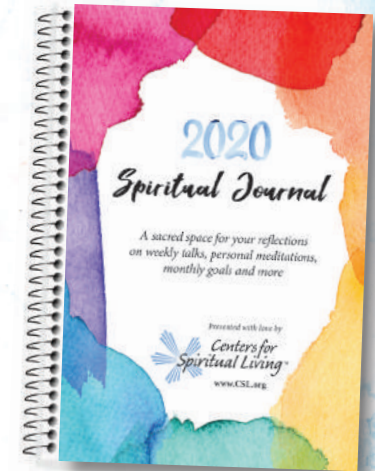
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CRYSTAL DAVIS

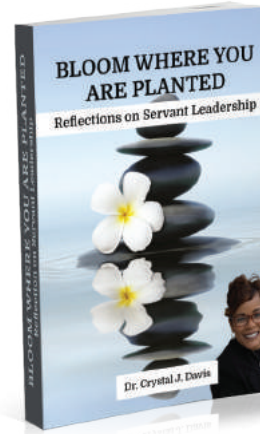
Servant Leadership Puts People First

BY Sara Awad

Integrity, humility, service to a higher purpose.

When considering what makes an effective business leader, a different set of qualities than those listed above likely comes to mind. But according to Dr. Crystal Davis, these are the defining characteristics of servant leaders — those who live, love and lead by conscience. It is because of these qualities that servant leaders, and the organizations that employ them, consistently outperform their peers.

Davis, who holds a doctorate in organizational leadership and operates a successful consulting practice dedicated to teaching others how to create kinder, safer business communities, occupies a unique space from which to assess how the traits of servant leadership affect success.



“Three years ago, I set out on a journey to make a positive difference in the world by teaching people what I know about building thriving organizations,” she says. Her latest book, “Bloom Where You Are Planted,” is the culmination of that intention. The stories and lessons contained within it, told through the lens of journal entries curated from her blog, *Lead From Within*, illuminate a new paradigm for leadership — one in which morality informs behavior and people come first.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Anyone who has ever worked in a traditional corporate setting can attest to the potential challenges: domineering bosses, lack of recognition, absence of a sense of purpose. Davis, a single mother of African-American descent, has experienced the pain these issues can create in a way that has left an indelible impression upon her spirit. During her 20-year career as a grant administrator in predominantly white, male institutions, she spent her days face-to-face with what she terms the “ol’ boy network.”

“I was constantly met with attitudes and perceptions that I was not smart enough or knowledgeable enough to do my job,” Davis recalls. She was treated as though her contributions didn’t matter because of who she was.

“Those experiences called forth from within me the idea that there is a better way to do things, a better way to be and a better way to operate in the workplace. Servant leadership can provide that way,”

Davis says, noting that servant leadership is inclusive leadership. “A servant leader is one who builds relationships, embraces diversity and is the creator of a culture of collaboration. This type of culture — one that invites and rewards the contributions of others — takes time to build, but it is well worth the work.”

Davis is quick to point out that personal integrity is often compromised in the name of power and profits, but ironically, it is the practice of putting people — all people — first that is most likely to help businesses come out ahead.

“We are coming into a new era of compassionate collaboration,” Davis says. Central to the idea of compassionate collaboration is consensus decision making, a group decision-making process in which members agree to support a decision in the best interest of the whole. “The consensus decision-making process is formulated to dismantle the old concept of hierarchy and replace it with shared power,” she notes. “It is based on the values of freedom, cooperation and respect for everyone’s needs. While everyone may not always agree with every decision, everyone is going to support those decisions because their collectively voices were heard.”

Affording people the opportunity to express their knowledge, skills and values, Davis says, is one of the most effective ways of leading and loving them into greatness. “In today’s business world,” she points out, “love is considered an awkward word, but love is the most lasting of all emotions. A servant leader expresses love by holding oneself accountable and putting others first and rejoicing in their accomplishments, no matter how different their ideas are from one’s own.”

A FORCE FOR GOOD

With capitalism threatening the natural environment to support the mass production of goods, and with the culture of consumerism promoting materialism over quality relationships and meaningful pursuits worldwide, never has there been a greater need for ethical leadership on a global scale. This, Davis proposes, is where the tenets of servant leadership show their greatest promise.

“Today’s financial systems are focused largely on rewards and greed while ignoring the consequences to people and the planet,” she says. “What is worse is that this is happening while extreme poverty glares us in the face.”

So what is the solution? “It’s all about shifting our consciousness from one of separation to one of interdependence,” she says, noting that many of the world’s most beloved leaders have signaled to us

the need for compassion and care of others in economic practice. Quoting the Dalai Lama, she says, “If you believe in God, then you know that all 7 billion people in the world are equal and have the same nature and the same right to happiness.”

Underpinning the case for compassionate leadership is the spiritual principle of Oneness. Davis, a scholar of Religious Science, points out that because all of creation is one unified whole, what we do for others, we also do for ourselves. “Dr. Ernest Holmes, our beloved founder, was a firm believer in service to humanity for this very reason,” she says.

REINVENTING THE FUTURE

Davis believes that through the application of the servant leadership principles of compassion and stewardship, the type of change needed to create sustainable economies, heal the Earth and benefit humanity at large is within our grasp. “If people are willing to do the inner work,” she says, “we have the potential to heal the world and everything in it. The key is to start with ourselves and then help transform our society, person by person, project by project. This is activism in action. Everything we do, no matter how simple or insignificant it may seem, when done by many, can have an enormous impact.”

The growing trend toward servant leadership is, according to Davis, a reflection of the ongoing spiritual evolution of society as a whole. “There is a revolution in progress to create a kinder, safer, more loving and meaningful world through awakened consciousness,” she says. “The seeds of that revolution have been planted and have begun to take root in the hearts of many who long for improvement in how we treat one another.”

She explains that servant leadership not only provides a framework for that process but offers hope and guidance for a new era in human interaction and for the creation of more compassionate, more caring organizations.

“It’s all about living from the heart space, at work and in the world,” she says. Her call to action: servant leadership, every day, in every way. This, she says, is the responsibility of all. ❀

*Find more details at CJDConsultingSolutions.com.
Davis currently serves on the Centers for Spiritual Living Editorial Advisory Committee.*

