

Selah



CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION FROM LEADERSHIP TRANSFORMATIONS, INC.
BIBLICAL - CONTEMPLATIVE - TRINITARIAN

Selah: a biblical word connoting a reflective pause, a listening attentiveness in the word-crafted space of our salvation life. It suggests that the conversation going on in this space has value, and meaning, and reveals God's work in us.

At LTI we like to think of this as describing what goes on in spiritual direction as, with and on behalf of another, we are prayerfully attentive to God in this wide open space of his ongoing salvation work, where we are being shaped, by the Holy Spirit, ever more fully into the image of Christ!

Program Intent

Selah is intentionally Trinitarian in theology ~ spiritual direction is paying attention to how God the Father is actively shaping a person's life through the Holy Spirit in ways that form them ever more deeply into the image of Christ.

Selah is intentionally contemplative in style ~ characterized by an attentive resting in Christ's presence in the direction time, noticing the movement and activity of the Holy Spirit.

Selah is intentionally biblical in grounding ~ drawing our understanding of God and his ways from the Scriptures.

In this threefold context, we grow from the wisdom and experience of the Church, through readings in the historical and contemporary classics of spiritual formation, and through the learned practice of spiritual direction together.

Curriculum

Spiritual direction occurs in community—the community of the Trinity, as expressed in the community of direction. Likewise, our learning spiritual direction is a communal learning, in the context of which we bring together classic content with lived experience.

Selah's instructional content will cover the theology and history of spiritual direction; the practice of spiritual direction, particularly in the contemplative and evocative model; the language, goals, and models of spiritual formation and direction, the use of Scripture in spiritual direction; prayer; discernment; spiritual disciplines; rhythms of the spiritual life; group spiritual direction; spiritual direction in the local church; spiritual direction in the contexts of retreats and quiet days; holistic life contexts for spiritual direction, including its relationship with ministry in society; issues of gender, sexuality, stages of life, and woundedness/healing; ethics of the spiritual direction relationship; and the ongoing spiritual formation of the spiritual director.

Selah's instructional experience will offer each student a mentoring/supervision relationship with one of our faculty, experienced through a supervision peer group for those living locally, and through monthly contact for those living at a distance. In these relationships, students will receive encouragement and feedback on their practice of spiritual direction as well as their interaction with and appropriation of the course material.

*“Let your love, God, shape my life with salvation,
exactly as you promised...
And I'll stride freely through wide open spaces
as I look for your truth and your wisdom”*

(Ps 119:41,45 The Message)

RESIDENTIAL MODEL

We believe that the skills necessary to attentive listening are learned best in attentive space—away from the busyness and distractions of daily responsibilities. Hence *Selah* is designed around 5 residential retreats over a two-year period, each of 3-4 days/nights in duration. In between each residency, participants will be required to continue course work and course practice, which will provide much of the growth we bring into our times together.

LOCATION & DATES

Selah will meet at various retreat centers in central New England. The Residencies of the 2010-2012 Cohort will be mid-afternoon to mid-afternoon on the following dates:

- Sunday, Sept. 12—Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010
- Sunday, Oct. 31—Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010
- Saturday, May 38—Wednesday, June 1, 2011
- Thursday, Nov. 3—Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011
- Wednesday, May 30—Sunday, June 3, 2012

STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS

- A developmental maturity that demonstrates consistent experience of intentional reflection on your life with God
- A previous experience of being companioned in paying attention to your life in God. While this may have been experienced primarily as a mentoring/discipling/soul friend model, students enrolling in *Selah* are expected to have been in an intentional spiritual direction relationship with an experienced spiritual director for at least 3 months prior to the first Residency.
- A felt call to companion others in their growing attention to God's presence and shaping work in them
- A demonstrated experience of having offered spiritual companionship to others. While this may have been in a mentoring or soul friend model in the past, once a student enrolls in *Selah* they are expected to begin offering formalized spiritual direction to at least 2 people within the first few months of the program.

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Students will be intentional and regular in their practice of the spiritual disciplines of Scripture reading, prayer, and reflection. Additionally, they will have some sort of identity in/accountability to the body of Christ as a worshipping community. Students are expected to meet monthly with their own spiritual director. In the second year of the program, they are also expected to begin meeting regularly with a spiritual direction peer group.

TUITION & FEES

The full cost of the certificate program for the 2010-2012 cohort is \$5,500, broken down as follows:

- Application fee: \$50 (nonrefundable)
- Deposit, due with acceptance: \$545 (nonrefundable)
- Remaining tuition, room and board: \$4,905 (payable in 18 monthly installments via VISA/MasterCard from October 2010 to March 2012; portions of room and board may be refundable in emergency situations)
- Students are responsible for their own book purchases and travel

Partial scholarships for those who demonstrate financial need are available via the Scholarship Request Form.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Upon satisfactory engagement with and completion of all course requirements, the student will be awarded a Certificate of Completion of LTI's *Selah* Program. While this certificate indicates a process of discernment of and training in the call to spiritual direction, it does not guarantee that one is called to or proficient in a ministry of spiritual direction. Confirmation of one's call as a spiritual director is granted by the Holy Spirit, and is experienced through the Spirit's work in the director and in their directees, in the context of the community of faith.

SELAH FACULTY

Susan Currie, Program Coordinator and Faculty
Certificate in Spiritual Direction, CFDM Northwest
MATS, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
BA English Literature, Bryn Mawr College

Susan is the Associate for Spiritual Formation at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's Pierce Center, a retreat leader, and a spiritual director. Previously she served on the staff of The Anchor Presbyterian Church, Bucks County, PA as the Associate for Spiritual Formation, and has offered general spiritual formation ministries in the contexts of teaching, retreat leadership and spiritual direction in the local church and with parachurch and seminary institutions for the past 25 years.

Stephen A. Macchia, President, Leadership Transformations and Faculty

DMin, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
MDiv, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
BA Education, Northwestern College

Steve is the Founder and President of Leadership Transformations, and the Director of the Pierce Center at Gordon-Conwell Seminary, where he also teaches in the doctoral track *Spiritual Formation for Ministry Leaders*. He previously served as the president of Vision New England and a pastor at Grace Chapel, Lexington, MA. Within his current ministry, he offers individual spiritual direction and leads ministry team discernment processes for churches and other leadership groups. He received his spiritual direction training over several years through a mentoring model with a trained and experienced spiritual director (SSJE).

Angela Wisdom, Associate Faculty

MA Spiritual Formation and Soul Care, Talbot School of Theology
BS Accounting and Strategic Management, Mississippi University for Women
Angela is a spiritual director based in Storrs, CT. In addition to offering spiritual direction and supervision from her home, she also acts as an independent consultant for Biola University's Conservatory of Music. Previously, she served as Vice President of Training for Maranatha! Music in San Clemente, CA and was a part of planting Shoreline Church of San Clemente. Her training as a spiritual director includes individual and group spiritual direction and contemplative retreat design.

Additional support staff will share as the occasion warrants.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information or help in the discernment process, please contact:

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