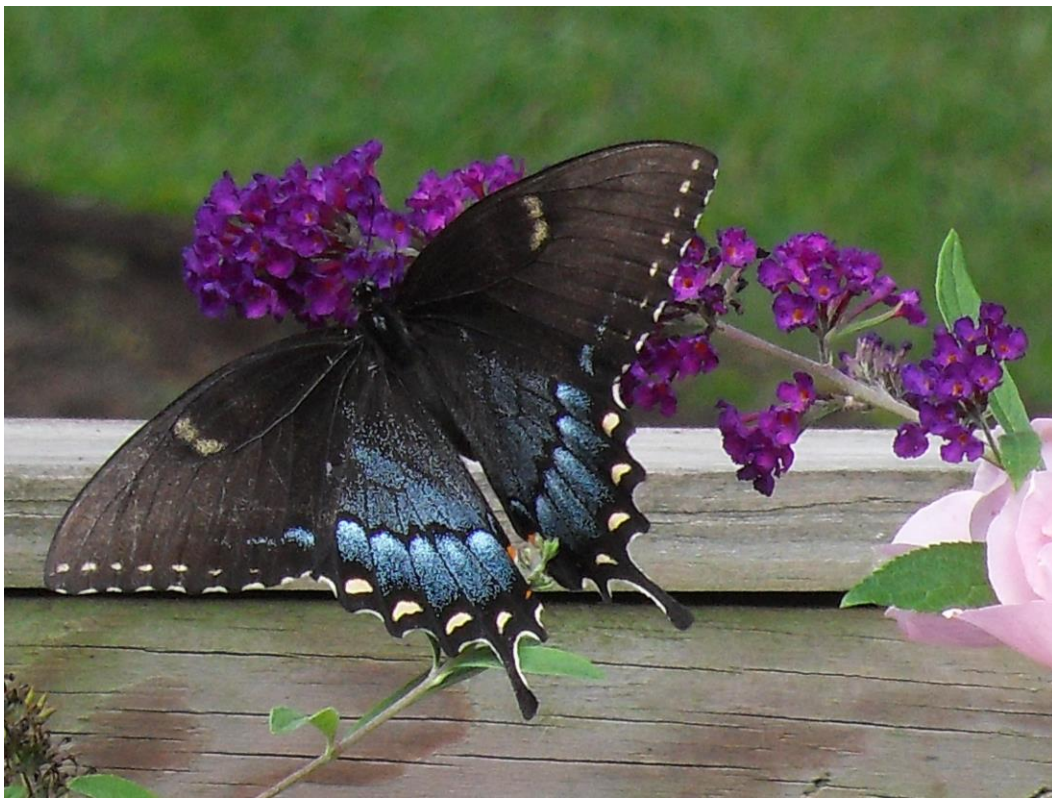


# Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance

Offering One-to-One Spiritual Direction



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
CLASS OF 2023



1226 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005 | (301) 897-7334 | [shalem.org](http://shalem.org)



NURTURING THE CALL:  
SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE PROGRAM  
Class of 2023  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

*"There is an undefined wealth in Shalem that is far deeper, far more significant than the Program's outline."* —A Participant

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program* is designed to nurture the spiritual heart of those called to the ministry of "holy listening," also known as spiritual direction, spiritual guidance, or spiritual companionship. Begun in 1978, this program was the first to offer both academic resources and experiential support for an ecumenical mix of spiritual directors. Since its inception, the Spiritual Guidance Program has attracted and been enriched by people from a wide variety of professions and faith traditions from around the world.

The breadth of material available in this Program is similar to that of many academic programs, and its experiential component is of a depth that few can offer. The learning that takes place between participants is also nearly unrivaled as participants must already be spiritual companions.

Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program* draws on the rich resources of the Christian contemplative tradition to enhance and deepen the spiritual lives of those called 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.

To support this understanding, the Program offers an environment that 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 on life's spiritual journey. This is done in a spacious, prayer-filled atmosphere with the support and guidance of committed peers and Shalem's seasoned staff. Always, the emphasis is on an open, immediate awareness of God's presence.

