

# Whitney Kimball Coe

CENTER FOR RURAL STRATEGIES

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Rural America is really diverse across geography, race, culture, heritage. And we find that at the Rural Assembly that when we're able to demonstrate that diversity through media and storytelling, or through gatherings and organizing, then the ties that bind rural and urban together come into sharper focus.

I think the work of pluralism is the work of now. It is the work of being in relationship of being proximate.

I think it's healing work and rigorous and ultimately, I think it's the most nourishing thing we can be doing right now. And for me as a Christian, another way of thinking about pluralism is to talk about belovedness.

It's this idea of recognizing that I am beloved by God, and so is everyone else. I'm God's favorite, and so is everyone else. And when we can all claim our belovedness — ours and our neighbors — then we're on the path to a kind of generous existence that is less about me and mine and more about us and ours.

**NEW  
PLURALISTS**