

WHAT MAKES CENTERQUEST SSD TRAINING DISTINCT?

TEN COMPELLING REASONS TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER OUR PROGRAM



1. **Hybrid Model.** The unique combination of residency and online learning modality makes the program readily accessible and doable for people with current jobs and ministry work without sacrificing their present involvements.
2. **Focused in Structure and Approach.** Ten course modules taught over a one-year period by instructors passionate for their subject matter provide both continuous training with sustained momentum and focused time to explore and experience the most essential topics for the contemplative practice of spiritual direction.
3. **Diverse and Ecumenically Broad.** We cater to participants who value being a part of a diverse learning community. Our selection process deliberately factors in diversity in geographical, cultural, educational, and ministerial experience as well as faith orientation within the broad Christian spectrum.
4. **Global in Reach.** The sustained use of online learning during the one-year program makes it accessible and attractive to participants from all over the world who minister internationally and it gives the program both a global reach and significant worldwide impact.
5. **Led by Seasoned Practitioners.** Our program residency speakers, online instructors, mentors, and supervisors are not only considered seasoned experts in their fields but practicing spiritual directors themselves.
6. **Communal in Emphasis.** Our CQ SSD Covenant invites our program staff, mentors, supervisors, instructors and cohort participants to identify themselves as a learning community whose integrity is founded in keeping their covenant commitments to one another. Dynamics of spiritual community and group spiritual direction are employed throughout the entire duration of the program.
7. **Mentor-Guided.** Throughout the program, every participant meets—both one-on-one and in a small group—with a mentor who supports and assists the participant as he/she seeks to engage the learning process, practice ongoing self-assessment, and discern a personal call to the ministry of spiritual direction. Mentors facilitate their mentoring groups in a process of shared guidance.
8. **Contemplative in Focus.** The program is intent on introducing and immersing participants in formats of learning and practicing spiritual direction that encourage them to grow in their own capacity for contemplation as a way of being, living, seeing, listening, and perceiving reality in an integrated and holistic fashion.
9. **Experiential and Praxis-Driven.** Each course module provides a highly experiential and practical approach to learning through personal and corporate exercises as well as shared reflection involving participants in an intentional cycle of action/reflection/integration.
10. **Influenced by Henri Nouwen.** Our curriculum incorporates the key contributions of Nouwen with regard to Christian spirituality and spiritual direction and encourages practical appropriation of the disciplines he illuminates so compellingly in his writings: solitude, silence, community, contemplation, presence, prayer, listening, discernment, hospitality, and integration.