*The true healing effects of spiritual direction come not from our own efforts as spiritual directors, but when we attend to the Holy Spirit in our interchanges, when we are aware of seeking grace, when God works through our relationships.*

— Jerry May

## GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

The design of the Program allows for at-home study, practice, and peer group accountability and support supplemented by two intensive ten-day residencies, held at a facility in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area. The Program spans two years with residencies approximately one year apart. The schedule for the 2023 Program class follows:

### Program Timeline

March 2022- December 2023

*Early Bird (Discounted) Application by 11/30/21  
& Final Application by 1/15/22*

At-Home Work March-June 2022

1st Residency July 26-August 4, 2022

At-Home Work Sept 2022 - June 2023

2nd Residency June 20-29, 2023

At-Home Integrative Phase Sept - Dec 2023



(The residencies are scheduled at Bon Secours Spiritual Center, Marriottsville, MD, which is handicap accessible. Meals offer healthy options and take dietary restrictions into consideration.)

**At-home work** includes receiving and offering one-to-one spiritual guidance, mutual support and accountability with a self-established peer group, reading of selected texts including classics and specific topical material, preparation of several brief theme papers, brief periodic reports to Shalem, personal journal-keeping, and a personal spiritual practice. In addition, a minimum of three self-scheduled solitary retreat days is required during the two years. Staff responses will be provided approximately quarterly, and additional consultation can be arranged as needed.

**Residencies** include topical seminars, practicums in prayer and spiritual disciplines, individual interviews with staff, supervised peer groups, group processing, and reflection. An attempt is made to foster a community of peers within a prayerful atmosphere. Frequent sessions on prayer will expose a broad range of prayer forms and issues, both theoretically and experientially. Associates will lead regular morning and evening prayer, and 36 hours of the ten days will be spent in a guided silent retreat.

The **integrative phase** includes continuation of spiritual guidance and peer group participation, one brief report to Shalem, and completion of a six-to-twelve-page paper, which will be due near the end of the Program. Associates are expected to continue in a peer group after completion of the Program, as long as they are offering spiritual guidance.

### Who Should Apply?

Shalem's Spiritual Guidance Program is for people who have experienced the mystery of God working in their own lives and who:

- Companion others on their spiritual journey;
- Know others who see in them spiritual maturity and a gift of spiritual companioning;
- Desire personal spiritual deepening for themselves as enrichment for this ministry;
- Seek spiritual community and mutual support with other spiritually open directors.

Each program class is comprised of approximately 25-30 carefully selected people who feel called to deepen their ministry and experience of spiritual guidance and to further the integration of their personal spiritual awareness. They include lay people, clergy, vowed religious, and professionals representing a wide variety of vocations and faith traditions. People who have informally found themselves sought out by others for attention to prayer and spiritual life may be eligible.

Shalem's program is also appropriate for those who have received professional spiritual direction training and who desire the enrichment that the contemplative disciplines bring to individuals and those they companion.

## Staff

**Phillip Stephens**, Director of the program, is an Episcopal lay-person and graduate of the 2006 Spiritual Guidance Class. In addition to being an associate of the Order of the Holy Cross, he serves as a spiritual guide and retreat facilitator. He is interested in cross-cultural studies and inter-spirituality.

**Margaret Benefiel**, Shalem's Executive Director, holds a PhD in Spirituality from Catholic University and an MA 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.

**Greg Cochran**, a graduate of Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program*, is the Associate Pastor for Children and Youth and Spiritual Formation at Woodbrook Baptist Church in Baltimore, MD.

**Lerita Coleman-Brown**, a spiritual director and author, is Professor Emerita of Psychology at Agnes Scott College and past director of the Science Center for Women at Agnes Scott. She is a graduate of our *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program* and speaks and writes about contemplative spirituality in everyday life.

**Ann Dean**, director of Shalem's *Transforming Community: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats Program*, has been a spiritual director for over 25 years and is an internationally-known leader of retreats and conferences on spiritual formation and contemplative leadership and an ordained minister in the Church of the Saviour.

**Bill Dietrich**, a Quaker, is a graduate of Shalem's *Transforming Community: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats* and *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Programs*. A long-time spiritual director and retreat leader, he currently devotes much of his time to hospice ministry and supporting end-of-life caregivers through the *Companioning the Dying: Opening Fully to Living* program. He is a member of the White Plum Asanga Zen Teacher's Association and teaches Zen in interfaith settings.

