

Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION & APPLICATION
CLASS OF 2018



3025 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017 | (301) 897-7334 | www.shalem.org



GOING DEEPER:
CLERGY SPIRITUAL LIFE AND LEADERSHIP
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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

"I experienced community in a way I didn't know possible."—A Participant

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

A serious concern for spiritual life and leadership across all denominational boundaries is re-forming our understanding of personal spiritual life, leadership, and the church. Indeed, we might say that this is an ecumenical movement of the Spirit. Many clergy living in the midst of this climate of change in their personal and church lives are being called to deeper spiritual grounding.

For some years Shalem has considered a program specifically designed for clergy, concerning personal spiritual life and leadership in the congregation. In 1997, Shalem received a grant to further consider the needs of congregational clergy for ongoing spiritual formation and deepening in the life of the Spirit.

One widespread need that surfaced was for a network of other clergy who would be a source of support and stimulus for those involved in contemplatively-inspired congregational spiritual leadership. In response to this need, we invited clergy who had participated in our programs and who shared a concern for deeper personal spiritual grounding and leadership in the local church to come together for the purpose of seeking mutual help and inspiration. A National Gathering of Contemplative Clergy was held in November 1999.



The Gathering gave the impetus for developing a new extension program for clergy in congregational settings. Although our other extension programs connect with certain dimensions of congregational spiritual leadership and many clergy participate in them, none give the context of the local church as the explicit and shared focus.

This 18-month Program offers a dedicated time for nurturing one's own soul and for deepening one's contemplative orientation as a congregational spiritual leader. A contemplative attitude encourages immediate openness to God's grace in the shifting situations of daily life and, where called for, freedom to embrace both personal and collective risk-taking. In this sense, contemplative does not refer to a narrow, separate path but rather to an undergirding dimension of the way we live our lives, open-to-the-Spirit-in-the-moment in personal and congregational life. A contemplative orientation provides a steady spiritual foundation for authentic living, vision and action.

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Timeline

Application Deadlines:	February 15, 2017 and March 15, 2017
At-Home Preparation:	May-June, 2017
First Residency:	July 11-18, 2017 Bon Secours Spiritual Center, Marriottsville, MD
Continuing the Journey:	August 2017-July 2018 At-home activity
Second Residency:	August 14-21, 2018 Bon Secours Spiritual Center, Marriottsville, MD
At-Home Completion:	October 2018 Final integration or research paper due



Who Should Apply?

Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership is for clergy of all denominations and geographic locations who serve on the staffs of local churches or whose ministry involves the local church and who:

- Desire a deeper grounding of their personal spiritual lives;
- Seek honest spiritual community as well as a network of mutual support and practical learning with other contemplatively oriented clergy;
- Value collaboration with laity in nurturing the spiritual heart and vision of the church, including a vision of the church as one of the most life-giving forces in our culture for the new century ahead;
- Are eager to learn within a broad ecumenical Christian framework (which has been a consistently positive dimension of other Shalem long-term programs, especially for clergy).

Members of clergy support groups who are already meeting regularly are welcome to attend this program together.

Staff and Faculty

Some of the primary staff persons will be present for all or part of both residencies. Other faculty will offer seminars on special themes and will be present for only their presentation. Additional staff persons may be chosen, depending on the needs of the program. Staff leadership may change based on the needs of the program.

Winston Charles, Director of *Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership*, is a graduate of Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program* and *Transforming Community: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats Program*. As an Episcopal priest, he served congregations in South Carolina, New York City and North Carolina for 35 years before retiring in 2009. He has a PhD in church history from Union Theological Seminary and continues to offer spiritual direction, teach contemplative spirituality and lead retreats.

Margaret Benefiel, Shalem's Executive Director, holds a PhD in Spirituality from Catholic University and an M.A. in Theology from Earlham School of Religion. She is a graduate of

Shalem's *Nurturing the Call*: Spiritual Guidance Program and the author of numerous articles and books on contemplative leadership. For many years, she ran her own business, Executive Soul, helping leaders and organizations nurture their souls and express their deepest values institutionally, and also taught as adjunct faculty at Andover Newton Theological School.

