

The Wonder of It All!
The Depth of Our Belonging to the Evolving World

Some Insights from the Emerging Worldview that the New Story Group
Studies and Ponders

1. In the light of our knowledge of cosmic and biological evolution, we recognize we are a form of the universe reflecting on itself. This understanding invites careful review of our understanding of ourselves and the world.

Human beings, and most likely other beings, are a self-aware form of the Earth. Other beings are also forms of the Earth, each with a particular consciousness

2. Matter is immaterial (there is no particulate piece of matter) though it is highly structured and perduring. The physical world of matter has a within. There is a nonvisible, creative, ordering reality integral to the manifest world. From empirical-mathematical-observational contemplation of the universe we have identified a nonmaterial realm suffusing not only the great macrocosm of the human, but suffusing just as thoroughly the microcosm of the human and of every being of the Earth and universe.

3. This discovery of the within of matter invites new conceptions of the sacred ground of our being. It offers an understanding of our non-dual union with the divine mystery at the deepest levels of personal experience.

4. The common images of God in the West are primarily associated with a dualistic worldview that separates spirit and matter thus placing God outside the physical world. In the context of the story of the evolutionary universe some of us seek images of God (perhaps conceived freshly and renamed) that are integral to the manifest physical world yet also transcendent in some manner.

5. There is an evolutionary direction in the universe. Indications are the increase in complexity and the increase in consciousness in many of its beings.

6. The universe is neither determined nor random but creative. (T. Berry) The story involves both creativity and destruction but one that clearly demonstrates creativity in its larger arc.

7. If we are prepared, we may participate through our consciousness in the direction of the unfolding story of the Earth. The Quaker understanding of leadings, collective and individual, finds a home. The guidance, the leadings, may be a kind of insight. Louis Dupré writes about privileged instances of intellectual intuition, in which the mind literally perceives as directly as the senses ordinarily do.

8. The universe has labored for billions of years to reach a point in its complexification where it can now bring forth something new through each of us. It comes to us with its own ideas for your future, for what is needed now for the universe's unfolding story is not a new galaxy or a new star. What is needed now is a new form of human being. The

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ultimate creative act of learning is to give expression individually and corporately to who
we are authentically. Mary Coelho February, 2016