**Tilden H. Edwards, Jr.**, an Episcopal priest, is a nationally respected speaker and spiritual leader and Shalem's Founder and Senior Fellow. He has designed and led long-term contemplative programs since 1979 and is the author or editor of six books on the spiritual life.

**Sid Fowler** is a United Church of Christ pastor who recently served First UCC in Washington, DC. He also has worked with the national staff of the United Methodist Church and with the UCC in spiritual formation.

**Katy Gaughan**, the registrar for Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program*, is a graduate of Shalem's *Transforming Community: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats Program*. She also is a drum circle facilitator who offers drumming for wellness and spiritual deepening.

**Kerry Hamilton** serves on the staff of *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program* and is also a graduate of that program. Kerry is a UCC lay-person, a spiritual director and a leadership coach, serving leaders in the business world and congregational settings. Of particular interest to Kerry at



this moment is the interconnectedness of all beings, experiencing the sacred in work and play, and being present to what is unfolding.

**Patience Robbins**, a graduate of Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program*, has been a spiritual director for 30 years. She was the director of Shalem's *Living in God: Personal Spiritual Deepening Program* from 2003-08, the director of the Young Adult Life and Leadership Initiative from 2013-2015, and is the author of *Parenting: A Sacred Path*.

**Emily Schwenker** is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the Validated Specialized Ministry of Spiritual Direction. She is the Associate for Spiritual Formation and Direction at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, DE, is a member of the adjunct faculty at Lancaster Theological Seminary and a graduate of Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program*.

**Francie Thayer** is the Director of The Retreat House at St. Paul's Hillsboro, a new ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton, and is a graduate of Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program*. She is also a graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary and offers spiritual direction to several current seminarians.

**Andrea "Ani" Vidrine** is a graduate of Shalem's *Transforming Community: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats* and *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Programs*. She is an interfaith minister, licensed clinical social worker, spiritual director, CEU provider, yoga instructor, and former massage therapist who has served in multiple clinical settings, most recently with hospice as social worker, chaplain, and volunteer coordinator. She is currently a PhD student in Integral & Transpersonal Psychology through The California Institute of Integral Studies.

**Elizabeth (Liz) Ward**, former Director of Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program*, is a graduate of this Program and has served as a spiritual director for Virginia Seminary since 1994. She is an experienced retreat leader and is as a discernment facilitator for the Diocese of Virginia. She also serves on staff for Shalem's *Transforming Community: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats* and the *Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership Programs*. Her ministries are further informed by Master's degrees in English and International Relations.

**Matthew Wright** is an Episcopal priest, writer, and retreat leader working to renew the Christian Wisdom tradition within a wider interspiritual framework. He is a graduate of Shalem's *Transforming Community: Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats Program* and serves as priest-in-charge at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Woodstock, NY.

*In direction and  
in life I have  
more space for  
God and more  
patience, and  
more 'letting go.'*  
—A Participant

## Certificate of Completion

A Certificate of Completion will be awarded to those who satisfactorily complete the measurable objectives of the Program. This is not intended as a certification of the person as a spiritual director or validation of one's call to the spiritual guidance ministry. While an attempt is made to help the person discern that call, we believe that the final confirmation is known in the fruits of the ministry and is clarified through the Spirit of Truth alive in the director, the directee, and the community of faith.

## Continuation Beyond the Program

**Associates who continue to offer spiritual guidance beyond their participation in the Program are expected to continue monthly peer groups and to continue to pursue opportunities to enrich their ministry of spiritual direction.** Shalem assists this process by providing a directory of Program participants and through Shalem's Society for Contemplative Leadership.

## Program Fees

### Tuition and Residency Fees

	Early Bird <u>11/30</u>	Final <u>1/15</u>
Deposit, due upon acceptance (non-refundable)	\$ 550	\$ 550
Total price of the 2-year program (includes start-up materials, program staff and administration and residency fees)	\$8475	\$8975

The program fees shown here 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>11/30</u>	<u>1/15</u>
Upon acceptance & commitment	\$ 550	\$ 550
3/1/22	\$1981.25	\$2106.25
6/1/22	\$1981.25	\$2106.25
10/1/22	\$1981.25	\$2106.25
3/1/23	\$1981.25	\$2106.25

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.