Carole Crumley, former Shalem Senior Program Director, is an Episcopal priest with leadership experience in three congregations as well as serving as Canon Educator at the Washington National Cathedral. She is a widely respected leader of ecumenical retreats, groups, and conferences and a seasoned pilgrimage guide to sacred sites throughout Europe, the Middle East and the US.

Ann Dean is the Director of *Transforming Community*: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats Program. She is a spiritual director and international leader of retreats and conferences for contemplative leadership and developing new structures committed to contemplative prayer, Earth care, and social justice. She has been a minister in the ecumenical community of the Church of the Saviour since 1994 and is a member of the Dayspring Retreat Mission Group.

Tilden H. Edwards, Jr., Shalem's Founder and Senior Fellow, served as Shalem's Executive Director for more than 27 years. An Episcopal priest with parish experience, he is a nationally respected author, speaker, and retreat leader. He has designed and led long-term contemplative programs since 1979 and has worked with the spiritual life of clergy and laity from many faith traditions throughout his ministry.

Trish Stefanik is the Program Administrator for this Program and for *Transforming Community*: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats Program, of which she is part of the leadership team. Raised Roman Catholic and nurtured by many streams of faith, she is an experienced ecumenical retreat leader and artist who delights in opening a way for creativity and contemplation.

Liz Ward is the Director of Shalem's *Nurturing the Call*: Spiritual Guidance Program and has been a spiritual guide for Virginia Theological Seminary since 1994. She has served on the Commission for Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia for many years, leads discernment groups for that diocese, and is an experienced spiritual retreat and prayer group leader.

Program Fees (subject to change)

Application fee (non-refundable)	\$ 45	

Tuition and residency fees:	<u>2/15 App</u>	<u>3/15 App</u>
Deposit, due upon acceptance (non-refundable)	\$ 500	\$ 500
Remaining fees, payable in 4 installments*		
Room and Board, 14 overnights (2 residencies)	\$ 1,886	\$ 1,886
Remaining Tuition (subject to change)	<u>\$ 3,789</u>	<u>\$ 4,229</u>
 Total price of the 16-month program (includes start-up materials, program staff and administration and residency fees)	 \$ 6,175	 \$ 6,615

The program fees shown above cover about 75-80% of the total costs. The balance is funded by gifts from donors, and as a result, their prayers as well as their financial support accompany you in this program.

The standard installment payment plan for the program fees:

	<u>2/15</u>	<u>3/15</u>
Upon acceptance & commitment	\$ 500	\$ 500
5/1/17	\$1,419	\$1,529
7/1/17	\$1,419	\$1,529
2/1/18	\$1,419	\$1,529
6/1/18	\$1,418	\$1,528

Please contact the Finance Office for more information.

Tuition Assistance

In some cases of financial need, Shalem is able to offer limited tuition reduction depending on your need and the number of other requests. We ask that you prayerfully consider the amount you are able to pay and the amount you are requesting. We encourage applicants to look for sources of funding from their churches or religious affiliations. If you wish to be considered for reduced tuition, please submit a completed Tuition Assistance Form at the time of your application; the form is provided in this packet.

*I feel like I'm
back in touch
with my
spiritual
heart—God's
presence.
—A Participant*

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership is comprised of at-home activities, spiritual practice, and peer and lay group support supplemented by two intensive seven-day residential retreats. A Certificate of Completion is awarded at the end of the program to all participants who have completed the requirements.

At-Home Activities

These components of the program include:

- A limited number of required and many optional readings focused on contemplative presence and spiritually-grounded leadership in a congregational context;
- A personal spiritual practice, including a daily discipline of prayer/meditation/presence for God supported, if possible, by a spiritual director (or spiritual direction group) and, where helpful, keeping a spiritual journal;
- Periodic reflections about your spiritual life and leadership with an ecumenical peer group of participants that meet periodically in person or by telephone conference call for mutual support, accountability, stimulus and encouragement related to carrying out a contemplatively grounded pastorate;

You will be given special guidelines for your reflection. Shalem staff will be available for consultation as any special questions and problems arise.

- A visit to an innovative, risk-taking church of your choosing to experience new possibilities, stretch your imagination and expand your vision;
- A “listening group of laity” prayerfully selected from the congregation, willing to gather as intercessors, envisioners, and co-discerners of the Spirit’s life in the congregation and to be a leaven with other groups in the congregation;

Shalem will provide flexible guidelines to form such a group or will help you introduce this focus into an existing group. The unique situation of each congregation will be respected in the organization, process, and content of this group.

