

## VITA

### DONALD WILLIAM MITCHELL

#### POSITION:

Professor of Philosophy  
Director, Indiana Center for Cultural Exchange

#### EDUCATION:

University of Hawaii, Ph.D., Asian and Comparative  
Philosophy, 1971  
University of Hawaii, M.A., Asian and Comparative  
Philosophy, 1968  
San Diego State University, B.A., Philosophy, 1967

#### FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION AND RESEARCH:

Asian and Comparative Philosophy and Religion  
Buddhist-Christian Studies, Buddhism

#### GRANTS & HONORS:

US State Department Southeast Asia Grant, 2007-2009  
US State Department North Africa Grant, 2006-2008—still active  
The Roche Chair for Interreligious Research, Candidate, 2005  
US State Department Eurasia Grant, 2004-2006  
US State Department Middle East Grant, 2004-2006  
US State Department Summer Institute Grant, 2004  
John Templeton Foundation Grant, 1999  
Lilly Endowment Theological Encounter Grant, 1997  
Lilly Endowment Religious Studies Grant, 1996  
Lilly Endowment Religious Studies Grant, 1995  
Luminosa Award for Interfaith Activities, 1991  
Lilly Endowment Interfaith Grant, 1990  
Niwano Peace Foundation Activity Grant, 1986  
Lilly Endowment East-West Conference Grant, 1986  
Lilly Endowment Planning Grant, 1985  
Purdue HSSE Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award, 1984  
Lilly Endowment Religious Studies Grant, 1983  
Purdue David Ross Grant, 1983  
Lilly Endowment Faculty Fellowship, 1977-78  
Purdue HSSE Grant for Educational Innovation, 1973  
Purdue XL Grant for Research in Buddhist Philosophy, 1972

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, 2006-  
 Director, Indiana Center for Cultural Exchange, 2003-  
 Co-Director, Interfaith Committee of the NADEIO, 2003-  
 Advisor for Interfaith Dialogue, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Vatican City, 1995-  
 Advisor for Interfaith Dialogue, Monastic Interreligious Dialogue, 1993-  
 Founding Member, Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, 1987-  
 Advisor for Interfaith Dialogue, Center for Interreligious Dialogue, Rome, Italy, 1984-  
 Advisor for Interfaith Dialogue, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1984-  
 Director, International Buddhist-Christian Theological Encounter, 1996-2003  
 Associate Editor, *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, 1988-1999  
 Member, American Academy of Religion, 1980-

**PUBLICATIONS:****Books:**

*Spirituality and Emptiness: The Dynamics of Spiritual Life in Buddhism and Christianity.*  
 New York: Paulist Press, 1991; In Italian: *Kenosi E Nulla Assoluto: Dinamica Della Vita Spirituale Nel Buddismo E Nel Cristianesimo.* Rome: Citta Nuova, 1993

*The Gethsemani Encounter: A Dialogue on the Spiritual Life by Buddhist and Christian Monastics.* New York: Continuum Press, 1997 (Edited with James Wiseman, O.S.B.)

*Masao Abe: A Zen Life of Dialogue.* Boston: Charles E. Tuttle, 1998 (Editor)

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, *Spiritual Advice for Buddhists and Christians.* New York: Continuum Press, 1998 (Editor)

*Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2002

*Finding Peace in Troubled Times: Transforming Suffering.* New York: Doubleday, 2003

*Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience, Second Edition.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2008

*Green Monasticism: Buddhist and Christian Monastic Perspectives on Ecology,* New York, Orbis Books, *forthcoming*

**Book Chapters:**

“Rudolph Otto and the Mystical Vision in Buddhism and Christianity”, in *The Cross and the Lotus: Christianity and Buddhism in Dialogue*, ed. by G. W. Huston, Motilal Banarsidass, 1984, pp. 65-79.

“Karma in Buddhist Philosophy,” in *The Dimensions of Karma*, ed. by S. S. Rama Rao Pappu, Chanakya Publications, 1987, pp. 66-93.

