



Application Packet

Certificate in Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction, an ancient ministry of the church, is a relationship in which one person assists another, or others, in attending to God's presence and call. Spiritual direction has been, and remains, particularly strong within Roman Catholic and Orthodox religious orders, and over the past twenty years Protestant traditions across the board have begun to recover it more fully. Throughout Christian history, spiritual direction has traditionally been practiced by ordained clergy alone. In recent years, however, this practice has widened to embrace the spiritual gifts of non-ordained persons as well. Today, spiritual direction is regarded as a ministry open to all, not an order or office reserved for the few.

- *Office of Theology, Worship, and Spirituality, Presbyterian Church (USA).*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone (____) _____ Work phone (____) _____ Email: _____

Church connection: _____

Program

Certificate in Spiritual Direction is designed for those already serving as spiritual directors or those interested in preparing to serve as spiritual directors. The program builds upon their spiritual and practical gifts. Applicants need to demonstrate experience of a call from others for this ministry, a commitment to discerning this call, and a response to the call by developing proper skills needed for spiritual direction.

The program will better equip directors or prepare candidates in their ability to walk the spiritual journey with those seeking guidance. It is open to other ministers serving in a variety of pastoral settings. The certificate is not a license for practicing spiritual direction, but is evidence of training and formation in this area.

Certificate students will engage in supervised practice of spiritual direction that provides guidance and stimulates growth in their own spirituality and in the ability to provide spiritual direction. They will explore theoretical and practical issues in spiritual direction in the context of an integrative practicum.

Costs

Tuition is \$150 per course, plus costs for assigned books. If after counseling with the proctor/mentor student withdrawals within two weeks of course commencement, $\frac{3}{4}$ of tuition will be refunded. If a student fails to post three times without reason or communicating to the proctor/mentor, the student will be expelled and tuition will not be refunded. Students after

counseling with the proctor/mentor may withdraw from a course and restart again with another cohort without any tuition forfeiture.

Entry Requirements

Admission is open to individuals [lay or clergy] who are an active member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) or Christian body which confesses the faith related in the Apostle's and Nicene Creeds. It is expected the candidate knows the major biblical story and, if Presbyterian, is familiar with the Confessions and basic beliefs of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Life experience is highly valued as is awareness of a potential call to be a spiritual director. Admission to the program is granted when the following steps have been completed:

- A completed application submitted by _____. Earlier application is encouraged because the size of a class is limited and may be closed before the deadline.
- A \$50 application fee, made out to Celtic Hound, which will be applied to your tuition if accepted.
- A statement detailing educational background, work experience, Christian journey, involvement in church and Christian service, and interest in the program and in being a spiritual director.
- Two letters of reference [one pastoral and one personal] —see attached form.
- An interview with one of the Program proctor/mentors. Upon receipt of application you will be contacted for an interview.

Attach the following to this application:

- A statement detailing educational background, work experience, Christian journey, involvement in church and Christian service, and interest in the program and in becoming a spiritual director—see questions on the next page of this form.
- A \$50 processing fee which will be applied to tuition if accepted.
- Note in application who will be completing the two letters of reference [one pastoral and one personal].

Proctor/Mentor(s)

The Dean of the Iona School, the Rev. Michael McCormack, the Rev. Dr. Christian Boyd, Executive Director, and select Celtic Hound Network partners who are members of the Spiritual Directors International, will be the program proctor/mentors; see www.celtichound.org for more information.

Application Review

The Dean of the Iona School in consultation with the Celtic Hound Network partners will review the applicants who have submitted a complete application by the due date and will contact the applicants as to their matriculation into the program.

I understand and agree to the program costs as stipulated above.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send completed applications to Christian Boyd, cboyd@celtichound.org or by surface mail to:

Questions to consider in completing your personal statement as part of the application process

1. How would you describe your understanding of spiritual direction?
2. Do you have, or have you ever had, a spiritual director. If so, for how long? What has been your experience and what has been most helpful to you in this relationship?
3. Have you ever had any spiritual formation or spiritual direction training? If so, please describe.
4. Do you have any theological training (i.e. seminary, bible school, courses, workshops)? Please be specific.
5. How/where did you find out about this program in spiritual formation and direction?
6. What do you hope to receive from this program?
7. Besides the goal of becoming a spiritual director, what is going on internally within you that is leading you to seek out spiritual formation and direction training?
8. If you are married, describe your spouse's response to your desire to be in this program.
9. Describe your spiritual journey and your relationship with God at this time.
10. What do you see as your strengths? Weaknesses?
11. Describe any steps you have taken or experiences you explore (i.e. counseling, spiritual direction, journaling, group work, etc.) to pursue emotional health and growth.
12. We believe it is God's desire that individuals not only grow in experiential knowledge of God but also in experiential knowledge of self. Therefore, one main focus of this program will to take an in-depth and very honest look at yourself and your life – your relationship with God, your relationship with others, your giftings, strengths, weaknesses, woundings, addictions, etc. What is your response within as you read the above statement about this program?



**Certificate Program in Spiritual Direction
Recommendation Form**
[make copies as needed]

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

When completed, email this form to cboyd@celtichound.org OR send by surface mail to:
Dr. Christian Boyd, 21 Shallowbrook Dr., O'Fallon, IL 62269

The above-named applicant has applied for admission to our two-year training program in Spiritual Direction, with the goal of becoming a spiritual director. Please respond to the following questions with that in mind.

1. Name some characteristics showing suitability for this ministry:

2. What are the strengths of this person?

3. In what areas could this person grow?

4. How long have you known this person? In what capacity?

5. How would you characterize this person's relationship with God?

6. How would you characterize this person's relationship with his/her family and friends as well as with those to whom he/she ministers?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Your Name (please print) _____

Your Signature _____

Your position _____

Your phone number _____

Date _____