How to Keep a Labyrinth Alive
Tips for Restoration & Revival
With Lars Howlett & Chuck Hunner
A Veriditas Webinar, Nov. 22nd, 2021
Challenges

Lonely Labyrinths
A labyrinth in decent, walkable condition but rarely visited or used.

Broken Labyrinths
A labyrinth that has been physically damaged and needs to be repaired or restored to be walkable again.

Lost Labyrinths
Labyrinths that are completely overgrown, missing, or have been removed from a sacred space.

How to Keep a Labyrinth Alive
A Labyrinth Story

Once upon a time a labyrinth was created with care and intention. It was blessed and walked, but over the years fewer people came to visit. The seasons passed and the grass grew over the bricks until it had almost disappeared.

That might have been the end of story, until one day...
Story of a labyrinth resurrection by Una McGurk Minnion
Wow!
Solutions!

**Awareness**
Signs & Ceremonies

**Stewardship**
The Role of Builders, Facilitators & Labyrinth Keepers

**Recurring Events**
Walks, Holidays, Event Space

**Placemaking**
Approach, Container, & Landscaping

**Seasoning**
Sustaining Energy of the People, Place, and Purpose

**Maintenance**
Seasonal, Annual, Emergency

How to Keep a Labyrinth Alive
Awareness:
Do people know about the labyrinth, where it is, and what it could be used for?

**Introduction Ceremonies**
- Before, During and After Creation
- Blessing/Consecration/Dedication*

**Signs**
- Informational Sign (entrance)
- Directional Sign (Building/Corner/Parking Lot)
- Postings (Bulletin Boards/Newsletters/Social Media)
- Brochure/Flyer/Handout
- Website/Google Maps/Labyrinth Locator/Well-Fed Spirit

*see webinar with Lauren Artress

How to Keep a Labyrinth Alive
Based on a survey by Robert Ferré

1. Name of the labyrinth
2. A welcoming statement
3. A summary of labyrinth history
4. What the labyrinth is
5. Why you might want to walk the labyrinth
6. A name/description of the particular design
7. Preparation for walking the labyrinth
8. An explanation of how to walk the labyrinth
9. Further guidelines for walking
10. An explanation of what happens when you walk the labyrinth
11. A relevant quotation
12. A statement about the lasting effects of having walked
13. Post walking instructions
14. A statement wishing the walker well
15. Dedication, memorial, workers, builders, date built
Walk the Labyrinth
Fridays, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

All Are Welcome

Walk to the place within... where spirit is reborn

Welcome to the Grace Episcopal Church Labyrinth

The labyrinth is an ancient pattern found in many different cultures — a very ancient symbol which has continues to draw people into a place of reflection and prayer. The labyrinth is an inclusive sacred space welcoming everyone’s journey through times of grief or loss.

Jesus’ final instructions, teach us this reflection on their prayers: “When you pray, go into your room and close the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (Matthew 6:6) Among the cookbooks, Jesus includes as a reflection on their prayers: “When you pray, go into your room and close the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (Matthew 6:6)

Labyrinth Welcome Sign:

Walk the Labyrinth with an open heart and mind. The experience brings you a sense of peace and joy.

Waterfall Labyrinth:

Walk the Labyrinth with an open heart and mind. The experience brings you a sense of peace and joy.
Stewardship:
Is there a trained labyrinth facilitator, keeper, or committee that looks after the labyrinth?

Builder
• inform/educate the client as to how to maintain the labyrinth
• assist in creation of sign/brochure/listings/photos/etc.
• educate and involve the community
• plant the seeds for facilitators/keepers

Facilitator
• education/engagement/community building

Keeper
• regular visits/clean/identify problems
• respond to isolated events (weather, animal, individuals)
• On-going maintenance schedule
Recurring Events:
Are you hosting monthly, seasonal, or annual gatherings centered on the labyrinth?

- Labyrinth Walks
- Participate in Annual Events/Holidays/Festivals
- Multi-Use Space for Other Events
  - Drumming, dancing, music, yoga, etc
  - Weddings, Memorials, Rites of Passage
Placemaking:
Does the labyrinth invite people in & hold space?
Is the labyrinth accessible, attractive, and grounding?

• Welcoming & Accessible
• Parking & Approach Path
• Container, Shade, & Seating
• Signage & Threshold
• Manageable Landscaping
Maintenance:
Is the labyrinth being regularly cared for and are challenges being addressed & mitigated?

- Seasonal / Annual / Long Term Stress
- Consider fixing the surroundings not just the labyrinth (drainage, trees, etc)
Seasoning:
Can you collaborate with others to infuse the labyrinth with a greater variety of energy?

- Diversify the audience & activities that engage the space
- Temporarily modify the space to resonate with different groups
- Word of mouth, boots on the ground
- Eliminate clutter and distractions
- Engage spiritual/community leaders
- Invite artists, musicians, poets, dowsers, and healers
- There is a time to be dormant and a time to let go
“Nobody ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and they are not the same person.” —Heraclitus
Labyrinth Revival & Restoration
A Project of the Veriditas Council

• Advice
• Encouragement
• Referrals

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