

Cost: Thanks to renewal funding from The Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Initiative of Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Center for Ministry makes spiritual direction services available for one year at no cost to participants.

APPLICATION

If you sense that God is calling you to commit to twelve months of spiritual direction, please fill out an application. The Center for Ministry must receive it before January 1, 2009. For optimal consideration you are encouraged to submit your application in advance of the deadline.

Applications are available at www.centerforministry.com

or by contacting

Rev. Sherry Johnson, Associate Director
Center for Ministry
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(601) 974-1436

About the Center for Ministry

The Center for Ministry, located in Jackson, MS, offers continuing education and spiritual formation opportunities for church leaders, both clergy and lay. Learners from all denominations and faith traditions are welcome to participate in this shared ministry of Millsaps College and the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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Spiritual Direction for Clergy on the Gulf Coast



*When the world is tossing me,
like a ship upon the sea,
Thou who rulest wind
and water,
stand by me.*
(Songs of Zion, #41)

Care of the soul is a life-giving necessity for all ministers. But in the midst of long-term recovery from Katrina tending to the inner life takes on increased urgency.

The Pastoral Excellence Project of the Center for Ministry is standing by clergy sisters and brothers on the Coast by providing opportunities for caregivers to care for themselves.

Thanks to renewal funding from Lilly Endowment Inc., the Pastoral Excellence Project begins ***Spiritual Direction for Clergy on the Gulf Coast*** in January 2009. Church leaders will receive twelve monthly sessions with a trained spiritual director. These spiritual companions will offer a safe and confidential environment where those who spend countless hours listening to others can freely speak their own truth and attend to their own relationship with God.

Eligibility

Spiritual Direction for Clergy on the Gulf Coast is open to the ordained of any faith tradition or denomination who

- minister in one of the following Mississippi counties: Jackson, Harrison, Hancock, George, Stone, and Pearl River
- seek to examine their relationship with God in light of their Katrina experience
- commit to attending all twelve sessions of spiritual direction

Pastors who were serving on the Coast during Katrina or who moved there before September 2006 will receive preference.

2009 Dates

Spiritual directors will meet with Gulf Coast clergy on the following Tuesdays:

January 20, February 17, March 24, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 22, October 20, November 17, & December 15.

Appointments for one-hour sessions are available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Locations: The churches below are providing quiet, comfortable spaces appropriate for confidential conversation:

Main Street United Methodist Church

62 Main Street, Bay St. Louis

St. Paul United Methodist Church,

6716 Bienville Road, Ocean Springs

First United Methodist Church

2301 15th Street, Gulfport

About Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is a ministry in which one person (spiritual director) assists another (directee) to listen to his or her life to perceive the movements and callings of God.

This hour of holy conversation differs from therapy, counseling, or coaching. In spiritual direction you may expect:

- completely confidential sacred space in which to voice thanksgivings, cry laments, and question God
- prayer and other spiritual practices
- openness toward your faith tradition, values, theology, and spiritual experiences
- silence

Spiritual directors offer caring companionship to others on their journeys of faith. Their training for certification includes theology, spirituality, and classical and contemporary writings on the spiritual life. As partners in discernment, spiritual directors reverently listen both your sacred story and to the voice of God in whose Presence you meet. Their passion for the Holy leads them to practice spiritual disciplines, engage in continual study, as well as meet regularly with their own spiritual directors.

The Center for Ministry has prayerfully selected trained and certified spiritual directors to serve as prayer partners, mentors, friends, teachers, and encouragers to clergy who desire to examine their lives with God in the midst of the challenges of the post-Katrina Gulf Coast.

