

Center for Spiritual Formation

Revised September 2025

Ministry of Spiritual Direction Agreement to Abide by Ethical Guidelines

The Ministry of Spiritual Direction (MSD) training is offered by the Center for Spiritual Formation. Ethical conduct is an integral aspect of the MSD program. The Center for Spiritual Formation encourages ethical behavior for both students and graduates of MSD as we keep the sacred trust of soul work and holy listening.

The Center for Spiritual Formation is asking MSD students to agree to:

- 1) Participate fully in all of the monthly gatherings. There is nothing to 'make up' if you miss a Friday evening; however, keep in mind that the Friday night gatherings are an extremely important part of the MSD experience. This is time to get to know one another and to practice the art of holy listening, which is a key element of spiritual direction. If a Saturday class is missed, we ask that you complete any class prep work and watch the video of the session. If you have any questions after watching the video, please have a conversation with one of your peers or the Zoom host moderator.
- 2) Complete course readings and incorporate continuous learning practices as you build your spiritual direction library and do due diligence with the recommended reading list.
- 3) During year one and two, meet regularly with a spiritual director. This practice is also critical as you enter the vocational work of spiritual direction after graduation.
- 4) During year two, begin meeting with a spiritual directee. During this time, you would be a spiritual director in training. While in training, it would not be appropriate to accept any payment or gifts.
- 5) As you begin meeting with directees, also begin participating in supervision, which is part of the MSD program. You may also participate in group supervision programs offered by the Center. You can also search for an individual supervisor or other group supervision programs through Spiritual Directors International.
- 6) Abide by the ethical guidelines set forth by Spiritual Directors International (SDI).

A copy of the Guidelines for Ethical Conduct from Spiritual Directors International can be found at the following link. It is helpful to review this guide on a regular basis during your participation in MSD training and after completion of the program.

https://www.sdicompanions.org/docs/guidelines/Flip/guidelines_ethical_conduct.html

A Prayer for Ethical Practice For Students and Graduates of the Ministry of Spiritual Direction with the Center for Spiritual Formation

God of love and light, I ask for your illumination on my path as a spiritual director. Help me to co-labor with Your Spirit honestly and with integrity. When I resist, give me a willing heart to yield my will to yours. When I stumble, give me the humility to confess and receive your grace. Christ, your life rhythms of community and solitude are the model I long to follow. Help me to model my life after yours until the yoke is easy and the burden is truly light. I commit my journey to you in prayer, wise counsel through meeting with my spiritual director and by submitting to supervision. Help me be curious rather than arrogant; compassionate rather than judgmental; and open to Your love when I am prone to be afraid. May all of my life weave together in wholeness. Always in the name of Christ. Amen.