“Metanoetics and Christian Spirituality,” in *The Religious Philosophy of Tanabe Hajime*, ed. by Taitetsu Unno, Asian Humanities Press, 1990, pp. 179-200.

- “Buddhist and Christian Postmodern Spiritualities,” in *Representations of Spirit: Postmodernism and Spirituality*, ed. by Ann Astell, Paulist Press, 1994, pp. 129-148.
- “Two Types of Unity and Religious Pluralism,” in *A Dome of many Colors: Studies in Religious Pluralism*, ed. by Arvind Sharma, Trinity Press, 1999.
- “A Life Between Two Fires: Chiara Lubich and Lay Sanctity,” in *Lay Sanctity*, ed. by Ann Astell, University of Notre Dame Press, 2000.
- “A Christian Response to Buddhist Reflections on Prayer,” in *Christians Talk about Buddhist Meditation and Buddhists Talk about Christian Prayer*, ed. by Rita M. Gross and Terry C. Muck, Continuum, 2003.
- “Dialogical Reflections on Christian Prayer and Zen Meditation,” in *The Comity and Grace of Method*, ed. By Thomas Ryba, George Bond and Herman Tull, Northwestern University Press, 2004.

#### Articles:

- “The No-Self Doctrine in Theravada Buddhism,” *International Philosophical Quarterly* (Vol. LX, No. 2: June, 1969) pp. 248-260.
- “Commentary on Elizabeth Feist Hirsch’s ‘Martin Heidegger and the East’,” *Philosophy East and West* (Vol. XX, No. 3: July, 1970) pp. 265-269.
- “Analysis in Theravada Buddhism,” *Philosophy East and West* (Vol. XXI, No. 1: January, 1971) pp. 23-31.
- “An Early Buddhist Concept of Man: The Sarvastivadin Concept of the Self,” *International Philosophical Quarterly* (Vol. XIV, No. 2: June, 1974) pp. 189-199.
- “On Buddhist Theories of Causation,” *Philosophy East and West* (Vol. XXV, No. 1: January, 1975) pp. 101-106.
- “The Paradox of Buddhist Wisdom,” *Philosophy East and West* (Vol. XXVI, No. 1: January, 1976) pp. 67-83.
- “Faith in Zen Buddhism,” *International Philosophical Quarterly* (Vol. XX, No. 2: June, 1980) pp. 183-197.
- “The Contemporary Relevance of Lay Spirituality in Buddhism and Christianity,” *Nuova Umanita* (Vol. 19: January - February, 1982) pp. 47-60 [in Italian].
- “The ‘Place’ of the Self in Christian Spirituality: A Response to the Buddhist-Christian Dialogue,” *Japanese Religions* (Vol. 13, No. 3: December, 1984) pp. 2-26.  
Reprinted in *Nuova Umanita* (Vol. 39: May-June, 1985) pp. 9-33 [in Italian].  
Reprinted in *Les Cahiers De L’Unite* (Vol. 8: April, 1986) pp. 39-52, and (Vol. 9: July, 1986) pp. 455-58 [in French].
- “The Focolare Movement and the Buddhist-Christian Dialogue of ‘Deeds and Collaboration,’ in *Buddhist-Christian Studies* (Vol. V, 1985) pp. 195-202.

