

Certificate in Congregational Spiritual Direction



Program Overview

The Certificate in Congregational Spiritual Direction, offered in partnership with Seminary of the Southwest, is a first-of-its-kind certificate program designed to prepare leaders for the ministry of spiritual direction for congregations. Rooted in seminary-level formation and accessible through Zoom-based learning, this program brings rigorous training to small-church leaders and all who feel called to cultivate spiritual depth in their communities.

Why This Program?

Small congregations are vital centers of faith across The Episcopal Church. Yet many are stretched thin — balancing liturgical excellence, community service, and institutional maintenance with dwindling time, energy, and resources.

The Certificate in Congregational Spiritual Direction offers training in spiritual leadership for groups and congregations. Building on the learnings of our Thriving in Bi-Vocational Congregations (TBVC) initiative, this program equips leaders to embed spiritual direction practices at the heart of congregational life. Participants will learn adaptable tools and practices that turn ordinary decision-making into opportunities for discernment, reflection, and renewal.



A Three-Semester Sequence

Foundations in Spiritual Direction (Zoom-based, 2 semesters)

Offered in conjunction with Seminary of the Southwest's M.A. in Spiritual Direction, this sequence grounds students in the skills of deep listening, embodied hospitality, and the practical aspects of offering spiritual direction.

In-Person Intensive at Camp Allen (5 days)

A hands-on workshop where students practice tools designed for adaptive, life-giving congregational discernment and spiritual reflection with churches.

Congregational Fieldwork Practicum (Zoom-based, 1 semester)

Real-world application in a church or diocesan setting, supported by supervision from a trained congregational spiritual director.

Assessment & Evaluation

Ongoing evaluation and feedback using our Congregational Spiritual Director Assessment Matrix to ensure ministry readiness.