

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Adults (preferably age 35 and older) with demonstrated self-awareness and an established commitment to prayer, ministry, and holistic growth in one's spiritual life
- ❖ Presently receiving spiritual direction
- ❖ Affirmed by others as having gifts and skills for spiritual direction ministry
- ❖ A sense of being called to the ministry of spiritual direction
- ❖ Some background in theology, scripture, and personal growth
- ❖ Open to learn and grow
- ❖ Retreat experience (e.g. silent retreats of 5, 8, 30 days, and/or participation in a 19<sup>th</sup> Annotation retreat)
- ❖ Time and willingness to complete the program
- ❖ Commitment to participate fully in the monthly learning modules and inter-module assignments (e.g. readings, reflection papers, etc.)
- ❖ Three letters of recommendation (including a letter from one's faith community)

## FOR AN APPLICATION PACKAGE AND TO REGISTER

Contact Kathy Budgell

By email: [retreats@providencerenewal.ca](mailto:retreats@providencerenewal.ca)

By phone: 780-701-1854

## FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENCE PROGRAM

Contact Debbie Doornbos

By email: [ddoorbos@providencerenewal.ca](mailto:ddoorbos@providencerenewal.ca)

By phone: 780-701-1853



3005 119 St NW

Edmonton AB T6J 5R5

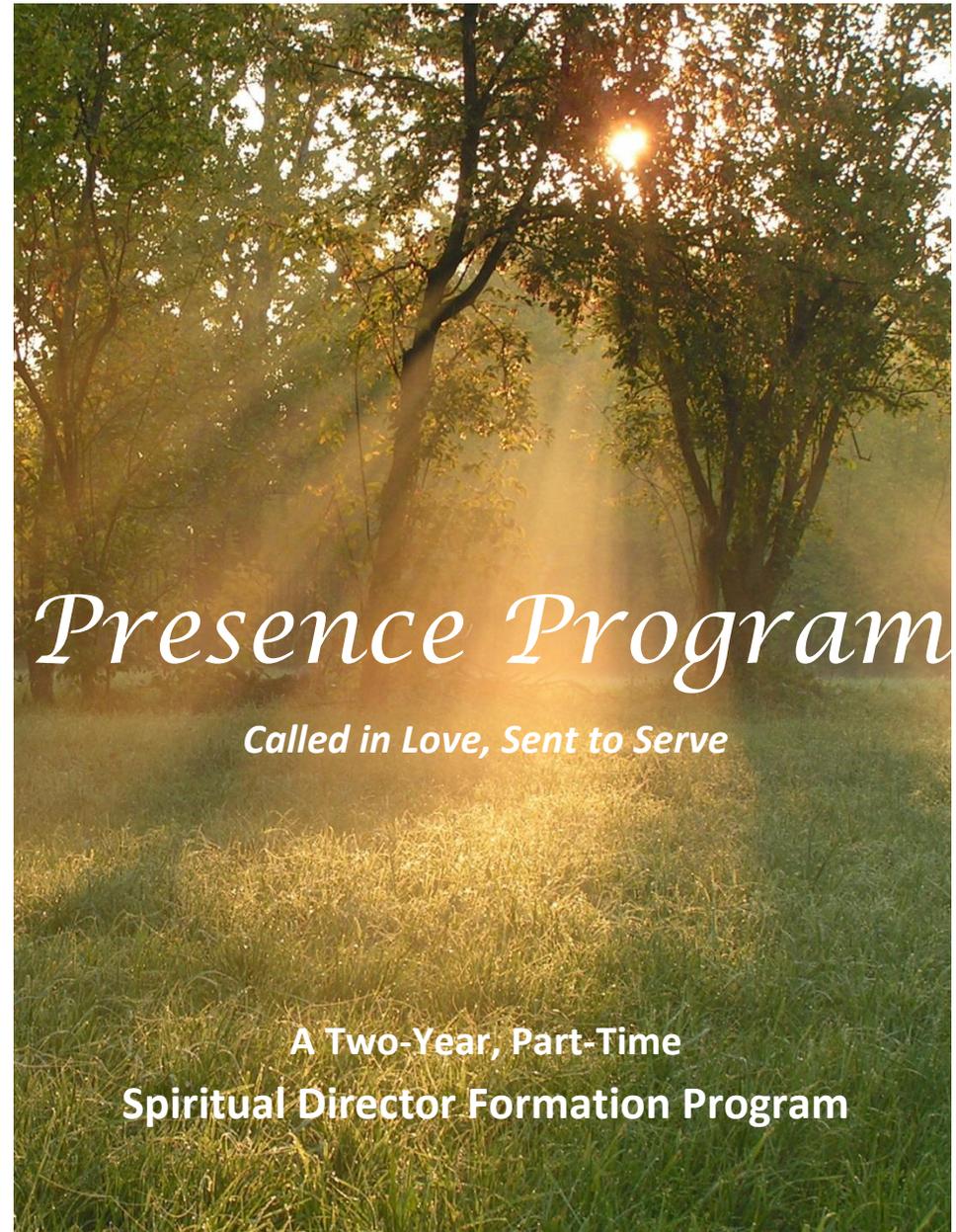
780-430-9491

[retreats@providencerenewal.ca](mailto:retreats@providencerenewal.ca)

[www.providencerenewal.ca](http://www.providencerenewal.ca)



**A Sacred Space in a Busy World**





*The journey of a thousand miles begins with just one step.*

– Lao Tsu

## THE PROGRAM

Presence is an ecumenical, two-year, part-time formation program designed to help participants discern a call to spiritual direction ministry and prepare as spiritual directors. Taking place within a peaceful and nurturing environment, participants come together as a prayerful learning community over an extended period of time. Presence takes a holistic approach to faith development and spiritual growth, and appeals to those who wish to develop their capacity for contemplative listening while also learning valuable skills with which to accompany others on their spiritual journeys.



## YEAR ONE: CALLED IN LOVE

This period of time involves taking “a long loving look at the real”<sup>1</sup> by tracing one’s own spiritual history. Our personal narrative can reveal patterns in experiences of both connectedness and loss of connectedness with self, others, and the Divine that have shaped us into the unique persons we are today.