- “Unity and Dialogue: A Christian Response to Shin’ichi Hisamatsu’s Notion of FAS,” *FAS Society Journal* (Spring, 1986) pp. 6-9.
- “A Buddhist Philosophy of Karma and Christian Spiritual Theology,” *Ching Feng* (29:1, March, 1986) pp. 5-13.
- “Christian Mysticism and Shinran’s Religious Philosophy,” *The Shinshugaku Journal of Studies in Shin Buddhism* (74:June, 1986) pp. 27-45 [in Japanese].
- “A Dialogue with Kobori Nanrei Sohaku,” *Japanese Religions* (Vol. 20, No. 2: July, 1986), pp. 19-32.
- “Compassionate Endurance: Mary and the Buddha, A Dialogue with Keiji Nishitani,” *Bulletin of the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians* (XXI: 3, 1986) pp. 296-300.
- “Zen Meditation and Christian Prayer,” *Zen Culture* (Vol. 124: April, 1987) pp. 121-130 [in Japanese].
- Reprinted in *Paramita* (24: April-July, 1987) pp. 7-13 [in Italian].
- “Personal and Social Transformation in Christian Spirituality: A Response to Masao Abe,” *Buddhist-Christian Studies* (Vol. VII, 1987) pp. 25-35.
- “Shinran’s Religious Thought and Christian Mysticism,” *Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies* (No. 4; Fall, 1988) pp. 15-22.
- “Christian Prayer and Oriental Practices: On the “Letter” of Cardinal Ratzinger,” *Paramita* (35: July-September, 1990.) pp. 26-28 [in Italian].
- “The Church in the World: Dialogical, Ethical, and Spiritual Implications,” *Buddhist-Christian Studies* (Vol. XIII, 1993) pp. 151-167.
- “A Review of the Literature on Spirituality in the Buddhist-Christian Dialogue,” *Studies in Formative Spirituality* (Vol. XIV, No. 1, 1993) pp. 139-149.
- “A Revealing Dialogue,” *The Way Supplement: Interfaith Spirituality* (No. 78, Autumn, 1993) pp. 42-53.
- “Unity and Ultimate Reality: A Response to Masao Abe,” *The Eastern Buddhist* (Vol. XXVI, No. 2, Autumn 1993) pp. 86-90.
- “Interfaith Activities in Recent Times,” *F.A.S. Society Journal*, 1994, pp. 21-26.
- “A Response to James Fredericks,” *The Eastern Buddhist* (Vol. XXVII, No. 2, Autumn 1994) pp. 140-144.
- “New Forms of Lay Spirituality, Buddhist and Christian,” *Buddhist-Christian Studies* (Vol. 15, 1995) pp. 249-256.

- “Status Questionis: Taking Stock of the Present Buddhist-Christian Dialogue: Christian Perspective,” *Pro Dialogo: Bulletin of the Vatican Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue* (No. 90, 1995/3) pp. 238-250.
- “The Buddhist-Christian Dialogue and Interreligious Education,” *The Living Light* (Vol. 32, No. 2, Winter 1995) pp. 13-20.
- “The Making of a Joint Buddhist-Catholic Statement,” *Buddhist-Christian Studies* (Vol. 16, 1996) pp. 203-208.
- “The Trinity and Buddhist Cosmology,” *Buddhist-Christian Studies* (Vol. 18, 1998) pp. 169-180.
- “The Christian Notion of Kenosis,” *Pro Dialogo: Bulletin of the Vatican Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue* (No. 100, 1999/1) pp. 139-156.
- “Concerning Ritual Practice and Ethics in Buddhism,” *Buddhist-Christian Studies* (Vol. 20, 2000) pp. 84-89.
- “A Christian Response to Buddhist Reflections on Prayer,” *Buddhist-Christian Studies* (Vol. 22, 2002) pp. 101-104.
- “The Church and the Laity,” *Pro Dialogo: Bulletin of the Vatican Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue* (Vol. 113, No. 2, 2003), pp. 277-289.
- “Re-Creating Christian Community,” in *Buddhist-Christian Studies* (Vol. 23, 2003), pp. 21-32.
- “Essay on Christian Kenosis from the Viewpoint of Interreligious Dialogue,” *New Humanity* (Vol. XXV, No. 3-4, March-August, 2003), pp. 457-502.
- “Forward,” in Francis Arinze, *Building Bridges: Interreligious Dialogue on the Path to World Peace*, New York: 2004, pp. 7-18.
- “An Interview with Don Mitchell on the Buddhist-Christian Dialogue,” *Unity and Charism* (No. 5, September-October, 2006), pp. 37-40.
- “Founders Nikkyo Niwano and Chiara Lubich: An Interreligious Dialogue for Peace,” *Dharma World*, Vol. 34, October-November, 2007, pp. 31-33.
- “Reflections on Guidelines for Interfaith Dialogue,” *New Humanity*, forthcoming.
- “Masao Abe’s Early Spiritual Journey and his Later Philosophy,” *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, forthcoming.

