

## **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS A-NZ**

The General Meeting of the Association in 1999 introduced the category of Associate Membership.

### **The following assumptions were made in accordance with the ACSD Covenant:**

- Spiritual Direction is a contracted one to one relationship over a period of time involving intentional meetings. We recognise that Spiritual Direction skills may be involved in other situations, but we do not consider these meetings or encounters to be classified as Spiritual Direction.
- One of the significant purposes of the ACSD is to recognise the professionalism of, and provide credibility for, those engaged in the ministry of Spiritual Direction. This implies that members of the Association are sufficiently qualified, and have an agreed level of experience and competence.
- An aspect regarding membership that appears to be emerging is that some applicants are applying for membership with very limited experience as Spiritual Directors. Some appear to have accompanied only one or two people in their training years. While we understand that these people are wanting on-going support and training, we believe that before they are able to be given full accreditation as members, they require more practical experience.

### **Process:**

- 1 Applicants, after completing their training, apply for Associate Membership of the ACSD. Their application would proceed in the way that is currently practised, i.e. application form supported by two referees and an interview by two ACSD members, one of whom is from the Executive.
- 2 After training, having completed a further 50 hours of supervised practical experience of giving Spiritual Direction, applicants would then be eligible to apply for full membership of the ACSD.
- 3 These 50 hours and the competence of the applicant are confirmed by their supervisor on the form provided which is then sent to the Secretary of the ACSD. (If the applicant has already completed the 50 hours, he/she would be admitted to full membership).
- 4 As Associate Members, the Directors are able to participate fully in any training events organised by the Association and are included as Associates on the annual list of Spiritual Directors.