

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING!

Inaugural Cohort 2015



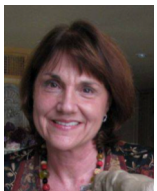
CenterQuest is providing me with an incredibly rich experience of learning to truly see, listen, and discern in transformative ways through the recognition of the critical indicators of the presence and work of the Spirit in my life and others. The greatest gift of the program, however, has to be the people! The depth and experience of the leadership, from our instructors to our amazing mentors is outstanding. The opportunity to interact weekly with my insightful cohort is pure gift! What a tremendous privilege it is to be a part of the School of Spiritual Direction inaugural cohort!

- **Melodie Kersten, Frisco, TX**



As a long-time Presbyterian pastor, I am very thankful for my involvement with the CenterQuest School of Spiritual Direction program! The uniqueness of both in-person and online interaction with a broadly based ecumenical cohort allows for an experiential learning process that has far exceeded my expectations. The online modality is incredibly well-organized, accessible, and easy to navigate. Engagement with a close-knit and diverse small group as a central part of the program makes this a deeply enriching experience. As a participant, I highly recommend the CQ SSD program!

- **Rev. Mike Harbert, Pasadena, CA**



Center Quest's School of Spiritual Direction is a community of "followers" training to serve with skills developed through contemplative practices such as listening prayer, discernment, and many others. The training we receive here is deep and embracing the best that the international spiritual direction community has to offer. We get to practice the foundational aspects of the contemplative life in a supportive community that allows us to develop into a deeper expression of our true selves. Following Jesus for me has meant leaving a fruitful career of 30+ years to discover a new one as a spiritual director. It is truly life-changing!

- **Luisa Johnson, Thousand Oaks, CA**



The CenterQuest School of Spiritual Direction has been a tremendous gift to me. It is developing me personally and in my capabilities of offering authentic ministry to others in ways that have exceeded my expectations. The content, instruction, and experiences have all been outstanding, but the most exceptional part of the experience has been my interactions with the other people involved. All of this will continue shaping me for years to come.

- **Daniel Harris, Midland, TX**



It has been a great joy being involved in the SSD program through CQ. The emphasis on the many facets of contemplative prayer and the praxis opportunities have been of great value to me beyond mere theoretical study. In the process of growing in my knowledge and understanding of spiritual direction, my own spirit is being challenged, deepened and my relationship with Christ wonderfully enhanced. The ecumenical and diversified nature of the program makes for a much richer and more challenging interaction among the participants. I am very thankful for the opportunity to be participating in this program.

- Gretchen Roderick, *New Delhi, India*



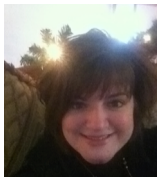
In CenterQuest I found exactly the spiritual direction school I was looking for. Based on the work on Henri Nouwen and endorsed by Richard Rohr, it has amazing components that work together to provide a deep, rich learning environment. The curriculum is well-developed and each month builds upon the previous studies. The texts, on-line interactions, assignments and readings all cultivate skills in us in a balanced way. And best of all, the in-class and on-line work with our colleagues is priceless.

- Rosemary Lohndorf, *Louisville, CO*



Coming from the Philippines, I had so many questions about SSD concerning qualifications, cost, and workload. I soon realized after getting in that all these have become immaterial when you know you're meeting with God in very deep ways. Every penny is worth it. The benefits far outweigh the cost. The online training is a lot of work—more than I expected—but already, it has made a grand difference to who I am today and how I minister to others. The people I work with back home are reaping the benefits of my involvement with CenterQuest!

- Lita Quimson, *Manila, Philippines*



Spiritual direction is not about steering someone towards a particular set of beliefs. Rather, it's about companioning another in his or her journey with God, right where they are, every step of the way. The ecumenical nature of CenterQuest School of Spiritual Direction has developed my ability to meet others in a more grace-filled place, deepening and broadening my perspectives as I journey with others from a variety of traditions. Through this I've realized that at the core of each of our journeys is the heart of God, beating in love for everyone, regardless of our denominational labels.

- Melissa Novak, *Scott Township, PA*