

Jill L. Snodgrass, ed. *The Art of Spiritual Care across Religious Difference*.

Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2024. 302 pages.

In *The Art of Spiritual Care across Religious Difference*, editor Jill L. Snodgrass brings together a diverse collection of essays that explore the complexities and nuances of providing spiritual care in a multireligious world. This book demonstrates a deep commitment to fostering understanding and compassion among practitioners of various faiths. It is a vital resource for spiritual care providers, chaplains, and anyone interested in the intersection of spirituality and healthcare.

Snodgrass's introductory chapter sets the tone for the discussions that follow. Her editing ensures a cohesive flow throughout the book. She clearly outlines the current landscape of spiritual care, emphasizing the necessity of interfaith dialogue and collaboration in today's increasingly pluralistic society.

The book is structured into two parts. One explores theories of religious difference, and the second addresses the different aspects of spiritual care across religious lines. Contributors from various backgrounds share their insights and practical approaches. The book is enriched by the diversity of voices, which provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of how to navigate the challenges of religious difference in spiritual care settings.

One of the strengths of this collection is its emphasis on relationality. Snodgrass names the tendency to connect with people based on assumptions about their religious beliefs rather than the unique beliefs of the individual they are offering care to. Many contributors stress the importance of building authentic relationships with patients and families, highlighting that spiritual care is as much about listening and presence as it is about theological knowledge. This focus on the human connection is particularly important in a world where polarization often overshadows dialogue.

Another significant theme is the importance of cultural competence. Several essays advocate for ongoing education and self-reflection among caregivers to better understand their own beliefs and biases. This introspective approach encourages readers to consider how their backgrounds influence their care practices, fostering a more empathetic and respectful environment for those from different faith traditions. *The Art of Spiritual Care across Religious Difference* is a timely and essential read for anyone involved in spiritual care. It challenges readers to expand their understanding of spirituality beyond their own beliefs and fosters a spirit of inclusivity and respect. Snodgrass and her contributors successfully advocate for a holistic approach to spiritual care. This book reminds us that in our shared humanity there is profound strength to be found in our differences.

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