- At least two days of solitary retreat time, which can be taken anytime during the program;
- A final integration paper that allows you to look back with God over your experience during the program and identify ways to continue to deepen and support the spiritual grounding of your life and leadership, including ways that Shalem might continue to be a resource for you. You may choose to do a research paper instead. Guidelines for the final paper are included in the information mailed at the beginning of the Program.

Residential Retreats

The residential retreats offer a spacious, prayer-filled, collegial atmosphere where you will have an opportunity to deepen your appreciation of the many ways God's Spirit is seeking to be alive in you and your congregational life and leadership. Drawing from each participant's wealth of experience, staff will be probing with you the nature and practice of spiritual life and leadership in the local church. Emphasis will be on an open, immediate presence to the Spirit, through all your explorations in the program and in your congregational leadership.

Residential elements include:

- **The fellowship and stimulus of other contemplatively-minded clergy** who seek to gain a deeper perspective on life in the Spirit and leadership in the congregation;
- An opportunity for **rest, renewal and guided silent retreat time**;
- **Short lectures, dialogue, and individual and small group reflection**, focused on concrete concerns for spiritually grounded life and leadership in the congregation;
Themes will include: nurturing Spirit-led leadership in yourself and in the congregation; appreciating personal and congregational ways for discernment; tending the many dimensions of congregational life in ways that nourish spiritual grounding; listening for the Spirit's shaping of the future church; collegiality with spiritually motivated congregants and other clergy; touching the Holy across faith lines; presence to God in worship and preaching; discernment and decision-making; following the leadership of Christ's spirit as revealed in Scripture, tradition and experience; spiritual leadership in the social arena.
- **Inspiration drawn from the lives of significant spiritual leaders**, past and present;
- An atmosphere of **honest spiritual community and the beginnings of a network of mutual support and mutual practical learning** with other contemplatively oriented clergy.
Post-graduate support for contemplative living and leadership is offered through the Shalem Society for Contemplative Leadership. The Society is a dedicated community of Shalem extension program graduates committed to a contemplative way of living and its promise for individuals, groups, religious communities and society. An annual gathering of Society members is held each fall and ongoing support is provided throughout the year.

Residency Accommodations

The Bon Secours Spiritual Center is a lovely facility set on a hilltop amidst spacious grounds in the Maryland countryside, about an hour from Baltimore, and close to BWI Airport. All rooms are singles; linens are provided.





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CLERGY SPIRITUAL LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

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APPLICATION FORM - Page 1

Please provide a copy of the complete application, including the essay and a \$45 non-refundable application fee, payable to Shalem.

Early Application Deadline: February 15; Regular Application Deadline: March 15

NAME _____ DATE _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____
Home City, State Zip

_____ Work City, State Zip

PHONES _____
Home Work Cell

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION _____
(Denomination & Community/Congregation)

CURRENT POSITION _____

LENGTH OF TIME IN THIS POSITION _____ NUMBER OF YEARS ORDAINED _____

SHALEM PARTICIPATION, IF ANY: (Please list events attended, Shalem authors read or heard. Also, if you have participated in Shalem's online programs, please share if/how that experience influenced your decision to apply to this program.)

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS PROGRAM? (e.g., personal referral? ad in a periodical? web site?)
PLEASE BE SPECIFIC.

ARE YOU APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE? NO _____ YES _____
IF YES, PLEASE ENCLOSE THE SCHOLARSHIP FORM WITH THIS APPLICATION.



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APPLICATION FORM - Page 2

Application Essay

Please provide a short essay (no more than two single-spaced or three double-spaced pages) that includes answers to the following questions:

- What is going on between God and you that makes you feel that the Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership Program might be right for you at this time?
- What kinds of learning and development would you hope for in this program related to your spiritual life and leadership?
- If you have participated in any continuing education programs for clergy before, what would you hope would be the same or different in this one?
- If you have participated in any spiritual support programs/groups before, what would you hope would be the same or different in this one?
- What is already in place in terms of spiritual support (spiritual director, support groups, prayer/meditation practice, etc.)?
- What is your sense of acceptance and support from those with whom you live and pray (family, religious community, church, etc.) for your participation in the program?
- What other non-Shalem programs, if any, are you considering along with this one? If accepted, why would you choose this program versus some other one?

