The Ministry of Spiritual Direction:
Listening to God in the Church and the World
SPFM 7505
Course 5/5 of the Certificate in Spiritual Direction program
North Park Theological Seminary: Center for Spiritual Direction
July 18-24, 2010
Coordinator: Mary C. Miller

Course Description

The final course will focus on developing a spiritual direction perspective for ministry in the church and world by developing further the sensitivities and capacities for spiritual direction ministry. We will consider special issues in spiritual direction such as group spiritual direction, considerations of cultural, class and gender considerations, managing a ministry, and leading retreats. Participants will offer spiritual direction and meet in peer groups with facilitators for supervision and encouragement during the week. Devotional, contemplative and reflective activities, including a day retreat, are an intrinsic part of the intensive.

Course Objectives

1. Experientially deepen our spiritual sensitivity and ability to listen through contemplative exercises and listening situations.
2. Explore a broader context for spiritual direction, including engaging in various ministries from a contemplative-directional viewpoint.
3. Develop further understanding of topics relevant to the ministry of spiritual direction.
4. Become more confident in giving and receiving individual and group direction and group supervision.
5. Read and reflect on one's growing ability to listen to the movements of God in oneself, others, the church and the world.
6. Have a plan for future development as a spiritual director.

Course Requirements

1. All assignments must be submitted from previous courses before the start of this intensive. It is expected that you will have completed all requirements of the program by noon, July 24.
2. Complete the required readings before the week of the class.
3. For either Vest (ch. 1-10) or Rice prepare a question, comment, and significant quote for each chapter. Due 1 week before the class starts. You may email them as an attachment.
4. Write a 6 to 8 page paper on how you envision spiritual direction being extended in your life and ministry? E.g., To what particular 'groups' or situations do you feel drawn to give direction? What groups or situations might be a special challenge? How might the lessons you are learning in spiritual direction be applied to or affect your other ministries and/or relationships? To whom and how might you recommend spiritual direction? How does a concern for justice affect how you think or what you do spiritual direction? Directly refer to some of the assigned readings in this paper. It is due in the first class. (You may email them as an attachment ahead of time.)

5. Be punctual, present and engaged in all scheduled events of the week from the gathering circle of the first morning through the worship service and awarding of certificates on Sunday. You should make travel arrangements to accommodate the full schedule. Part of our class time will include giving spiritual direction twice, participating in peer groups, evaluating the program, etc. This is very full week; please come as rested as possible and minimize activities outside of the program.
6. Prepare to 'present' to a group of your peers an issue arising from your spiritual direction since your last supervision (or over the course of the past year) .
7. Lead a morning, midday, or evening devotional office as assigned (see "Schedule and Guidelines for Devotionals").

8. Be prepared to create a sacred space for your spiritual directing session through the use of textile and symbols; e.g. a small cloth with a candle and open Bible. Various rooms will be used for your spiritual directing sessions; only one or two will be "set up" for direction. (Since it is school policy that we do not use regular candles outside of chapel, there will be electric candles that can be borrowed.)
9. Bring written notes of one or two dreams that you have had along with your reflections.
10. Complete self, course, and program evaluations.

Required Reading

Dougherty, Rose Mary. Group Spiritual Direction: Community for Discernment. Paulist Press, 1995. 0809135981.

May, Gerald G. Care of Mind/ Care of Spirit: Psychiatric Dimensions of Spiritual Direction. San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco, HarperCollins Publishers, 1982. 006065533X.

Palmer, Parker J. The Active Life. Jossey-Bass, 1990. San Francisco, CA: A Wiley Company, 1990. 0-7879-4934-5

And at least one of:

Rice, Howard. The Pastor as Spiritual Guide. Upper Room Books, 1998. 0835808467. (Required if you are in pastoral ministry.)

Vest, Norvene (ed). Still Listening: New Horizons in Spiritual Direction. Morehouse Publishing, 2000. 0819218146; 9780819218148. (ch. 1-10)

Grading

Grading is Pass/Fail. All components of the course must be completed satisfactorily in order to earn a "pass".

Program Assistant:

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Guidelines for Devotionals

Take into consideration our week's theme or themes within the day. The morning devotional will be in Isaacson Chapel and will include the first year people; it should be no longer than 10 minutes and should lead into a period of 10 minutes of meditation/silent prayer (The other class will not have had teaching on centering prayer until Wednesday afternoon). The midday and late day devotionals will be in our classroom and just with our class; it too should be no longer than 10 minutes and should lead into a period of at least 10 minutes of meditation/silent prayer. The devotional offices should include Scripture(s) and prayer(s) and may include a song, hymn, poem, brief comment, or other appropriate worship focus or activity and old some time for silence. A CD player and speakers for an iPod/mp3 player will be available; a piano is available in the chapel. Starting times and time limits are to be conscientiously observed. You may join with a partner from your cohort if you wish.

CSD Cohort 5 - COURSE SCHEDULE *This may be modified to meet various needs. There will be a break at 10:15 each day.*

Monday, July 19

8:30	Vans leave from Brandel Library for Divine Word Center
9:15	Gathering Circle with Cohort Members
12:00	Lunch
12:30	START OF SILENT RETREAT
3:00	Stations of Creation (*optional)*
6:00	Dinner
8:00	Prayers & Eucharist
8:30	Vans leave for Brandel Library

Tuesday, July 20

8:45	Morning Prayer (*Isaacson Chapel*)
9:15	SESSION: Intro to the Week (*Mary)*
10:30	PRESENTATION: Names of God (*Richard C.*)
12:00	Midday prayer
LUNCH	Lunch
1:30	PRESENTATION: Listening (*John)*
3:45	Evening Prayer (*John*)
SUPPER	
7:00	BOOK DISCUSSION *(Bring "Questions" Assignment*)

Wednesday, July 21

8:45	Morning Prayer
9:15	PRESENTATION: Advanced Spiritual Direction Helps (*Jim)*
10:30	PRESENTATION: TBA
11:40	Midday Prayer
LUNCH	
1:30	SPIRITUAL DIRECTION with first year Cohort
2:45	PEER GROUPS: Presentations from SD
4:15	Evening Prayer
SUPPER	
FREE EVENING	

Thursday, July 22

8:45	Morning Prayer
9:15	PRESENTATION: Retreats (*Mary)*
10:30	PRESENTATION: How to Set Up SD Ministry (*Ellen*)
11:30	Midday Prayer
LUNCH	Lunch hosted by Distance Learning
1:30	SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
2:45	PEER GROUPS
4:15	Evening Prayer
Supper	
7:00	PRESENTATIONS: Small Groups (*Mary)*
	Connection Circles *(Jim)*

Friday, July 23

8:45	Morning Prayer
9:15	PEER GROUPS (*Processing an SD time from this past year*)
11:30	Midday Prayer
LUNCH	
1:30	PRESENTATION: Dream Work (*Mel)*
4:15	Evening Prayer
SUPPER	

6:30	Leave for Free Synagogue Worship (*followed by ice cream stop)*

Saturday, July 24

9:40	Morning Prayer
10:30	SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
11:40	Midday Prayer
LUNCH	
1:30	PEER GROUPS: Feedback and Encouragement
3:30	Evaluations and Feedback
6:00	BANQUET for Cohort Members – *Via Veneto Restaurant*
7:45	Leave for Evening downtown (*family and friends invited*)
11:00	Meet to return after fireworks

Sunday, July 25

9:30	Continental Breakfast (for family too) and Cohort Pictures (*Nyvall Lounge*)
10:30	Worship, Communion, Certificates (*Isaacson Chapel*)