

## SOULJOURNERS ECUMENICAL PROGRAM FOR SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

Souljourners is a Christian ecumenical program sponsored by Sophia Center in Atchison, Kansas. The program offers opportunities in spiritual direction, formation and growth. The spiritual direction program consists of two years of study and a third year of practicum. Participants who do not feel called to the ministry of spiritual direction/companionship, but who would like to attend courses for the purpose of enrichment and/or spiritual formation may do so as auditors. Full-time participants will receive a certificate of study upon completion of the program. Through the graduate program of Benedictine College, Atchison, Kansas, interested participants may receive twelve graduate credits over the 3 year program @ \$70.00 per credit hour.

Interested persons will be required to participate in a screening process. Preferably participants begin the program during the June Residency or if necessary, at the September weekend session. Throughout the program participants will engage in an ongoing discernment process with the staff to determine if there is a real call to this ministry of spiritual direction. At any time during the program, a participant in consultation with a Souljourners staff member may decide to end the process toward certification. Certification is not licensure. Certification indicates successful completion of program requirements.

The format for the first two years is a seven-day intensive residency program in June followed by eight weekend sessions held monthly between September and August. **Some topics addressed during Residency Weeks include:** What is Spiritual Direction?, Practice and Pitfalls in the Ministry of Spiritual Direction, Discernment of Spirits, Christian Prayer Forms, Case Studies and Role Playing, Spiritual Direction with the Elderly, Spiritual Direction with Gay/Lesbian Persons, and Special Issues with Women/Men in Spiritual Direction” and other topics.

The theme for the eight weekends of **Year One, Knowledge of God and the Judeo-Christian Tradition**, includes Biblical, Patristic, Medieval, Reformation, Celtic, World Religions, Mystics, and Creation Spiritualities. The eighth weekend scheduled in August is Discernment of Call. The theme for the seven weekend of **Year Two, Knowledge of Self and Graced Human Development** includes Listening Skills, 12 Step Spirituality, Masculine and Feminine Spirituality, Christian Maturity, Psychotherapy and Spiritual Direction, Ignatian Discernment, and Ethics in Spiritual Direction.

### **Second Year Direction/Supervision**

Second year students begin practicing spiritual direction, meeting one directee monthly and receiving supervision from the Souljourners staff on the Souljourners weekend. Supervision is from 2:00 until 3:00 on those weekend.

The schedule of the weekends is arranged to meet the needs of church ministers and others who need to be home on Sunday. Arrival time is 1:30 - 2:00 pm on Friday. Departure time is 4:30 on Saturday.

Emphasis is placed on *the practice of prayer and the forming of Christian community* through praying the Liturgy of the Hours and attending, if so desired, the Eucharistic celebration with the monastic community of Mount St. Scholastica.

Participants will be assigned a faculty advisor with whom they will meet during the monthly sessions. Participants will also be assigned to a small group in which they will have the opportunity to assimilate the essentials of the courses and practice the skills of spiritual direction

In August, before the third years students enter into the practicum year, they will participate in a three-day silent retreat directed by the Souljourners staff. **This retreat is followed immediately with the Pre-Practicum Workshop.**

During the practicum year, each student is to meet monthly with two directees during the nine-month period. They will also meet each month with an approved supervisor with not more than four practicum students in a group for the supervision experience.

Dr. Rev. Margaret Guenther, former Director of the Center for Christian Spirituality at General Theological Seminary in New York City is our principal speaker for the intensive summer residency program. She has authored a number of books. Among them, *Holy Listening*, *Toward Holy Ground* and *The Practice of Prayer*.

**Our ecumenical faculty/staff includes:**

Rev. Dr. Jim Brandt (Lutheran), Kansas City, MO, Rev. Jim Gordon, (Presbyterian), Kansas City, MO, Dr. Kathryn Damiano (Quaker), Wichita, KS, Dr. Vern Barnet (Unitarian Universalist), Kansas City, MO, Sr. Lucy Slinger, Ph.D, FSPA (Roman Catholic), LaCrosse, WI, Fr. James Blumeyer, SJ, (Roman Catholic), Kansas City, MO, Lucy Abbott-Tucker (Roman Catholic), Berwin IL, Dr. Ernest Jenkins (Lutheran), Lawrence, KS, Matt Johnson (Methodist), Wichita, KS, Cori Pursell (Episcopalian), Kansas City, MO, Phillip St. Romain (Roman Catholic), Wichita, KS, Lisa Whitlow (Episcopalian), Kansas City, MO, Mark Williams (Church of Christ), Wichita, KS, Mary Kay Whitacre (Roman Catholic), Olathe, KS, Sr. Mary Pat Johnson, SCL, (Roman Catholic), Kansas City, KS

**Benedictine Sisters –Staff/Adjunct Staff**

Sr. Judith Sutera, OSB, Sr. Therese Elias, OSB, Sr. Esther Fangman, OSB, Sr. Janelle Maes, OSB, Sr. Evelyn Gregory, OSB, Sr. Irene Nowell, OSB, Sr. Marcia Ziska, OSB, Sr. Linda Zahner, OSB, Sr. Micaela Randolph, OSB Sr. Sheila Carroll, OSF, all of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison.

**For further information**, contact Sr. Micaela Randolph, OSB, Director of Souljourners, Sophia Center, 751 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Atchison, Kansas 66002.  
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