

Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION & APPLICATION
CLASS OF 2022



1226 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005 | (301) 897-7334 | www.shalem.org



GOING DEEPER:
CLERGY SPIRITUAL LIFE AND
LEADERSHIP
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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

“I believe a new church is slowly emerging as this fresh attention to life in the Spirit becomes front and center in a congregation’s life.”
~ Tilden Edwards, *Embracing the Call to Spiritual Depth: Gifts for Contemplative Living*

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

For clergy of all denominations, congregational expectations can often be overwhelming. Balance is hard to find, burnout is all too common, and clergy can feel especially isolated and torn in many different directions. With too much to do and the desire to do everything perfectly, a life that should be centered in God and committed to spiritual practice is all too quickly overtaken by stress and time management issues.

Shalem’s clergy program was created to address these challenges and provides an opportunity for clergy of all denominations to focus intentionally on the inner work that can foster a transformation of heart and an openness to what is being invited, for themselves and their communities. In the face of administrative and cultural pressures, clergy are invited to “center down,” as Howard Thurman describes, and listen for the Spirit’s guidance in challenging times.



The description of “clergy spiritual life and leadership” points to the two focus points of the program: the nurture of a transformation of the spiritual heart and the opportunity to embody a Spirit-led practice of ministry. In this way, we discover that how we listen shapes how we live.

The program’s structure of peer and lay listening groups creates a way to journey together and discern next steps that is very different from task force and committee work. The two eight-day residencies offer a space for refreshment and renewal, with plenty of time for prayer, worship, contemplative practice and the sharing of joys and challenges.

Living open to the Spirit in personal and community life can provide the foundation needed for authentic vision and action. Both the structure and content of *Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership* offer a contemplative orientation that encourages an immediate openness to God’s grace and freedom to embrace a new way of being, both personally and collectively.

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Timeline

Application Deadlines:	April 15, 2021 (Early Bird) May 15, 2021 (Regular)
At-Home Preparation:	April 2021 to July 2021
First Residency:	July 20-27, 2021 Via Zoom
Continuing the Journey:	August 2021-July 2022 At-home activity
Second Residency:	July 5-12, 2022 Via Zoom
At-Home Completion:	September 2022 Final integration or research paper due



Who Would Benefit from Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership?

Clergy who:

- Lead congregations or faith communities;
- Practice as health care chaplains, school and university chaplains;
- Come from all denominations;
- Are in transition to a new faith community or to a new chapter of life;
- Yearn for a deeper spiritual life from which to live and minister;
- Seek an opportunity to rest and reflect with supportive colleagues;
- Want to learn new ways of leading a faith community, addressing issues of the day, dealing with conflict, caring for people, conducting meetings, leading worship, reaching out to the community with compassion and courage, and connecting with God's creation;
- Desire to grow in awareness of any restrictive behaviors in order to bring more of a God-created self to all relationships;
- Yearn for a life-giving prayer practice that undergirds all that is;
- Desire to reconnect with an original call to ministry on a deeper level of consciousness;
- Want love of God, self and neighbor, in all of its dimensions, to be the very heart of life and ministry.

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.

Julie Pennington-Russell, Co-Director of the Program, serves as senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC. She earned an MDiv from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, CA. She is a graduate of *Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and*

Leadership and is in the 2021 class of *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program*. Julie served three previous congregations in San Francisco, Waco (TX) and Decatur (GA). One of her greatest joys is planting and nurturing contemplative groups within congregational life. She experiences closeness with the Beloved in the daily rhythms of urban life.

Winston B. Charles, an Episcopal priest, is the Co-Director of *Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership Program*. He also is a graduate of our *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program* and our *Transforming Community: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats Program*. Before retiring, he served parishes in New York and North Carolina and continues to offer spiritual direction, teach 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	
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Tuition and residency fees:	<u>4/15 App</u>	<u>5/15 App</u>
Deposit, due upon acceptance (non-refundable)	\$ 500	\$ 500
Remaining fees, payable in 4 installments*	\$ 2,800	\$ 3,000
Total price of the program (includes start-up materials, program staff and administration and residency fees)	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,500

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>4/15</u>	<u>5/15</u>
Upon acceptance & commitment	\$ 500	\$ 500
6/15/21	\$ 700	\$ 750
9/1/21	\$ 700	\$ 750
2/1/22	\$ 700	\$ 750
5/1/22	\$ 700	\$ 750

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 retreats. A Certificate of Completion is awarded at the end of the program to all participants who have completed the requirements. Chaplains may obtain Continuing Education Units for completing this program. Past graduates have been granted CEU's for Shalem programs by the Association of Professional Chaplains.

At-Home Activities

These components of the program include:

- Readings focused on contemplative presence and spiritually-grounded leadership;
- Personal spiritual practice supported, if possible, by a spiritual director or spiritual direction group and, where helpful, keeping a spiritual journal;
- Periodic reflections, deep listening and caring support with a peer group of participants;
- A visit to an innovative, risk-taking church of your choosing;

- Creation of a listening group of laity from your congregation for spiritual deepening and mutual support;
- At least two days of solitary retreat time;
- A final integration paper that allows you to look back with God over your experience throughout the program in order to learn what has been of value to integrate into your life and leadership.

Zoom Retreats

The 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 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 your congregation/community. Emphasis will be on an open, immediate presence to the Spirit, through all your explorations in the program and in your leadership. Both retreats will be held via Zoom.

Retreat elements include:

- Fellowship and stimulus of other contemplatively-minded clergy;
- Rest, renewal and guided silent retreat;
- Presentations with individual and small group reflection on various themes central to discovering how to live and lead from the spiritual heart, such as:
 - Nurturing Spirit-led leadership in yourself and your faith community*
 - Personal and congregational ways for discernment based on deep listening*
 - Experiencing new and ancient practices of contemplative prayer*
 - Dealing with conflict and anger from a contemplative heart that holds compassion and courage in equal measure*
 - Listening for the Spirit's shaping of the future of the church*
 - Collegiality with spiritually-motivated congregants and other clergy*
 - Touching the Holy across faith lines*
 - Engaging social action with a contemplative heart*
 - Presence to God in worship*
 - Discernment as spiritually grounded decision-making;*
- Inspiration drawn from the lives of past and present spiritual leaders;
- Honest spiritual community and the beginnings of a network of mutual support and practical learning.





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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: April 15; Regular Application Deadline: May 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, 1226 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005

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:
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PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR PROGRAM APPLICATION AND/OR REGISTRATION TO:
SHALEM INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION, INC.
1226 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005