

- Please include a payment of \$30 for an application fee, payable to Apostles Anglican Church.
- If you are accepted into The Conversatio Course, a \$300 payment will be required to reserve your place in the upcoming cohort.

**THE CONVERSATIO COURSE**  
**APPLICATION FOR ASPIRING SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS**

**Personal Information**

Name	
Address	
Email Address	
Telephone	
Date of Birth	
Marital Status	
Highest Academic Degree and Program of Study	
Current Occupation	
Church Membership (name of church, denomination, length of membership)	

## Questions

*Please respond to each of the following questions*

Are you currently in spiritual direction? If so, for how long and with whom?

Have you been particularly influenced by certain writers, speakers, or books on spiritual direction? If so, please discuss.

Are you drawn toward a particular tradition of Christian spirituality: Benedictine, Franciscan, Ignatian, Orthodox, or other? If so, please discuss.

What is your purpose in applying to this program? What do you hope to achieve?

## Questions

Do you feel called to the vocation of spiritual direction? If so, have you engaged others in discerning/affirming your call to spiritual direction? Please describe the process and results of that discernment.

Are you currently enrolled in another ministry program or course of study? If yes, please share details about the time commitment of the course of study. Would this program overlap with the dates for the Conversatio Course?

We have arranged this course to make it conducive for lay people who are working in full-time jobs. Even still, the program will require a regular commitment of time, study, and practical ministry outside of cohort weekends. Will you have enough time and energy to complete the Conversatio Course given your current time commitments to family, church, work, etc.?

## Questions

Have you discussed your interest in this spiritual direction program with the pastoral leadership of your local congregation? Do you have their support for such a ministry?

## Spiritual Autobiography

Please write a spiritual autobiography including the following topics:

- family history and childhood/adolescent religious involvement
- adult spiritual development and church engagement
- formal religious education/training, if any, i.e., seminary, workshops, courses
- primary spiritual influences (persons, books, experiences)
- call to spiritual direction

You may certainly include other pertinent information as desired.

## Letters of Recommendation

Please request two letters of support/recommendation to be sent directly to St. Benedict's Center for Spiritual Formation:

1. from your priest/pastor or from a lay minister with whom you have worked closely and for an extended period
2. from a long-term friend or colleague outside your church

Each letter should address those observed gifts and traits which lead to the recommendation.

Completed recommendation letters may be sent via:

*Email*

[office@stbenedict-csf.org](mailto:office@stbenedict-csf.org)

## Letters of Recommendation

USPS  
St. Benedict's Center for Spiritual Formation  
1540 Robinson Road  
Knoxville, TN 37923

## Tuition and Program Costs

The total cost of the *Conversatio* Course is \$2,500.

- This cost includes tuition, books, and a cohort retreat.
  - A criminal background check, which is also included in the above costs, will be conducted after acceptance and enrollment in *The Conversatio* Course.
  - Meals during weekend modules will be provided by the St Benedict Center.
- Travel and accommodation costs will be assumed by the participant and is not included in the total program cost.

## Scholarship Needs

Scholarship funds are available for students who are unable to pay the full costs of the *Conversatio* Course.

- Are you able to finance the program costs?  Yes  No
- Would you like to request scholarship assistance for the *Conversatio* Course?  
 Yes  No

# DOCTRINAL AFFIRMATIONS

The *Conversatio* Course offered through the St Benedict Center is based on the tradition of classical, orthodox spiritual direction. Theology affects instruction, discussion, and practical training experiences. All aspects of our training program seek to be anchored in ancient Christian theology. As such, we require that all applicants affirm the following statements of faith:

## THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## ADDITIONAL DOCTRINAL AFFIRMATIONS

### THE HOLY TRINITY

There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker, and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there be three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

### THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, containing all things necessary for salvation, and to be the final authority and unchangeable standard for Christian faith and life. Whatever is not

contained in Scripture, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required as an article of the Faith necessary for salvation.

#### THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS CHRIST

We gladly proclaim and submit to the unique and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, humanity's only Savior from sin, judgement and hell, who lived the life we could not live and died the death that we deserve. By his atoning death and glorious resurrection, he secured the redemption of all who come to him in repentance and faith. While we may hope for – and certainly pray for and work toward – the salvation of all those who have not heard of Christ or, having heard, have rejected him, we cannot assert the salvation of all (universalism) as a tenet of the Faith, nor may we suppose or teach that there is any other way to the Father but through Jesus Christ alone.

#### THE SACRAMENTS

We confess Baptism and the Supper of the Lord to be Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself in the Gospel. Baptism is the sacrament of initiation into the Body of Christ through which one expresses repentance, proclaims faith, accepts the Lordship of Christ, and takes one's place in the Church. Holy Eucharist (Communion, the Lord's Supper) is the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ by which one is spiritually nourished and strengthened for the work of the kingdom.

#### ON GENDER AND CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

We acknowledge God's creation of humankind as male and female and the unchangeable standard of Christian marriage between one man and one woman as the proper place for sexual intimacy and the basis of the family.

I affirm the doctrines stated above as my own belief and will uphold these teachings in my training with the St Benedict Center for Spiritual Formation

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>