



AN AFILIATE OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION & DIRECTION MINISTRIES

**Certificate Program in  
Christian Formation and Spiritual Companionship  
2023-2025**

Offered partially on-line and hopefully in person in Nevada, beginning in October 2023  
by Christian Formation & Direction Ministries Nevada

**Christian Formation & Direction Ministries Nevada** is one of five Affiliates of CFDM, a non-profit Christian ministry incorporated in California in 1996. Its mission is to lead others into a deeper love for and intimacy with the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator, Life Giver, Sustainer, through spiritual formation and the art of spiritual companionship...particularly through the training, resourcing, networking, and supervising of spiritual companions for ministry. For more information, visit our website at [www.cfdmnev.com](http://www.cfdmnev.com).

**The goal of the Certificate Program** in Christian Formation and Spiritual Companionship is to help the student

- To mature into deeper intimacy and friendship with the Triune God
- To develop a theology of Christian spirituality across a broad spectrum by drawing on and integrating insights from scripture, theology, historical traditions, psychology and related fields
- To discover the richness of one's own spiritual tradition, in relation to one's spiritual formation and spiritual journey, along with the gifts and blessings of other Christian traditions — looking at these through our own lens and examining our own tradition with a critical eye
- To learn about, and engage in, spiritual habits and practices that facilitate spiritual growth
- To grow in balancing prayer, study and service and in developing practical wisdom based on scripture, tradition, reason, and experience
- To gain experience and skills in providing spiritual companionship in a Christ-centered program and context
- To participate in a creative partnership among Christian spiritual companions within a regional network

**Certificate Program Events and Dates**

**Year One** [Focus on Christian formation and introduction to the art of spiritual companionship. These dates are tentative and may change according to COVID restrictions and travel issues, but for now we can put them on the calendar.]

October 6 - 8, 2023 - Spiritual Companionship, Friday afternoon thru Sunday afternoon in person at Mercy Center, Auburn, CA

February 9-11, 2024 - Spiritual Formation, Friday afternoon thru Sunday afternoon (online)

May 3-5, 2024 – Spiritual Practices; Discernment; Friday afternoon thru Sunday afternoon (online)

By arrangement Monthly retreat days

By arrangement Monthly individual meetings with a spiritual companion

**Year Two** [For those continuing, focused now entirely on supervised training in spiritual companionship]

October 2024	Spiritual Companionship and Supervision, Friday afternoon thru Sunday afternoon (online)
February 2025	Experiences as Companions, Friday afternoon thru Sunday afternoon (online)
May 2025	Experiences in Supervision; Graduation; Friday afternoon thru Sunday afternoon in person at Mercy Center, Auburn, CA
By arrangement	Regular meeting with one's spiritual companion
By arrangement	Monthly individual retreat days
TBD	Monthly supervision for companions given
By arrangement	Participation in a network of spiritual companions

During Years 1 and 2, when we do not gather for the training session weekends, there will also be monthly coffee chats on Zoom on the second Saturdays of the month at 10AM as follows: November 11, 2023; December 9, 2023; January 13, 2024; March 9, 2024; April 13, 2024; June 8, 2024; July 13, 2024; August 10, 2024; September 14, 2024; November 9, 2024; December 14, 2024; January

### **Costs**

Cost for the two-year program is \$4,500. In the first year, the \$2,000 tuition covers nine days of instruction and practicum, in-person gathering at Mercy Center, Auburn, CA, faculty resources, administrative costs, reprints and other materials. In the second-year the \$2,500 tuition covers nine days of instruction and practicum, in-person gathering at Mercy Center, Auburn, CA, faculty resources, administrative costs, reprints and other materials, and monthly individual or group supervision with a trained supervisor for ongoing evaluation and training. Not included are costs for transportation, overnight accommodations (except for two in-person gatherings at Mercy Center, Auburn, CA), and fees, if any, for individual spiritual companionship and monthly personal retreat days. A \$50 non-refundable processing fee is due with application and \$500 is due at time of admission to the program [to reserve a place — space is limited to 12 students] and remaining tuition for the Program is due in advance on a yearly or quarterly basis, or by arrangement.

### **Entry Requirements**

Admission is open to individuals [lay or clergy] from any faith tradition with the understanding that much of the content, worship and prayer will be from the Christian tradition. The general expectation is that an applicant will have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent and/or have training or demonstrable knowledge of scripture and theology. Life experience is highly valued as is awareness of a potential call to be a spiritual companion. Admission to the program is granted when the following steps have been completed:

- A completed application submitted by September 1, 2023. Earlier application is encouraged because the size of a class is limited and may be closed before the deadline for application.
- A \$50 non-refundable processing fee, made out to CFDM Nevada.
- A statement detailing educational background, work experience, spiritual journey, involvement in church and service, and interest in spiritual formation and spiritual companionship [see attached sheet].
- Two letters of reference [one pastoral and one personal].
- An interview with at least one of the Program Faculty/Staff.

## **Faculty**

Jacci Turner, Program Director of CFDM-Nevada, spiritual companion, supervisor, licensed marriage and family therapist.