Participants will also explore thematic learning modules involving “life questions” related to spirituality, human-spiritual development, spiritual practice, and how one perceives the Sacred (or Divine or God). The topic of “spiritual direction” will be approached historically and experientially so that participants gain familiarity with both theories and skills involved in accompanying people who seek spiritual direction.

Opportunities will be offered for participants to prayerfully consider what it might mean for them to provide spiritual direction in one or several settings.

At the end of Year One, each person will have a better sense of how they

<sup>1</sup>Burghardt, W. J. (2008). Contemplation: A long loving look at the real. In George W. Traub, *An Ignatian Spirituality Reader*, pp. 89-98. Chicago, IL: Loyola Press.

are called in love and sent to serve through diverse vocations. Some participants will discern a call to the ministry of spiritual direction. These people will continue into Year Two.

*Spiritual direction is, in reality, nothing more than a way of leading us to see the real director, the Spirit, hidden in the depths of our soul.*

– Thomas Merton

## YEAR TWO: SENT TO SERVE

This period of time involves ongoing intentional reflection on one’s history as well as patterns of both connectedness and loss of connectedness with self, others, and the Divine. In addition, thematic learning modules will probe “Spiritual Direction” more deeply, looking at diverse contexts as well as critical edges related to the contemporary spiritual direction movement as both necessary and relevant to a contemplative vision for today’s world. Participants will spend time practicing their spiritual direction skills and competencies both within the learning community and in practicum settings. Personal and group supervision will comprise reflective disciplines for ongoing contemplative practice.

At the end of Year Two, each person will have a better sense of how they are called in love and sent to serve

through spiritual direction ministry. A Certificate of Completion will be awarded.



## THE COST

The Presence Program at Providence Renewal Centre will cost \$3,000.00 for Year One and \$4,000.00 for Year Two. This amount includes: room and board, facilitated learning modules, books and resources for learning modules, two retreats that are integrated into each yearly schedule, and a supervised practicum. Fees can be paid in-full or by installment over the half of each program year. A \$100.00 non-refundable payment is required at the time of registration.

## SEEKING ACADEMIC CREDIT?



Through collaboration between Providence Renewal Centre and St. Stephen’s College, the Presence Program may be assigned academic credit from St. Stephen’s for those who wish it. Please ask for a copy of the information page that describes academic credit possibilities.