

YALLI: **Young Adult Life and Leadership Initiative**



SHALEM
INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION & APPLICATION CLASS OF 2019

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Class of 2019

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

“It was so helpful to go deeper, to be quiet, to be able to hear what I’m being called to do...and to share this experience with others.”

—A Participant

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

A program to nurture the spiritual life and strengthen the contemplative foundation of leadership for young adults

YALLI: Young Adult Life and Leadership Initiative is for young adults (approximately ages 25-40) who seek a deeper spiritual foundation for their lives and work and who welcome the support of a like-minded community. This program is grounded in the Christian contemplative tradition yet it draws on the wisdom of many religious traditions to offer support for everyday living. In the midst of the challenges of the 21st century, this program provides concrete help in the struggle to live authentically with compassion, strength and vision.



GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Timeline

Application Deadlines:	July 15 and August 15, 2018
At-Home Preparation:	September 2018
First Residency:	October 11-14, 2018 Washington Retreat House, DC
Second Residency:	May 23-26, 2019 Washington Retreat House, DC
Final Gathering:	November 9, 2019 Shalem Library, Washington, DC
At-Home Completion	December 30, 2019 Final integration paper due

*“The
residency
allowed me to
slow down
and feel God
in my heart.”*

—A Participant

Who Should Apply?

YALLI: Young Adult Life and Leadership Initiative is designed for those who are:

- Approximately between the ages of 25-40;
- Desiring to deepen the spiritual foundation of their personal and professional life;
- Seeking a mutually supportive spiritual community with other young adults;
- Drawn to exploring the contemplative tradition, including prayer and meditation practices;
- Willing to learn within a broad ecumenical Christian framework that also welcomes the wisdom and practice of other faith traditions; and
- At a point in life that is not full of overwhelming crisis, emotionally or vocationally.

Staff and Mentors

Additional staff persons may be chosen, depending on the needs of the program..

Staff:

Hayley O'Connor, the co-director of *YALLI*, is a Presbyterian pastor living in northern New Jersey who for seven years served as an associate minister in Edinburgh, Scotland and currently is a consultant for Ministry Architects, working with churches in strategic planning and sustainable ministry. She is a graduate of Shalem's pilot *YALLI* program and Shalem's *Nurturing the Call*: Spiritual Guidance Program and has co-led pilgrimages to Edinburgh, Iona and Paris.

William (Bill) Stone, the co-director of *YALLI*, is a Presbyterian pastor serving The First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon in New Jersey. He is a graduate of Shalem's *YALLI* pilot program, co-led Shalem's young adult pilgrimage to Edinburgh, and is part of Shalem's pilgrimage leadership team.

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.

Trish Stefanik is the Program Administrator for this Program and for *Transforming Community*: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats Program and *Going Deeper*:

Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership Program. A Roman Catholic, she is an experienced ecumenical retreat leader and artist who delights in opening a way for creativity and contemplation.

Mentors:

Carole Crumley is an Episcopal priest and an experienced pilgrimage guide to sacred and secular sites throughout Europe, the Middle East and the U.S. She is the former director of Shalem’s *Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership Program* and leads Shalem’s e-course, “Opening to the Spirit,” for Shalem’s School of Contemplative Prayer.

Al Keeney is an Episcopal priest and spiritual director living in Bloomington, IL. He is a retreat and pilgrimage leader and has taught workshops in spiritual direction, journaling, contemplative prayer and praying with icons.

Leah Rampy, a long-time retreat and pilgrimage leader, mentor and executive coach, has worked with YALLI since its inception and was Shalem’s executive director from 2009-2015. She is especially interested in contemplative leadership and in our deep connections to Earth and all of life and has launched Common Ground Habitat and Farm in the Shenandoah Valley, a small site dedicated to honoring the beauty and wisdom of the land.

Patience Robbins is a graduate of Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program* and has been a spiritual director for over 25 years. A member of Shalem's adjunct staff since 1997, she was the director of Shalem's *Living in God: Personal Spiritual Deepening Program* from 2003-08 and the director of YALLI from 2013-2015. She is the author of *Parenting: A Sacred Path*.



Program Fees

Application fee (non-refundable)	\$ 45	
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Tuition and residency fees:	<u>7/15/18</u>	<u>8/15/18</u>
Deposit, due upon acceptance (non-refundable)	\$ 500	\$ 500
Remaining fees, payable in installments:		
Includes Room & Board for 2 residencies	\$2,550	\$2,700
Total price of the program (includes start-up materials, program staff and administration and residency fees)	\$3,050	\$3,200

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>7/15/18</u>	<u>8/15/18</u>
Upon acceptance & commitment	\$ 500	\$ 500
9/15/18	\$ 850	\$ 900
12/15/18	\$ 850	\$ 900
3/15/19	\$ 850	\$ 900

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.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Program Residential Retreats

We will have two four-day residential retreats at Washington Retreat Center, Washington, DC—a sacred space in the midst of the city run by the Franciscan sisters. All rooms are singles; linens are provided. These retreats are formative in building spiritual community and deepening spiritual practices. They also will include seminars on discernment, contemplative leadership and a silent retreat.

At-Home Program Components

The at-home components of YALLI include:

- A personal spiritual practice, including a daily discipline of prayer/meditation/presence for God;
- Participation in Shalem’s online education programs;
- Monthly reflections about your spiritual life and leadership with your staff mentor, who will be a resource for you throughout the program;
- Peer reflection sessions with other participants that meet in person or by telephone every four to six weeks for mutual support, accountability and encouragement; *Shalem will provide guidelines for reflection, and the first session will be guided by the staff mentor; other sessions are scheduled by participants.*
- Selected required readings, plus many optional readings, on spiritual life, leadership, environmental concerns and peace-making initiatives;
- An opportunity to design and carry out an independent project, supervised by a Shalem mentor; and
- A final reflection paper based on your experience in the program.

A **Certificate of Completion** is awarded at the end of the program to all participants who have met the program requirements.

“The program created a safe and easy space to listen and respond to God and deepen my relationship with God.”

—A Participant

