

Member Formation Criteria

FOUNDATIONAL ASPECTS OF FORMATION OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS APPLYING FOR ACSDANZ MEMBERSHIP (2003)

The following aspects of formation for the ministry of spiritual direction are listed as a guide for interview of applicants for membership of the Association of Christian Spiritual Directors. They will therefore be of interest to those who are in formation for the ministry of spiritual direction. The intention has not been to create an exclusive or exhaustive list of criteria for membership. Rather, interviewers will use these descriptions with discernment and with awareness that spiritual direction is more than simply a set of skills.

PRACTICAL SKILLS:

Development of:

Basic –

* Communication/listening skills * Understanding of feelings * Contracting

Commitment to ongoing skills development, for example –

* Dream Work * IDT * Focusing, etc.

* Working with images/metaphors * Guided imagination * Facilitating ritual

Practicum –

* With 2-3 ongoing directees * Monthly supervision

* Use of verbatims, case studies etc. * Over at least 2 years

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Evidence of:

* Significant life experience

* Understanding the process of personal transformation/conversion

* Ability to reflect on one's own life and ministry

* Sustained experience of receiving regular spiritual direction

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Evidence of:

* Biblical & theological literacy at an informed level

* Awareness of varying models of spiritual direction

* Clear grasp of the role of spiritual director and the differences between therapy, counselling, supervision and

spiritual direction

* Appropriate director-directee relationships

* Implementation of professional boundaries, ethical practice, contracting

* Awareness of psychological aspects of spiritual direction, including personality differences, (counter-)

transference, sexuality, when to refer, etc.

SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS

Exploration of Spirituality:

Familiarity with traditions of –

* Contemplative spirituality * Directed retreats * Lectio Divina * Discernment

* Forms of prayer * Spiritual journey * Faith development * Images of God

Some insight into contemporary spirituality, e.g. –

* Creation spirituality * Issues of justice * Spirituality of Aotearoa

Undergirding commitment to:

• Inclusiveness – ecumenical, theological, gender, sexual orientation, language, etc.

• Tangata whenua, Treaty of Waitangi and multi-cultural awareness

• Respectful and ethical practice

• Contemplative spirituality

• Creating an openness and hospitality within their own interior life

• Willingness to journey into the mystery of life