**Who are we?**

* We are a Drake University, Department of Philosophy and Religion program for (a) the practice of comparative philosophy of religion, (b) the understanding of local-lived religion, and (c) the cultivation of interfaith literacy and leadership.
* (a) Our Lecture and Dialogue Series in comparative philosophy of religion explores a different religious theme every two years through scholar lectures, practitioner dialogues, and comparative conclusions. Each series’ lectures and conclusions are published through a book-series publishing contract with the international publisher Springer. Each semester a Drake University course in Comparative Religion accompanies the series.
* (b) Our Religions of Des Moines Initiatives seek to bring greater awareness and understanding of the diverse religious communities of greater Des Moines. This is achieved through several different means: “Religions of Des Moines” courses, on-line guides to local religious communities, student-facilitated digital stories about local practitioners’ faith experiences, a student-written photo narrative about fifteen religious communities in greater Des Moines (*A Spectrum of Faith*), and a ongoing series of “Meet My Religious Neighbor” open houses at local religious communities.
* (c) We also now cultivate interfaith literacy and leadership with college and high-school students through Drake University student group, a class in interfaith understanding and engagement, and a yearly interfaith youth camp. Soon we hope to establish a minor in interfaith studies.

**What do we want to achieve?**

* Our objectives mirror who we are: we seek to (a) practice comparative philosophy of religion, (b) inspire understanding of local-lived religion, and (c) cultivate interfaith literacy and leadership.
* With regard to (a) we want to achieve:
  + (a1) informative, well-attended events in our lecture and dialogue series,
  + (a2) engaging, student-centered learning in our comparative religion classes,
  + (a3) rigorous, creative publications that impact the academic study of religion/philosophy through our book-series publications, and
  + (a4) growth toward the scheduling of concluding conferences at the end of each biennial series.
* With regard to (b) we want to achieve
  + (b1) on-going education to Drake students about local-lived religion,
  + (b2) a comprehensive set of on-line guides to and digital stories by the religious communities of Des Moines,
  + (b3) on-going “Meet My Religious Neighbor” opportunities for campus and community to learn about local religious spaces, communities, and practices, and
  + (b4) growth toward an on-line interfaith hub that includes a blogging feature and a calendar of sacred events.
* With regard to (c) we want to achieve
  + (c1) the establishment of an interfaith group, course, and minor at Drake,
  + (c2) the programming of annual interfaith youth camps,
  + (c3) the cultivation of interfaith literacy and leadership with college and high-school students (through c1 and c2), and
  + (c4) growth toward the dissemination of interfaith stories to local schools, colleges, faith communities, non-profits, and businesses.

**How do we know we’re successful?**

* (1) REACH (track numbers)
  + Attendances and enrollments at the events of our Lecture and Dialogue series, the open houses of our Meet My Religious Neighbor series, our Drake courses (Comparative Religion, Religions of Des Moines, Interfaith Studies), our Interfaith Youth Camp, and our Drake Interfaith group and minor.
  + Use of *Spectrum of Faith* in classrooms, book clubs, and other educational settings
  + Viewing and use of our digital stories and guides to the religions of Des Moines
* (2) IMPACT (collect evals)
  + Evaluations of our Lecture and Dialogue series, our Meet My Religious Neighbor series, our Drake courses, and our Interfaith Camp
  + Reviews of *Spectrum of Faith* and evaluations of its use in conjunction with its educational supplement
  + Miscellaneous feedback on digital stories and on-line guides
* (3) GROWTH
  + Implementation of concluding conferences for Lecture and Dialogue series
  + Increasing the number of communities covered in our on-line guides
  + Establishing an on-line interfaith hub, including a faith-leader blog and calendar of sacred events
  + Establishing an interfaith group, course, and minor at Drake
  + Acquiring long-term or endowed grant and gift support
  + Bolstering professorial and/or staff support
  + Establishing a board that will convene quarterly to review feedback and progress and set new goals and initiatives
* (4) PUBLICITY
  + Growing email and social media lists
  + Obtaining greater and better publicity opportunities (print, radio, internet, tv)
  + Obtaining more speaking and interview opportunities
  + Obtaining positive reviews for publications (*Spectrum*, Lecture and Dialogue volumes)