Kenneth Larson, spiritual companion, CFDM Going Deeper director in Las Vegas and CFDM Board member.

Joan Peyser, Administrative Director of CFDM-Nevada, spiritual companion, alumna of The Living School for Action and Contemplation.

Other: TBD

## **Additional faculty/staff—**

A possible Faculty Intern

Guest speakers and support staff

**For more information or an application, you may access and download materials from our website — [www.cfdmnev.com](http://www.cfdmnev.com) — or contact Jacci Turner, Program Director of CFDM Nevada, [jaccit@gmail.com](mailto:jaccit@gmail.com) or (775) 544-2512**



## APPLICATION

### Certificate Program in Christian Formation and Spiritual Companionship in Nevada, 2023-2025

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church connection: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Attach the following to this application:

- A statement detailing educational background, work experience, spiritual journey, involvement in church and service, and interest in the program and in becoming a spiritual companion—see questions on the next page of this form.
- Two letters of reference [one pastoral and one personal]—see attached form
- A \$50 non-refundable processing fee made out to CFDM Nevada

Upon receipt of all application materials, you will be contacted for an interview.

**Note:** Admission is open to individuals [lay or clergy] from any faith tradition with the understanding that much of the content, worship and prayer will be from the Christian tradition. The general expectation is that an applicant will have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent and/or have training or demonstrable knowledge of scripture and theology. Life experience is highly valued as is awareness of a potential call to be a spiritual companion. Admission to the program is granted by the Admission Committee [composed of faculty and staff of the Certificate Program] following receipt of a completed application and an interview with one or more members of the Admissions Committee.

**Cost:** for the two-year program is \$4,500. In the first year, the \$2,000 tuition covers nine days of instruction and practicum, in-person gathering at Mercy Center, Auburn, CA, faculty resources, administrative costs, reprints and other materials. In the second year the \$2,500 tuition covers nine days of instruction and practicum, in-person gathering at Mercy Center, Auburn, CA, faculty resources, administrative costs, reprints and other materials, and monthly individual or group supervision with a trained supervisor for ongoing evaluation and training. Not included are costs for transportation, overnight accommodations (except for two in-person gatherings at Mercy Center, Auburn, CA) and fees, if any, for individual spiritual companionship and monthly personal retreat days. A \$50 non-refundable processing fee is due with application and \$500 is due at time of admission to the program [to reserve a place—space is limited to 12 students] and remaining tuition for the Program is due in advance on a yearly or quarterly basis, or by arrangement.

**If finances are the only thing keeping you from joining the program, please talk to us about scholarship help.**

I understand and agree to the program costs as stipulated above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Send completed application to Jacci Turner, [jaccit@gmail.com](mailto:jaccit@gmail.com), or by surface mail to 1106 The Strand, Reno, NV 89503.**

**Questions to consider in completing your personal statement  
as part of the application process**

1. How would you describe your understanding of spiritual formation? Of spiritual companioning?
2. Do you have, or have you ever had, a spiritual companion. If so, for how long? What has been your experience and what has been most helpful to you in this relationship?
3. Have you ever had any spiritual formation or spiritual companion training? If so, please describe.
4. Do you have any theological training (i.e. seminary, bible school, courses, workshops)? Please be specific.
5. How/where did you find out about this program in spiritual formation and companioning?
6. What do you hope to receive from this program?
7. What is going on internally within you that is leading you to seek out spiritual formation and companioning training?
8. If you are married, describe your spouse's response to your desire to be in this program.
9. Describe your spiritual journey and your relationship with God at this time.
10. What do you see as your strengths? Weaknesses?
11. Describe any steps you have taken or experiences you have explored (i.e. counseling, spiritual companioning, journaling, group work, etc.) to pursue emotional health and growth.
12. We believe it is God's desire that individuals not only grow in experiential knowledge of God but also in experiential knowledge of self. Therefore, one main focus of this program will be to take an in-depth and very honest look at yourself and your life – your relationship with God, your relationship with others, your giftings, strengths, weaknesses, wounds, addictions, etc.

What is your response within as you read the above statement about this program?



**Certificate Program in Christian Formation and Spiritual Companionship in Nevada  
2023-2025 Recommendation Form**  
[make copies as needed]

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** \_\_\_\_\_

When completed email this form to [jaccit@gmail.com](mailto:jaccit@gmail.com), or by surface mail to Jacci at 1106 The Strand, Reno NV 89503

The above-named applicant has applied for admission to our two-year training program in Christian Formation and Spiritual Companionship, with the goal of engaging in Christian formation and possibly becoming a spiritual companion. Please respond to the following questions with that in mind.

1. Name some characteristics showing suitability for this ministry:

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2. What are the strengths of this person?

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3. In what areas could this person grow?

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4. How long have you known this person? In what capacity?

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5. How would you characterize this person's relationship with God?

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6. How would you characterize this person's relationship with his/her family and friends as well as with those to whom he/she ministers?

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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Your Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Your position \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_