**Presence Program**

**Called in Love, Sent to Serve**

**Overview**

**PURPOSE:** To prepare people to be spiritual directors through a two-year, part-time spiritual formation program

**GOALS:**

* Nurture a prayerful and supportive learning community
* Draw on spiritual resources and practices of the Christian faith tradition
* Foster contemplative listening and discernment skills for spiritual direction ministry
* Offer monthly learning modules related to faith, spirituality, and spiritual direction
* Facilitate opportunities for participants to discern a call to spiritual direction ministry
* Recognize and call forth gifts for spiritual direction ministry
* Organize supervised practicum experiences for providing spiritual direction

**COMPONENTS:**

* **Thematic Learning Modules**
* **Theological Reflection**
* **Spiritual Practices**
* **Supervised Practicum**
* **Integrated Retreat Experiences**
* **Monthly Live-In experiences**

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

* Adults (preferably age 35 and older) with demonstrated self-awareness and an established commitment to prayer, spiritual growth, and service
* Experience in receiving spiritual direction
* Affirmation by others as having gifts and skills for spiritual direction ministry
* A sense of being called to the ministry of spiritual direction
* Some post-secondary education; bachelor’s degree preferred
* Knowledge of the basic principles, teachings, history, sacred texts, and practices of one’s denomination and/or faith tradition
* Open to adult learning methods and personal growth
* Retreat experience (e.g., silent retreats of 5, 8, 30 days, and/or participation in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola)
* 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)
* Three letters of recommendation (including a letter from a person in one’s faith community)

**IMPORTANT DATES**

* Closing date for applications: **March 15, 2019**
* Program Orientation Day and Module One: **September 6 & 7, 2019**
* Program takes place 10 months each year; with 8 two-day modules and 2 four-day retreats. Monthly modules take place Fridays (1:00 pm to 9:00 pm) and Saturdays (9:00 am to 4:00 pm) Retreats take place Sunday night (7:00 pm) to Thursday afternoon (4:00 pm)

**Year One Dates:**

Monthly 2019: September 6 & 7, October 4 & 5, November 8 & 9, December 6 & 7,

Monthly 2020: January 3 & 4, February 14 & 15, April 17 & 18, May 8 & 9

Two Retreats 2020: March 1 to 5 and June 8 to 12

**Year Two Dates:**

Monthly 2020: September 18 & 19, October 9 & 10, November 13 & 14, December 4 & 5

Monthly 2021: February 12 & 13, March 12 & 13, April 16 & 17, May 14 & 15

Two Retreats 2021: January 11 to 14, June 7 to 10

**PRESENCE PROGRAM TUITION**

Application Fee (non-refundable) $ 100.00

Year One: Tuition, accommodation, meals, facilitation $3,500.00

Year Two: Tuition, accommodations, meals, facilitation, supervised practicum $4,200.00

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  Debbie Doornbos, Program Director, Providence Renewal Centre

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