In the black helping tradition, spirituality is the sense of the sacred and divine. It is a critical value deeply rooted in the African worldview and used by African Americans as a tool for survival. Provocative and well-written, *Spirituality and the Black Helping Tradition in Social Work* is the first book to draw a relationship between social work, spirituality, and the helping tradition among African Americans. Offering a wealth of historical detail and narrative, Elmer and Joanne Martin explore spirituality as a foundation for understanding people of African descent and as a skill to evoke self-help. This groundbreaking book raises compelling questions about the limitations and strengths of mainstream social work in issues of black spirituality and its role in strengthening the black community today.

**Special Features**

- Examines the interaction between African and African American spirituality, African American social workers, and race work.
- Chronicles the stories of early black caregivers and social workers who recognized the significance of spirituality and incorporated it into their work.
- Investigates the extent to which social workers today are equipped to use spirituality to empower black individuals, families, and communities.

**Paperback**

$12.99

[CLICK TO ORDER](#)

**Member Discount**

NASW Member Price: $11.69—Save 10% (print edition). Please call 1-800-227-3590 for NASW Member discount, using code MEMB15.

---

Spirituality and the Black Helping Tradition in Social Work. Article. Jun 2004. Join ResearchGate to find the people and research you need to help your work. 15+ million members. 118+ million publications. Social workers often address these issues in their own lives while helping clients face them. They are increasingly examining how their spiritual values affect practice of the profession, as well as how clients’ spirituality impacts world view, coping skills, and ability to manage adversity. Professional Perspectives — Forgiveness and Self-Care For Ann Weaver Nichols, DSW, ACSW, spirituality was a seed cultivated when she became involved with the American Friends Service Committee. When the Society for Spirituality and Social Work was seeking a new location, she offered ASU. For the past three years, she has been at the helm of the organization. Weaver Nichols defines spirituality as “giving meaning to our lives, what our purpose and calling is.”