*I feel nurtured and transformed from the inside out. This transformation will be reflected in my ministry and in all parts of my life. —A Participant*

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

### At-Home Work

**Papers:** Four personal, integrative Theme Papers of 4-6 double-spaced pages each are required, each focused on a major theme drawn from the reading and seminar sequences (e.g., Entering One-to-One Spiritual Direction, Discernment, Psychology and Spiritual Direction, Social Contexts). A final integrative or research paper of 6-12 double-spaced pages is required near the end of the Program. Specific guidelines for these papers are given.

One-page reports of associates' direction, readings, and personal discipline situations are requested periodically. Associates also need to complete all written program evaluations.

**Reflection and Feedback:** Associates will be expected to participate in prayerful reflection and feedback concerning their own and others' gifts and growing edges as spiritual companions. Individual meetings with staff and mutual peer reflection will assist this process. It is hoped that this overall experience will enrich associates' ongoing discernment of their gifts and calling to the ministry of spiritual guidance. Associates will also provide periodic feedback to the staff about their sense of the process and content of the program itself. Staff will provide responses to theme papers and major papers, but there are no examinations or grades given. If an associate requires periodic evaluation for academic credit, a pass/fail report will be given as needed to the accrediting institution based upon fulfillment of Program requirements.

**Staff Contact:** Each associate is assigned a staff contact person for the course of the Program. This staff person will regularly respond to reports. Staff persons responsible for the particular topical areas covered by the theme papers respond to them. In addition, associates meet privately with their staff persons during each residency. These times are opportunities for mutual feedback and for associates to deal with special concerns and interests, ranging from Program issues to relationships with their spiritual directors. Other staff consultation can be arranged as needed.

**Personal Discipline:** Associates are asked to maintain a daily discipline of prayer and at least occasional journal keeping. The form of this discipline is in the hands of associates, in consultation with their spiritual directors. Some guidelines for journaling around components of the program are provided.

**Retreats:** Associates are required to spend at least three self-scheduled, solitary retreat days while participating in the Program. The place, time, and format of these days are up to associates, in consultation with their spiritual directors. These days symbolize the importance of the spiritual guide's own unambiguous solitude as part of his/her ongoing formation. In addition, there is a 36-hour guided, silent Sabbath time during each of the residencies.

**Readings:** Readings follow the sequence indicated below with seminar information. Applicants will need to establish library resources in their local areas so that bibliography readings can be obtained during the course of the Program. Theological schools, convents, monasteries, and houses of religious studies are good resources. A brief representative bibliography is included to assist with this. ***Copies of required journal articles and selections from out-of-print books will be sent to participants by the Shalem office.***

## Residencies

**Residency Seminars:** The content of seminars includes the following sequence of subjects as specifically related to spiritual direction.

### First Residency

1. Introduction to Spiritual Guidance Relationship
2. Discernment & Spiritual Direction
3. Contemplative Theological Grounding
4. Entering 1-1 Direction
5. Spiritual Community
6. Discernment
7. Scripture & Prayer
8. Intercessory Prayer
9. Seeing with the Sabbath Heart
10. Silent Healing Prayer
11. Examen
12. Wholly Longing: Praying with Eros

*I feel that  
I have been  
well watered  
and my dry  
ground has soaked  
up all the  
water that I have  
been offered.  
I have been  
nurtured and  
stretched, supported  
and challenged.  
I was part  
of a community  
where I felt at home.*

—A Participant

13. Contemplative Orientation I
14. Contemplative Orientation II
15. Group Spiritual Direction
16. Christophany & Christogenesis: Teilhard, Panikkar & the Prayer of the Heart



## Second Residency

1. Cultivating a Spiritual Heart
2. Dancing with the Stars: Jazz, Pluralism & the Art of Spiritual Guidance
3. Direction & Discernment in Prayer
4. Sin & Reconciliation
5. Sacred Threshold Sacred Space
6. Sacred Activism & Spiritual Guidance
7. Welcoming Silent Sabbath
8. Spiritual Guidance Beyond the Christian Tradition
9. Chanting & Haiku
10. Corporate Worship & Spiritual Guidance
11. Death and Life & Spiritual Guidance
12. Praise Thanksgiving & Movement Meditation
13. The Saints & Spiritual Guidance
14. Wisdom Jesus & Contemplative Discipleship
15. Informal Spiritual Guidance

Seminar methods include short lectures, dialogue, individual and small group work focused on particular concrete questions, role plays, and real plays. Practical questions and subjects concerning the concrete practice of spiritual guidance are woven into the sequence. An informal atmosphere of mutual learning is cultivated, together with respect for the experience brought by associates.