## PRESENTATIONS:

- “Philosophical Problems in Theravada Buddhism,” read at The Association for Asian Studies, Montana, 1970.

- “An Early Buddhist Concept of Nirvana,” read at The Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, 1971.
- Chairperson and Discussant on a panel on “Indian Buddhism: The Relation Between Theory and Practice,” at The Association for Asian Studies, Salt Lake City, 1972.
- “Mao Tse-tung and Confucianism,” read at The Asian Conference of Southern California, Los Angeles, 1973.
- “Philosophical Problems Concerning the Early Buddhist Concept of Man,” read at The Association for Asian Studies, New Mexico, 1973.
- Discussant on a panel on “Causality in Buddhism” at The Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, Boston, 1974.
- “The Bodhisattva in Mahayana Buddhism: Emptiness and Compassion,” read at The Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast Conference, San Diego, 1974.
- “Enlightenment before Enlightenment: The Concept of Faith in Zen Buddhism,” read at The Asian Conference of Southern California, San Bernardino, 1975.
- “Faith in Zen Buddhism,” read at The Association for Asian Studies, Boulder, 1975.
- Discussant on a panel on “Skepticism and Zen” at The Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, Toronto, 1976.
- “The Place of Moral Creativity in Early Neo-Confucian Cosmology,” read at The Association for Asian Studies, Flagstaff, 1976.
- Consultant/Participant at a Hindu-Christian Encounter, Florence, Italy, 1978.
- “Buddhist Theories of Causality,” an invited paper read at The American Philosophical Association, Columbus, 1982.
- Participant, National Endowment for the Humanities Asia Workshop, Pittsburgh, 1983.
- “The No-Self Doctrine: Philosophical Anomalies in the Abhidharma Paradigm,” read at The Second International Conference on East-West Religions in Encounter, Honolulu, 1984.
- “The ‘Place’ of the Self in Christian Spirituality: A Response to the Buddhist-Christian Dialogue,” read at The Second International East-West Religions in Encounter, Honolulu, 1984.
- Dialogue Fellow, The Naropa Institute’s Fourth Christian-Buddhist Conference, Boulder, Colorado, 1984.
- “Personal and Social Transformation in Christian Spirituality: A Response to Masao Abe,” read at the Second Buddhist-Christian Theological Encounter, Vancouver, 1985.
- “Unity and Dialogue: A Christian Response to Shin’ichi Hisamatsu’s Notion of FAS,” read

at the FAS Zen Society, Shokokuji Monastery, Kyoto, Japan, 1986.

“Zen Meditation and Christian Contemplation,” read at Hanazono University, Kyoto, Japan, 1986.

“Christian Mysticism and Shinran’s Religious Thought,” read at Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan, 1986.

“Unity and Dialogue,” read at Seinan University, Fukuoka, Japan, 1986.

“A Buddhist Philosophy of Karma and Christian Spiritual Theology,” read at Tao Fong Shan Ecumenical Center, Hong Kong, 1986.

“My Experience in Dialogue with Buddhists,” read at the First International Conference on the Encounter with the Great Religions, Rome, 1987.

“The Church in the World: Dialogical, Ethical and Spiritual Implication,” read at the Fourth North American Buddhist Christian Theological Encounter, Berkeley, 1987.

“On David Kalupahana’s Interpretation of Nagarjuna,” read at the American Philosophical Association, Cincinnati, 1988.

“Individual and Communal Perspectives of Humanity, East and West,” read at the Sixth East-West Philosophers Conference, Honolulu, 1989.

“The Philosophy of Hijime Tanabe and Christian Spirituality,” read at the International Symposium on Metanoetics, Smith College, 1989.

