

Components of a Module:

Every module begins and ends with prayer together and sharing. Forming a community of trust is essential for this two-year journey.

Substantial reading and formal input provide the academic component of the program. This formal input is given by staff members and a variety of presenters with expertise in the field.

Part of each module is spent with an Integration Group - a place to integrate the readings and presentations with one's own life experience. This personal process is central to becoming a spiritual guide. A staff member facilitates this group.

The practicum component provides the experiences necessary to develop the inner awareness and skills needed to companion another as spiritual guide. Participants will:

- practice in various settings during each module
- arrange for, and guide, two seekers monthly starting in September 2025
- write up reflective learnings for staff supervisor
- participate in peer supervision
- engage with an outside supervisor

The dynamic interplay of each of these components contributes to the richness of this formative experience.

Program Staff

The staff consists of practicing spiritual guides with broad theological backgrounds and extensive training and experience in spiritual guidance.

The current staff includes:

Colleen McGeady-Ambrose, MA, MM
Annette Jo Giarrante, MDiv, CPCC
Terry Johnson, MDiv, MA
Nicki Nelson, MA, LPC-IT

Cost

- **APPLICATION FEE:** \$150 due with application (\$175 after July 31, 2024)
- **ENROLLMENT FEE:** \$275 due upon acceptance and will be applied to tuition
- **TUITION FEE:** 4 payments of \$1,700
- **ACCOMMODATIONS FEE:** 4 payments of \$800

***Please note:** this does **NOT** include the cost of books, personal spiritual direction, or individual supervision.

Learn More



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Spiritual Guidance Training Program

January 2025 - November 2026





The Spiritual Guidance Training Program is designed for those who sense a call to the ministry of spiritual guidance and who wish to explore that call by engaging deeply in their own spiritual growth and developing the skills and knowledge necessary to accompany another in this way.

As such, this program is for those who:

- are well grounded in spirituality and the process of personal reflection
- have some theological background
- have experienced and are willing to engage in on-going spiritual guidance
- have a willingness to share reflectively
- appreciate learning with others from diverse spiritual traditions and backgrounds
- desire an integrative body-mind-spirit approach.

The intent of this Spiritual Guidance Training Program is:

- to enrich the spiritual life, deepen the theological awareness, and expand the worldview of the participants
- to offer resources, practice, and supervision which can prepare participants to practice the art of spiritual guidance sensitively and skillfully

Foundational Understanding

At the heart of spiritual guidance is the sacred process of story, in which the Divine Unfolding is revealed.

Recognizing the evolutionary story of our Universe, the developing faith traditions, and the unfolding of our personal and communal stories in our world today, participants prepare to listen and respond as companions and witnesses to the stories of spiritual seekers.

Belief in God's unconditional love for, and presence in, creation is core to this program. It is based in the Christian tradition, and is enriched by embracing the diversity available in various faith perspectives, contemporary cosmology, and a holistic approach to life and learning.

Schedule

The 2025/2026 program will include both in person and virtual gatherings throughout the two years. There will be five 4-day in person retreats at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI. These weekends are:

- January 16-19, 2025
- June 5-8, 2025
- November 6-9, 2025
- June 4-7, 2026
- November 5-8, 2026

All other monthly weekend gatherings will take place virtually via Zoom. It is expected that participants are able to create a contemplative and confidential space they can use for these weekends.

Please visit www.SienaRetreatCenter.org for a full list of dates.

Content

Topics addressed in these two years often include the following:

- Introduction to Spiritual Guidance and the Art of Listening
- The Universe Story
- The God Story in the 21st Century
- The Jesus Story
- Our Sacred Stories
- The Spirituality of Power
- Trauma and Spirituality
- Prayer
- Sexuality and Spirituality
- The Science and Spirituality of Emotions
- Loss and Grief
- Desire, Resistance, and Discernment
- Global Vision and Justice
- The Role and Identity of the Spiritual Guide
- Building a Practice

Days of silent retreat are included in the two years. Participants are also encouraged to make a silent directed retreat sometime in the two years.

