



**Gender Equity and Reconciliation  
International**

*Healing and transformation for women and men*



April 2017

## **Gender Equity and Reconciliation International**

# **National Gathering of Leaders from the Women's and Men's Movements**

**#WeHealTogether**



*"We laughed, we cried, and we bonded around our individual experiences of deep wounding and personal shame -- sharing the beginnings of our journey towards reconciliation between our genders.*

*My heart is still resonating with joy and a growing sense of hope that gender equity might actually become a reality during our daughters' lives."*

~ Michele Breene, facilitator, Development Associates International,  
and Tim Breene, CEO, World Relief  
(Scroll below for full article)

In the wake of the #MeToo campaign and revelations of rampant sexual harassment in our society, Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI) convened a unique invitational gathering - comprised of 33 key leaders from the women's and men's movements from across the country. We gathered for 4 days, February 9 - 12, in a beautiful, private setting north of Seattle, Washington (USA).



*"I left the retreat with commitments to explore ways we can collaborate in helping men become better men, and to deconstruct the patriarchal system that wounds so many men in their experience with other men, and wounds so many of our wives, mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends."*

~ Terry Symens-Bucher, President, Illuman  
(Scroll below for full article)

The experience was deeply



moving, and many of the participating leaders reported profound insights and heightened compassion that inspired newfound hope for authentic healing between the sexes, and a desire to implement this work more widely in society.

The first three days were spent experiencing the GERI process - a rich, experiential modality developed over 26 years in multiple cultures that supports women and men to begin dismantling personal and cultural

effects of gender conditioning, and create a fresh new start together. The fourth day was devoted to shared brain- and heart-storming on practical strategies for the leadership of the women's and men's movements to move forward collaboratively -- to promote transformation and healing in society during this fertile moment for accelerated change.



We are deeply grateful to Emily Nielsen-Jones, founding partner of the Imago Dei Fund for co-hosting this invitational gathering with us at GERI. The workshop was facilitated by our international team of trainers: William Keepin, Cynthia Brix, Julien Devereux, Zanele Khumalo, Laurie Gaum, John Tsungme Guy.

We are delighted to report that several inspiring initiatives were conceived at this invitational gathering, which are forthcoming this year. The first of these comes to fruition next week in Boston, April 30 - May 2, with another invitational gathering of 50 leaders in philanthropy, gender activism, and religious communities on the East Coast, also co-hosted by the Imago Dei Fund.

Special thanks to Garrett Evans, Ariel Patano, and Patrick Fischer for their selfless service working in the kitchen throughout the workshop.





*What felt most transformative for me was witnessing the process unfold; and feeling the healing power of men holding space for women with deep compassion and love, and vice-versa -- and for that collective healing space to be held with such strength and delicacy by all.*

~Lauren Spahn, Senior Communications Associate, Still Harbor

Read Michele and Tim Breene's full reflection on the invitational gathering, *Deep Listening Across the Gender Line*, [here](#)

Read Terry Symens-Bucher's full article [here](#)

## Gender Equity and Reconciliation International

For more information visit:  
[www.GRworld.org](http://www.GRworld.org)

Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI) is a program of the Satyana Institute, a non-profit educational organization. Satyana Institute relies upon the support of individuals and sponsoring organizations. Donations are gratefully received.

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