Tending the Holy

Spiritual Direction Formation Program

The Art of Contemplative Listening

A three year part time course in preparation for The Ministry of Contemplative Spiritual Direction

The Ministry of Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction/Companioning is a sacred gift and calling. It is uniquely concerned with facilitating a person's growth in relationship with the Sacred Mystery, and living out the grace of this in right relationship with self, others and all of creation.

This ministry has a long and respected history in the Christian tradition. At its heart, is a desire to help others deepen their awareness of the presence of God in their life.

It has been practised by lay, religious and ordained ministers and is a sacred entrustment calling for the highest standards of formation, practice and accountability.

The House of Prayer

The formation of Spiritual Directors/ Companions has been the ministry of the House of Prayer for over 40 years.

Our formation process is faithful to the Formation Guidelines for Spiritual Directors in Australia and recognised by the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction. https://spiritualdirection.au/formation-programs

The House of Prayer partners with Tabor College to grant our graduates Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for up to 50% of a Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction for those interested in tertiary qualifications.

'I am happy to recommend this program to all who feel called to explore contemplative spiritual formation as a means of depthing their relationship with Christ, participating in Christian Community and engaging in mission through this listening ministry.'

Bishop Tim Harris
Catholic Diocese of Townsville

Program Team

The **program directors** are Brianne Falconieri and Marg Trevethan.

The **formation team** includes Spiritual Directors of the House of Prayer community, and qualified visiting presenters.

The team comprises of lay, religious and clergy from the Christian traditions.

HOUSE OF PRAYER and Spirituality

A mission of the Catholic Diocese of Townsville

Course Structure

This two year part-time process comprises 200 hours of outcomes-based contemplative learning across three intensives each year.

For those who discern a call to Spiritual Direction, 50 sessions of practical component involving group and individual supervision is required.

A personal formation stream is also offered for those who wish to enhance their reflective listening skills.

2027 Dates: *12th—14th March*
30th April—3rd May
9th—9th August
1st—4th October

Times: *Friday evening* 5:30pm-9pm
Saturday and Sunday 9am-5pm
Monday 9am-4pm

Cost: Year 1 - $1,200
Year 2 - $650 Per Intensive

Is this for you?

This process opens the door to deeper awareness of transformative experiences, creates space to encounter God, and supports the contemplation and honouring of the presence of the sacred in everyday life.

We are seeking applicants who:

- Express a call to the ministry of soul companioning
- Demonstrate a capacity to listen
- Show an openness to learning from their own and others' lived experience
- Have enough life experience to enable them to respond with wisdom to people of diverse backgrounds and experiences
- Evidence a mature spirituality and openness to other worldviews
- Have a commitment to prayer and reflection and engage in Spiritual direction themselves
- Are willing to discern the charism for this ministry

How to Apply

The formal **application procedure** requires:

- A detailed written application which includes a reflection on your spiritual journey so far.
- Two letters of recommendation and
- A discernment interview with two members of the formation team.

Further information and application paperwork is available on our website;

www.houseofprayertownsville.org.au

To express interest or request an application pack, **please contact** Brianne Falconieri, Coordinator of the House of Prayer & Spirituality.

Ph.: (07) 4728 9861

Email: sdformation@tsv.catholic.org.au

Be still and know that I am God... Psalm 46:10