



PRESENCE

Called in Love, Sent to Serve

Overview – 2022-2024

PURPOSE:

This two-year spiritual formation program, in the Christian tradition, is designed to help participants grow in self-knowledge as they explore the ministry of spiritual direction. Being in a spiritual direction relationship for at least a year is a pre-requisite for PRESENCE.

The first year, **Called in Love**, focuses on deepening one's personal spiritual life and discerning one's call to spiritual direction ministry through a series of workshops, retreats, group and individual reflection opportunities. *Participants may opt to continue to year two or not.*

The second year, **Sent to Serve**, nurtures the skills required in the ministry of spiritual direction through a supervised practicum, as well as through a series of workshops, group reflection, and retreats. *Year one is a pre-requisite for year two.*

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
- ❖ Offer monthly learning modules related to faith, spirituality, and spiritual direction
- ❖ Facilitate opportunities for participants to discern "call" and the ministry of spiritual direction
- ❖ Organize supervised practicum experiences for providing spiritual direction

COMPONENTS:

- ❖ **Thematic Learning Modules** – Participants will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of topics related to faith, spirituality, and spiritual direction with a team of professionals skilled in their areas of expertise.
- ❖ **Theological Reflection** – Theological reflection builds on faith and spirituality, helping participants find meaning in their lived experiences. Participants will use a variety of tools (e.g. journaling, art making, written reports, story/narrative development) to reflect theologically on self, others, the Divine.
- ❖ **Spiritual Practices** – Participants will be introduced to spiritual practices related to the monthly learning modules. They will be invited to nurture their spiritual lives with practices such as daily prayer, spiritual reading, examination of conscience, regular spiritual direction, and ongoing discernment of God's call in their lives.
- ❖ **Supervised Practicum** – The second year of the program includes a practicum, during which participants will offer spiritual direction within the context of a supervised practicum experience. Practicum work will involve careful preparation, oversight, and evaluation.
- ❖ **Integrated Retreat Experiences** – Participants will gather twice each year for four-day periods of structured retreats. These include ample time for silence, personal reflection, prayerful discernment, and spiritual direction.
- ❖ **Live-In Experiences** – Participants stay overnight for select modules and retreats. This fosters a sense of community, with shared meals, times for socializing, shared prayer and ritual, as well as opportunities for silence, solitude, and personal prayer.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

CALLED IN LOVE (Year One)

- ✓ Adults (preferably age 35+) with demonstrated self-awareness
- ✓ Established commitment to prayer, spiritual growth, and service
- ✓ Some post-secondary education; bachelors' degree preferred
- ✓ Knowledge of basic principles, teachings, history, sacred texts, and practices of one's denomination and/or faith tradition
- ✓ Retreat experience (e.g. silent retreats of 5, 8, 30 days, and/or participation in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola)
- ✓ Commitment to participate fully in the monthly learning modules, retreats and assignments (e.g. readings, reflection papers, etc.)
- ✓ Dedication to personal spiritual direction (at your own cost)
- ✓ Three letters of recommendation (including a letter from one's faith community)

SENT TO SERVE (Year Two)

- ✓ Completion of Called in Love
- ✓ Experience in receiving spiritual direction and commitment to continuing in direction (at your own cost)
- ✓ Affirmation of gifts and skills for spiritual direction ministry
- ✓ A sense of being called to the ministry of spiritual direction
- ✓ Commitment to participate fully in the learning modules, retreats and assignments (e.g. readings, reflection papers, etc.)
- ✓ Time and willingness to complete the supervised practicum

IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ PRESENCE Information Evening: **Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm via ZOOM**
- ❖ Closing date for applications: **April 30, 2022**
- ❖ PRESENCE takes place September to June. The first year begins with a Friday (1 pm) to Sunday (1 pm) in-person session. Subsequent monthly modules are held Fridays (1 pm to 9 pm) and Saturdays (9 am to 4 pm) via Zoom. January and June retreats run Monday (1 pm) to Friday (1 pm) and will be on-site at Providence Renewal Centre. Year Two begins with a Wednesday (7 pm to Saturday (4 pm) in-person session. Subsequent monthly modules will be via Zoom with January and June retreats being held at Providence Renewal Centre.

Called in Love (Year One) Dates:

2022: September 9-11, October 7 & 8, November 11 & 12, December 2 & 3

2023: January 9 to 13 (retreat); February 10 & 11, March 17 & 18, April 14 & 15, May 12 & 13
June 12 to 16 (retreat)

Sent to Serve (Year Two) Dates:

2023: September 27 to 30, November 3 & 4, December 8 & 9

2024: January 8 to 12 (retreat); February 9 & 10, March 15 & 16, April 12 & 13, May 10 & 11
June 17 to 21 (retreat)

TUITION FEE

Application Fee (non-refundable)	\$100.00 (applied toward tuition)
Called in Love (Year One): Tuition, accommodation, meals, facilitation	\$3,100.00
Sent to Serve (Year Two): Tuition, accommodations, meals, facilitation, supervised practicum	\$4,000.00

REQUIRE MORE INFORMATION, contact: Carol Sebastian (780-701-1852) or Linda MacIsaac (780-701-1853)
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