**Staff-Led Gatherings at Residencies:** Staff-led gatherings on contemplative forms of prayer and related disciplines, focused both experientially and theoretically, continue throughout both residencies.

## Spiritual Direction

All associates need to be in a regular relationship with a spiritual director of their choosing, normally meeting about one hour per month. Associates also need to be involved in offering spiritual guidance to others. This ministry historically is confirmed as a gift and calling by other people coming spontaneously for continuing attention to their spiritual life. Prior to the Program, evidence is needed that others have sought out the associates for assistance in attending God in their lives, preferably on a regular basis. By the beginning of the Program and throughout, associates need to be offering formal guidance to at least two other people on a regular basis. Normally these are people who would be coming for spiritual guidance whether or not one is in a program. These need not be the same two people throughout the Program. Arrangements for one's own spiritual guidance and guidance with two other persons must be made prior to submitting one's application.

## Peer Groups

These monthly, two-hour groups are integral to the Program. Groups consist of three to five other persons who also offer spiritual guidance. They need not be Program participants but must be willing to follow Shalem's format for the meetings. Peer group members rotate in presenting concrete situations of one-to-one spiritual guidance in which they are involved. The primary focus of reflection is the presenter's own evolving faith life in relation to work with a directee. Shalem provides guidelines and support for the formation and structuring of these groups. (See peer group guidelines



below.) Participants are expected to attend 30 presentations (15 meetings with two presentations or 30 meetings with one presentation). They are expected to present themselves five of these times. They are able to count the 12 sessions during the residencies as part of the 30 sessions needed.

**Peer Group Guidelines:** You are responsible for discernment about what peer group will best serve your needs as a spiritual director. You are also responsible for ensuring that your peer group follows Shalem's guidelines. If you are joining an existing peer group, you should be clear that you are joining as a peer. You should also ask that the group review Shalem's guidelines, revisiting the spirit undergirding these guidelines, and be willing to follow the guidelines. Shalem sees the peer group process as providing spiritual direction for the presenter around a direction relationship.

Peer groups should be made up of from three to five people (in addition to oneself) who are offering spiritual guidance to individuals. They need to be willing to meet for a two-hour session once a month except for summertime. The meetings can be scheduled differently, if necessary, as long as the group meets for 30 presentations. If a group is also meeting for extended faith sharing, support for ministry, etc., it will be necessary to plan a separate time for this or to extend the length of the meeting so the time needed for presentations can be honored. The other members do not need to be Program participants, but they should be involved in giving and receiving spiritual direction. As planned, each two-hour meeting begins with prayer led by the convener.

After this, one of the members presents a spiritual direction relationship (for about 15 minutes), followed by a few minutes of silent prayerful reflection, and then the group responds for about a half hour. After a brief break, another member presents, again followed by silent reflection and discussion. The meeting closes with a brief processing time and ending prayer. Conveners keep track of the time during each meeting; members of the group alternate as presenters and conveners.



We encourage participants to form peer groups that are as heterogeneous as possible in terms of age, denomination, sex, clergy/laity, etc., because such a mix leads to a much richer process. We understand, however, that in certain geographic areas this type of mix may not be possible. If you are unaware of other people in your area who are giving and receiving spiritual direction or guidance, you may find it valuable to check with convents, monasteries, and retreat centers for suggestions. Since "spiritual direction" or even "spiritual guidance" are still somewhat foreign terms in certain denominations and areas, you also might want to check with pastors of local churches to see if they can identify people who seem called to be personal companions for others in their spiritual journeys, to whom people seem to come to talk about their experiences of God, practices of prayer and meditation, and discernment of how God's spirit seems to be working and inviting them in their lives. It has been our experience that such people can be found just about everywhere. Though some might feel it presumptuous to call themselves "spiritual directors," they usually are willing to admit that they do seem to have been called to at least be "spiritual friends," and that they do offer support and guidance to others. It has also been our experience that most people who offer spiritual direction, either formally or informally, are very grateful to have an opportunity to meet in a group such as this where they can share and reflect upon their experience and grow together in this ministry.

