

## Calling a Leader to the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture

*“This is a call to the living,  
To those who refuse to make peace with evil,  
With the suffering and the waste of the world.  
This is a call to the human, not the perfect,  
To those who know their own prejudices,  
Who have no intention of becoming prisoners of their own limitations.  
This is a call to those who remember the dreams of their youth,  
Who know what it means to share food and shelter,  
The care of children and those who are troubled,  
To reach beyond barriers of the past  
Bringing people to communion.  
This is a call to the never ending spirit  
Of the common man, his essential decency and integrity,  
His unending capacity to suffer and endure,  
To face death and destruction and to rise again  
And build from the ruins of life.  
This is the greatest call of all  
The call to a faith in people.”*

- Algernon D. Black, 1901-1993, a teacher and the leader emeritus of the New York Society for Ethical Culture

The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (BSEC), a 101 year old religious and educational fellowship situated in the heart of Park Slope, seeks to “call” a clergy Leader to work alongside its strong and committed lay leadership and membership to nurture and grow a community dedicated to promoting ethical relationships in all aspects of life. By “call”, we seek to attract a Leader who is compelled by the vision articulated in the above statement by Algernon Black, and who understands the Leader’s special role in affirming that vision. A formal job description accompanies this call notice. More detailed information about the Society – its organization, governance, activities and resources, can be found on our website, [www.bsec.org](http://www.bsec.org).

Ethical Culture was founded in 1876 in New York City by Dr. Felix Adler as a religion based on ethics. It seeks to affirm each person’s inherent worth and dignity, elevate deed over creed, recognize each person’s ability and responsibility to act so as to create a more humane world, while remaining free of dogma and welcoming of multicultural and multicontextual diversity that allows Ethical Culture to respond to its times. The motto inscribed in our meeting house reads, *The Place Where We Seek the Highest is Holy Ground*. Ethical Culture’s supreme ethical rule postulates “that in working with others to bring out their best, we will be challenged to bring out our best.”<sup>1</sup> BSEC belongs to a federation of Ethical Culture and Ethical Humanist Societies and Fellowships in the U.S. known as the American Ethical Union ([www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org)).

We seek a Leader who will partner with us to further develop a multigenerational, multiethnic, diverse, caring and compassionate community dedicated to advancing our understanding of ourselves and our world and increasing each member’s and our collective ability to realize our ethical values.

Interested candidates should provide a ***cover letter, curriculum vitae, writing sample, references, audio/visual of recent talks and other helpful materials*** to the BSEC Search Committee at [bsecleadersearch@gmail.com](mailto:bsecleadersearch@gmail.com). **Application deadline is January 31, 2010.** Applications from current or past BSEC Leaders, Fellows, staff and members are discouraged. No phone inquiries will be taken.

---

<sup>1</sup> **Felix Adler Today**, by John Hoad, Ph.D., *Ethics to Live By* blog, 11/1/ 2002