

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

CCIW care for ordination candidates (*apprentice track* or *new in care*) as well as new transfers includes provision of a Spiritual Director following the initial meeting with the Regional Committee on Ministry. This Spiritual Director is a ***Companion on the Journey*** (*quarterly contact*) and the relationship is supported by the region up to one year after ordination or transfer completion.

You are welcome, of course, to continue with your current director (*if you are already meeting with a Spiritual Director*). Please share your current spiritual director's name and contact information with the "Coordinator" so they may be welcomed and receive: CCIW Guidelines for Spiritual Directors, Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry of Christian Church (DOC) in IL/WI; and, how they report quarterly contacts to receive the appropriate honorarium.

I pray information provided on this sheet is helpful. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Grace and peace,

Arvil Bass

Rev. Dr. Arvil Bass, CCIW Coordinator of Spiritual Directors
(309) 573-5250 | arvil_mmc@yahoo.com

+ + +

What Goes on In Spiritual Direction?¹

1. Listening
2. Clarifying the directee's image of God
3. Helping the directee clarify his/her experience in its human and spiritual dimension
4. Identification and clarification of the directee's value-system
5. Affirmation
6. Challenge
7. Discernment
8. Teaching
9. Integration
10. Accountability
11. Help through the desert and darkness
12. Prayer.

¹Taken from Shaun McCarty, S.T., "Basics in Spiritual Direction," in *Handbook of Spirituality for Ministers*, vol. I, edited by Robert J. Wicks (Paulist Press, 1995)

[OVER]

How is Spiritual Direction "Spiritual"?²

In terms of *intent*:

- Both director and directee, in the relationship, intend the growth of the directee in a love relationship with God and others in Christ in contrast to (though not to the exclusion of) the resolution of problems or the development of human potential.

In terms of *orientation*:

- As the relationship continues, the attitude toward, the content of and the fruits from the director-directee relationship manifest a compatibility with and support for the directee's love relationship with God and others in Christ.

In terms of *attitude*:

- There is an explicit awareness and acknowledgement of a "third party presence" (the Holy Spirit) as the principal agent of growth with the director as an important, but a secondary enabler of growth.
- The helping skills of the director are perceived as enabling the directee to be more open to the Holy Spirit and responsible for his or her own growth through this relationship.

In terms of *content*:

- The exchange between the director and directee stays focused on the directee's relationship to God and others in Christ and the nurturance of these relationships in prayer.
- The directee's faith journey stays in focus.
- The search continues to be for God (and consequently God's will) in dealing with the issues of the directee's life.
- As issues in the directee's life are discussed, there is an openness to the transcendent dimension of life.

In terms of the *fruits* of the relationship:

- The exchanges lead primarily to growth in responsible self-surrender of both director and directee to the influences of the Holy Spirit in contrast to (though not necessarily to the exclusion of) greater self-awareness, self-determination and self-actualization.

²Adapted from Shaun McCarty, S.T., "Basics in Spiritual Direction," in *Handbook of Spirituality for Ministers*, vol. I, edited by Robert J. Wicks (Paulist Press, 1995)