



Certificate in Congregational Spiritual Direction

Program Overview

The Certificate of Congregational Spiritual Direction is a 3-semester program with an in-person, summer intensive. It is designed to take 15 months to complete.

Congregational Spiritual Direction works with leadership teams or even whole congregations to listen for where the Spirit is leading the church. The focus is on the spiritual life and journey of the congregation as a whole.

Program Cost: This program is generously funded, in part, by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. In 2026, students from Iona Collaborative member dioceses will receive a full scholarship. Students from non-Iona Collaborative member dioceses will be given full or partial scholarships (to be determined in the application process). The cost of this program is \$2,500 before scholarships are applied.

Fall Semester: Foundations 1, Zoom-based

Mondays, 5:45-7:15 Central Time

Course Description and Overview

This is the first of two sequential courses that provide a theoretical and practical foundation for the ministries of spiritual direction and group formation. Students explore the purpose, ethics, theologies, and methods of spiritual direction and formation, and they learn skills for offering spiritual direction in individual and group settings. Each of the two semesters follows the same design of readings/videos, class discussion, and skills practice in one-on-one direction, group direction, spiritual formation, and peer supervision (how spiritual directors hold each other ethically accountable). The emphasis for the 1st semester of Theory and Practicum is an introduction to spiritual direction and learning to listen to the movement of God in direction contexts.

This class is taught by seminary faculty and Iona Collaborative staff, and seminary adjunct faculty.

Time Commitment: Students will be expected to spend about 3 hours per week outside of class on readings, class preparation, writing reflection papers, or preparing presentations. This class is taken in conjunction with Masters in Spiritual Direction students.



Spring Semester: Foundations 2, Zoom-based

Mondays, 5:45-7:15 Central Time

Description Course Description and Overview

This is the second of two sequential courses that provide a theoretical and practical foundation for the ministries of spiritual direction and spiritual formation. Students explore the purpose, ethics, theologies, and methods of group spiritual direction, group facilitation, embodying hospitality, and holding space for groups. Students begin to practice skills for offering spiritual direction and facilitation in group settings and practice peer supervision.

The emphasis for the 2nd semester of Foundations is spiritual direction and formation in groups.

Time Commitment: Students will be expected to spend about 3 hours per week outside of class on readings, class preparation, writing reflection papers, or preparing presentations. This class is taken in conjunction with Masters in Spiritual Direction students.

Summer Course: In-Person 5-Day Intensive

Dates: TBD, but likely 2nd or 3rd week of June at Camp Allen or Seminary of the Southwest

This in-person gathering will focus on learning the Spiritual Direction Toolkit developed by the Iona Collaborative to use in congregational spiritual direction. Tools are based on the spiritual direction principles of growing in awareness, reflecting on ministry, and discerning where God is calling the church. Students will create a plan for their semester-long practicum and practice peer supervision with their supervising spiritual director.

Time Commitment: Monday - Friday at noon, 6-8 hours per day. This course is for Iona Collaborative students only. Pre-reading will be required.

Fall Semester: Practicum in Congregational Spiritual Direction, Zoom-based

Mondays, 5:45-7:15 Central Time

The Practicum will be supervised by a spiritual director experienced in Congregational Spiritual Direction or by Iona Collaborative staff. Students will practice peer supervision and reflect on their own offering congregational spiritual direction in their practicum site. Students will engage in technique labs with the supervisor and other students for guidance and support as they learn to practice congregational spiritual direction and grow as a spiritual guide and companion for churches.

Time Commitment: Students will be expected to practice congregational spiritual direction at a site of their choosing 4 times during the semester. Sessions will be scheduled in advance by the student spiritual director and the site. This practicum is for Iona Collaborative students only.