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# HOPE HEADLINES

A PUBLICATION OF HOPE MENNONITE CHURCH

Volume 36 Number 10

October 2021

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## The Dynamic of Mutual Approach and The Task of Spiritual Formation

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*“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will **draw** all people to myself” (John 12:32).*

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*The LORD appeared to me from afar [and said]: “I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore, I **draw** you faithfully along (Jeremiah 31:3).*

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*“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will **draw** all people to myself” (John 12:32).*

*“**Draw near** to God and God will **draw near** to you” (James 4:8).*

What we encounter in these Scriptures is movement toward each other on the part of God and individuals. Each party **draws** toward or is **drawn** toward the other. We can call this **the spiritual dynamic of mutual approach**.

I suggest that the task of spiritual formation is to cultivate this dynamic of mutual approach.

We want to help children, youth, and adults recognize how God is drawing near to them. What forms does this drawing near take? What might cultivate God’s drawing near to us (though it’s never completely under our control)? How can we respond? How can we celebrate this? What stories can we share?

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