Please return completed application form to:

SHALEM INSTITUTE, 3025 Fourth Street, NE, Suite 22, Washington, DC 20017

Shalem Long-Term Programs in the Contemplative Tradition

TUITION ASSISTANCE FORM

Shalem is able to offer reduced tuition for a limited number of participants. Reductions are limited to a portion of tuition and are not available for room and board for residencies. Please consider carefully and prayerfully your expenses and income as you apply for assistance.

Information you provide relative to this request will be kept confidential.

Program to which you are applying:

- Spiritual Guidance
- Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats
- Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership

Name _____
Address _____ _____
Telephone _____
E-Mail _____

Faith Tradition _____
Are You: Lay <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/>
If you are able to volunteer in the Shalem office, please add any days/times available here and add any particular skills you have to offer:

Cost of Shalem program tuition _____
Your contribution _____
Amount of reduced tuition you request for this program _____
Estimated family income for the program's duration _____
Estimated essential expenses, total _____
Have you explored a potential contribution from other sources? Please explain: _____
If they are positive, how much might they contribute? _____

Any other comments that would assist us in evaluating your request for tuition assistance:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR PROGRAM APPLICATION AND/OR REGISTRATION TO:
SHALEM INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION, INC.
3025 Fourth Street, NE, Suite 22
Washington, DC 20017



OVERVIEW OF SHALEM LONG-TERM PROGRAMS IN THE CONTEMPLATIVE TRADITION

INTRODUCTION

At the heart of Shalem's programmatic life are our three in-depth extension programs. As with all Shalem offerings, these programs share a common, central grounding in the contemplative tradition that encourages an awareness of God's immediate presence, humility in understanding God's ways, and a radical trust in God at work in our own lives and the lives of others. Throughout our history, our programs also have been enriched by the contemplative wisdom of other faith traditions.

Participants come from many different denominations, faith traditions, and walks of life—all seeking connection, nurture and support. Over the years, thousands of men and women, nationally and internationally, have immersed themselves in our long-term extension programs.

Shalem programs are uniquely experiential in approach and are grounded in our understanding of classic contemplative wisdom. All offer a rich variety of practices, teachings and leadership styles, and all seek to create a sense of sacred space that fosters authentic spiritual community and spiritual growth.

THE PROGRAMS

Transforming Community: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats

- Do you find yourself leading or being called to lead contemplative groups and retreats for spiritual formation, meditation, prayer, support and spiritual community?
- Have you participated in a contemplative prayer group or retreat yourself?
- Do you feel the need for personal spiritual support and development in this ministry?

This program provides resources and support for leadership of short- and long-term contemplative spiritual formation groups and retreats where the focus is on deepening attentiveness and receptivity to God. The program emphasizes the use of a variety of practices to encourage people in a more contemplative orientation in all of life and the development of leadership that invites direct openness to God.

Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance

- Do you companion others on their spiritual journeys?
- Do others see your spiritual commitment and your gift of spiritual companionship?
- Do you desire support and enrichment for this ministry?

This program is designed to provide resources and support for the ministry of one-to-one spiritual guidance and to assist in clarifying a calling to this ministry. At its heart is the radical conviction that spiritual companionship is a form of prayer and that contemplative listening comes not so much from a set of skills but from grounding in one's relationship with God. This program nurtures an increasing openness to the many ways God's Spirit is seeking to be alive in both our participants and in those whom they companion.

Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership

- Do you wish to deepen your spiritual life and open yourself more fully to God?
- Do you yearn to lead from your spiritual heart and a revitalized sense of call?
- Are you searching for an inspiring faith community of peers?

This program provides a dedicated time for congregational clergy to nurture their own souls and to deepen their contemplative orientation as spiritual leaders. It offers a spiritual foundation for authentic vision and action, encouraging openness to God's grace, freedom to embrace both personal and collective risk-taking where called for, and appreciation of the many ways God's Spirit is alive in participants and their congregational life and leadership.

Discerning Which Program is Right for You

While all of our programs have the intent of supporting contemplative living in our world, each program has a particular focus as described above. Shalem staff are happy to assist your discernment process. If you have any questions, please contact the Shalem office.