Once you are accepted into the program, Shalem will send you a detailed set of peer group guidelines and a recording of a sample peer group meeting. We try to be very specific in helping these groups get going, because we feel the group's atmosphere is very important to the overall process of the Program. For example, we encourage a prayerful, open attitude in the meetings in contrast to psychological "case

presentation" analysis or "theological discussion." We hope that the meetings will assume the nature of spiritual direction for the presenter, so we encourage presenters to present themselves in relation to a directee rather than presenting a directee. We feel it is very important that the members of the group be able to pray quietly together, to share their faith experiences with each other, and grow in trust so they can comfortably ask each other personal questions about prayer and experiences of grace and of God.

After the group has begun, and before the first residency, we request an auditory version of one group meeting in which the Program participant is presenting. We will then provide suggestions and feedback about the process of the group. Peer groups will also be formed among participants at each residency; this will provide additional help and understanding for the conduct of the at-home groups. We hope that the at-home peer group will provide a rich and ongoing source of support and supervision for its members long after the Program is over.

## SAMPLE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following list is a small but somewhat representative sample of required or recommended resources used in Shalem's *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program*. This is provided for your information and to assist you in making arrangements for library resources in your area. Some references will be used extensively, and you should seriously consider purchasing these. A full bibliography will be made available after final selection of applicants.

### Sample Books:

Bloom, Anthony. *Living Prayer or Courage to Pray*  
*The Cloud of Unknowing*  
Dougherty, Rose Mary. *Discernment: A Path of Spiritual Awakening*  
Edwards, Tilden. *Spiritual Director, Spiritual Companion*  
Holt, Bradley. *Thirsty for God: A Brief History of Christian Spirituality*  
Jaoudi, Maria. *Christian Mysticism—East and West*  
John of the Cross. *Ascent of Mt. Carmel; Dark Night of the Soul; etc.*  
Kelly, Thomas. *Testament of Devotion*  
May, Gerald. *Care Of Mind/Care of Spirit or Will and Spirit*  
Teresa of Avila. *Interior Castle; Life; etc.*  
Thurman, Howard. *Essential Writings*  
Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*

### Sample Journals:

Living Prayer  
Spirituality & Health

Presence  
Weavings

Review for Religious  
Worship

Spiritual Life



## NURTURING THE CALL: SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE PROGRAM

### Class of 2023 APPLICATION FORM

Before filling out the application, we suggest that you look at your situation in relation to the following **ideal** qualifications. Those who combine most of these will be given priority for admission. If you have any hesitation about applying after reading these, please call or write one of the staff for clarification.

#### **IDEAL CRITERIA: Individuals who**

1. Feel called to spiritual companionship for others. This involves specifically focusing on prayer/meditation experience and discernment of and response to God's activity in a person's life.
2. Have experienced a validation of this call by the fact that others have come to them to attend God in their lives.
3. Have had experience with a spiritual director or companion for themselves.
4. Have life experience and history which reflect an ongoing caring for God.
5. Desire a serious experiential and academic program with an ecumenical mix of peers in a Christian context, open to other faith traditions.
6. Actively express commitment to and seeking of the Truth of God through a religious tradition and open to learning from other traditions.
7. Have evidence of their faith community's support for their ministry of spiritual direction.



**NURTURING THE CALL:**  
**SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE PROGRAM**  
**Class of 2023**  
**APPLICATION FORM - PAGE 1**

Applications, tuition assistance forms and letters of recommendation must be submitted through [shalem.org](http://shalem.org) or emailed to [katy@shalem.org](mailto:katy@shalem.org)

(Early Bird Application by 11/30 & Final Application by 1/15) \*

**\* Please Note: Application deadline is the date that the registrar must RECEIVE completed application.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Home City, State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_ Work City, State Zip

PHONES \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work Cell

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_ (Denomination & Community/Congregation)

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ HIGHEST EARNED ACADEMIC DEGREE \_\_\_\_\_ MAJOR SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

HEALTH CONCERNS THAT may affect your ability to fully participate in the residencies

DO YOU ANTICIPATE A GEOGRAPHIC MOVE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this program? (e.g., Personal referral? An ad in a periodical—which one? Web site?)

Please indicate the name(s) of any staff member of Shalem, or graduate/associate of the Spiritual Guidance Program, whom you know fairly well.

