

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 content of the program. This formal input is given by staff members and presenters with expertise in the field.

Integration Groups are small groups which will meet during each module and offer space for the content to be integrated into one's 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 with other participants during each module
- find two seekers and have sessions with them each month starting in September 2027
- reflect on each session and submit required reflection forms
- engage in individual supervision
- participate in facilitated group supervision

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

Application Process:

All applicants are required to participate and complete the **Cultivating Curiosity** program. In 2026, this will be offered twice: beginning in March and beginning again in August. Please visit Siena's website to learn more about this program.

PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE:

June 15, 2026

FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE:

December 1, 2026

Cost

- **ENROLLMENT FEE:** \$275 due upon acceptance and will be applied to tuition
- **TUITION:** \$8995*

*Tuition includes all instruction, facilitation, and accommodation costs for the two years. It also includes six individual supervision sessions. It **does not include** the cost of books or individual spiritual direction fees. Multiple payment plans are available

Learn More



nnelson@sienaretreatcenter.org



www.sienaretreatcenter.org



5637 Erie St, Racine, WI 53402

Spiritual Guidance Training Program

January 2027 - November 2028





The Spiritual Guidance Training Program is designed for those who sense a call to the ministry of spiritual guidance. This program offers an opportunity to explore that call by engaging deeply in personal 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 wisdom available in various faith perspectives, contemporary cosmology and psychology, and a holistic approach to life and learning.

Schedule

The 2027/2028 program will include both in person and virtual gatherings throughout the two years. There will be five in person retreats at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI. These weekends are:

- January 8-10, 2027
- June 3-6, 2027*
- November 12-14, 2027
- June 8-11, 2028*
- November 3-5, 2028

*The June weekends run Thursday-Sunday and include 24-hours of silence.

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. All dates can be found on the Siena website.

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
- The Jesus Story
- Our Sacred Stories
- Embodied Spirituality
- The Science and Spirituality of Emotions
- Prayer
- Desire and Freedom
- Spirituality and Sexuality
- Spirituality and Grief
- Spirituality and Trauma
- Discernment
- Spirituality and Justice
- The Role and Identity of the Spiritual Guide
- Building a Practice

Participants are encouraged to make a silent directed retreat sometime in the two years.