“Buddhism and Christian Spirituality” read at the Second International Conference on the Encounter with the Great Religions, Rome, 1990.

Respondent on a panel discussion of my book *Spirituality and Emptiness*, at the Fourth International Buddhist-Christian Conference, Boston, 1992.

“Four Types of Buddhist-Christian Dialogue,” read at the Parliament of the World’s Religions, Chicago, 1993.

Respondent to Masao Abe, “Two Kinds of Unity,” at the Parliament of the World’s Religions, Chicago, 1993.

“New Forms of Lay Spirituality, Buddhist and Christian,” read at the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, 1994.

“Status Question is: Taking Stock of the Present Buddhist-Christian Dialogue,” read as the opening address at the First Vatican Buddhist-Christian Dialogue, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 1995.

Respondent on “Mission and Dialogue,” at the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, 1995.

Chair for “Out of the Monastery and Into the World: Teaching Contemplation to Christians,” at the National Workshop for Christian Unity, Richmond, VA, 1996.

“Reflections on Engaged Buddhism in Asia and the West,” read at the Boston Research Center for the Twenty-first Century, Boston, 1996.

“God and Creation,” read at the Gethsemani Encounter on the Spiritual Life, Trappist, KY, 1996.

“Cosmology and the Trinity,” read at the Fifth International Buddhist-Christian Conference, Chicago, 1996.

“Buddhism and Dialogue,” read at the Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, Loyola University, Chicago, 1997.

“Ritual Practice and Ethics in Buddhism: A Christian Response,” read at the American Academy of Religion, Orlando, 1998.

“Kenosis in Christianity,” read at the Second International Buddhist-Christian Colloquium, Bangalore, India, 1998.

"The Trinity and Buddhism" read at the Rome Conference on Theology and Life, Rome, Italy, 1999.

"Spirituality and Dialogue" read as the Haverford Distinguished Scholar Lecture, Haverford College, 2000.

"Japanese Christian Experience" and "Buddhist-Catholic Relations in the United States" read at the International Conference of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, Tacoma, 2000.

"The Cry of God in the Thought of Chiara Lubich and Interfaith Dialogue" read at The Catholic University of America, 2001.

“The Church and the Laity” read at the Third International Buddhist-Christian Colloquium, Tokyo, 2002.

“Interfaith Dialogue after Vatican II,” read as a Distinguished Lecture at St. Joseph’s College, Indiana, 2003.

“Reconstructing Just Communities in Response to Social and Environmental Violence” read at the Parliament of the World’s Religions, Barcelona, 2004.

“The Promise and Challenge of Buddhist Spirituality for Interreligious Dialogue,” read at the Gregorian University, 2005

Panelist for Plenary Session at the Gregorian University, 2005

Chair and Distinguished Participant, “Third Buddhist-Christian Dialogue,” Rissho-Koseikai and Tendai-shu Sect, Osaka, Japan, 2006.



Chair and Distinguished Participant, “Interreligious Dialogue on God and Love,”  
Luninos Center for Interreligious Dialogue, Hyde Park, NY, 2006

“Founders Nikkyo Niwano and Chiara Lubich: An Interreligious Dialogue for Peace,” Lecture  
at the Japan House at the United Nations, New York, 2006

“Reflections on Guidelines for Interfaith Dialogue,” Invited Lecture at the Center for  
Interreligious Dialogue, Rome, Italy, 2007

“Spirituality: A Bridge between Buddhism and Christianity,” Invited Lecture at St.  
Catherine’s College, Bardstown, KY, 2007

“Spirituality: Conversations across Faith Traditions,” Keynote Address at Loyola University,  
Chicago, 2007

“Early Influences on the Philosophy of Masao Abe,” Plenary Panel, AAR, San Diego, 2007

“Emptiness and Kenosis in the Buddhist-Christian Dialogue, Assumption University, Bangkok  
Thailand, 2008

“Buddhist Emptiness, Christian Trinity, and the Spirituality of Unity, Purdue University, 2008