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.):

Outline your educational background after high school:

Outline your primary vocational history:

Are you applying for tuition assistance? NO \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ *If yes, please submit the Tuition Assistance Form.*

I consent to share my contact information with those in my program (to ride share and connect).



**NURTURING THE CALL:**  
**SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE PROGRAM**  
**Class of 2023**  
**APPLICATION FORM - PAGE 2**

PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS #1 AND #2 ON SEPARATE SHEETS OF PAPER.

**1. PLANS FOR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

- a) Plans for receiving spiritual direction for yourself, and the length of time you have been in direction.
- b) Plans for offering direction to at least two individuals who have agreed, prior to your submitting application, to be in direction with you, and the length of time you have been directing. (Please note that while we expect you to be directing two individuals throughout the Program, they need not be the same two people for the duration of the Program. Ideally they are people you have been seeing or would be directing whether or not you are in the Program.)
- c) In one paragraph, describe what actually happened in a recent, typical time in which you were a spiritual director, guide or companion for someone.
- d) Plans for access to a theological library with resources on spirituality and spiritual direction.
- e) Plans for forming a peer group, including probable members. The members must be both giving and receiving identified one-to-one spiritual direction and be willing to follow Shalem's guidelines for group process in the meetings.

**2. SHORT ESSAY**

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

- a) What attracts you to this program?
- b) What important life experiences lie behind this attraction? *Include the nature and extent of your giving and receiving spiritual direction/guidance, including current specific experience both as a guide and as a directee (this information is essential), and any psychological counseling received and/or given that has contributed to your insight into human nature.*
- c) What specifically do you need from such a program?
- d) With whom and where do you expect to use your learnings?
- e) What is your understanding of the intent of spiritual direction/guidance?
- f) What do you feel are the most important qualifications of a spiritual director/guide?
- g) How would you honestly assess your *assets* and *deficits* relevant to spiritual direction/guidance?
- h) What readings and personal experience have influenced your understanding of spiritual guidance?
- i) 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?
- j) Are there personal constraints (such as an anticipated move, new job responsibilities, etc.) involving spiritual direction, etc. which dictate submitting your application at this particular time only?

Please list the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two or three people whom you would trust *to know your work and potential as a spiritual director/guide.* Ask them to send us a letter of recommendation before the application deadline, following the enclosed form. (Indicate the deadline on the Recommendation Form.)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

Applications, tuition assistance forms and letters of recommendation must be submitted through [shalem.org](http://shalem.org) or emailed to [katy@shalem.org](mailto:katy@shalem.org)



**NURTURING THE CALL:  
SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE  
PROGRAM**  
**Class of 2023**  
**RECOMMENDATION FORM**

(Early Bird Application by 11/30 & Final Application by 1/15)

***Please Note: Application deadline is the date that the registrar must RECEIVE the letter of recommendation. Applications, tuition assistance forms and letters of recommendation must be submitted through [shalem.org](http://shalem.org) or emailed to [katy@shalem.org](mailto:katy@shalem.org)***

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

As part of my application for the Shalem Spiritual Guidance Program, I am asking you to write a letter of recommendation for me. Please address the questions listed below, and provide any additional information which might help Shalem evaluate my application. Please send your response to Shalem **by the above deadline.**

Thank you,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Applicant)

1. In what way are you acquainted with the applicant and his or her ministry?
  2. What is your personal appraisal of the applicant's gifts, calling, and actual work as a spiritual guide for others? (Please note that "spiritual guide" implies attending specifically to people's prayer life, felt relationship with God, spiritual experiences, callings, and the like.)
  3. Can you relate any comments from other people regarding the applicant's gifts and abilities as a spiritual guide?
  4. What is your appraisal of the applicant's personal spiritual maturity and practice?
  5. What is your opinion of the applicant's psychological maturity and stability?
  6. Would you have any hesitation in referring someone to the applicant for spiritual guidance? Have you actually done so or know of others who have?
  7. Please mention at least one area of the applicant's life or work that you feel is in need of growth.
- Thank you again for your assistance.

Applications, tuition assistance forms and letters of recommendation must be submitted through [shalem.org](http://shalem.org) or emailed to [katy@shalem.org](mailto:katy@shalem.org)

# 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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