The Art of Contemplative Listening

A Two Year Part Time Course
in preparation for
The Ministry of
Contemplative Spiritual Direction

Personal formation and Ministry streams

Is this for you?
This process opens the door to transformative experiences of life, creates space to encounter God, and supports the contemplation and honouring of the presence of the sacred in everyday life.

We are seeking applicants who:
- Express a call to the ministry of soul companioning
- Demonstrate a capacity to listen
- Show an openness to learning from their own and others lived experience
- Have enough life experience to enable them to respond with wisdom to people of diverse backgrounds and experiences
- Evidence a mature spirituality and openness to other worldviews
- Have a commitment to prayer and reflection and engage in Spiritual direction themselves
- Are willing to discern the charism for this ministry

The formation of Spiritual Directors/Companions has been the ministry of the House of Prayer for over 30 years.


A Certificate of Recognition from The Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction was granted to the House of Prayer in 2009.

'I am happy to recommend this program to all who feel called to explore contemplative spiritual formation as a means of deepening their relationship with Christ, participating in Christian Community and engaging in mission through this listening ministry.'

Bishop Tim Harris
Catholic Diocese of Townsville

For further information or to express interest please contact the Coordinator of Spiritual Direction at the House of Prayer & Spirituality
Margaret Trevethan
07 47289861
houseofprayer@tsv.catholic.org.au
or visit our website
www.houseofprayerstownsville.org.au

Tending the Holy

Be Still and Know that I am God

Be Still and Know that I am God

Is this for you?
This process opens the door to transformative experiences of life, creates space to encounter God, and supports the contemplation and honouring of the presence of the sacred in everyday life.

We are seeking applicants who:
- Express a call to the ministry of soul companioning
- Demonstrate a capacity to listen
- Show an openness to learning from their own and others lived experience
- Have enough life experience to enable them to respond with wisdom to people of diverse backgrounds and experiences
- Evidence a mature spirituality and openness to other worldviews
- Have a commitment to prayer and reflection and engage in Spiritual direction themselves
- Are willing to discern the charism for this ministry

The formation of Spiritual Directors/Companions has been the ministry of the House of Prayer for over 30 years.


A Certificate of Recognition from The Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction was granted to the House of Prayer in 2009.

'I am happy to recommend this program to all who feel called to explore contemplative spiritual formation as a means of deepening their relationship with Christ, participating in Christian Community and engaging in mission through this listening ministry.'

Bishop Tim Harris
Catholic Diocese of Townsville

For further information or to express interest please contact the Coordinator of Spiritual Direction at the House of Prayer & Spirituality
Margaret Trevethan
07 47289861
houseofprayer@tsv.catholic.org.au
or visit our website
www.houseofprayerstownsville.org.au

*Photos Anderson Park by Joanne Morris
The Ministry of Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction/Companioning is a gift and call of God. It is uniquely concerned with facilitating a person’s growth in relationship with the mystery of God, and living out the grace of this in right relationship with self, others and all of creation.

This ministry has a long and respected history in the Christian tradition and is a means through which Christ continues to minister through God’s Holy Spirit.

It has been practiced by lay, religious and ordained ministers and is a sacred entrustment calling for the highest standards of formation, practice and accountability.

Course Structure

This two year part-time process comprises 200 hours of outcomes-based contemplative learning across 4 intensives each year.

A 50 hour practical component involving group and individual supervision is required for those who discern a call. A continuing personal formation stream is also offered.

The learning community gathers on the Thursday evening and then 9-4 each day from Friday to Monday.

Proposed (Year One) 2018 dates:
12/13 April
21/22-25 June
27/28 Sept–1 Oct
One flexible unit (individually negotiated)

Some live-in accommodation is available.

Numbers are limited.

Cost
$250 per intensive
We keep costs to a minimum.

Program Team

The program directors are
Marg Trevethan and Connie Cairns

The formation team includes directors of the House of Prayer SD Community as well as qualified visiting presenters.

It will include lay, religious and clergy from the Christian traditions.

Elements of the course

The Contemplative Attitude, a way to live.
Contemplative Prayer: the approach to prayer different forms of prayer
Companioning: the approach to prayer different forms of prayer
Companioning: the place of gentleness, compassion in the heart of the Companion
Scripture and Theological Reflection
Images of God
Centrality of the Religious Experience
Evaluating the Religious Experience
The “Empathetic” response
The Affective Response
Ignatius’ Discernment of Spirits
Ignatius’ Discernment of God’s will
Touching the Mystery: art/music/poetry
Christian Mystics
Movement towards insight
Ethics
Supervision
Set text: "The Practice of Spiritual Direction"
Barry and Connolly

How to Apply

In the first instance expressions of interest are welcome (see over)

The formal application procedure requires:
A detailed written application which includes a reflection on your spiritual journey so far.
Two letters of recommendation
A discernment interview with two members of the formation team.

www.houseofprayer.townsville.org.au