



MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE

Christian Spiritual Formation Certificate Program

Vision, Mission and Values
What Makes This Program Unique

Vision Statement

The Christian Spiritual Formation Certificate (CSFC) program seeks to provide learning opportunities in which believers can grow into the fullness of maturity in Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:14-15)

Mission Statement

The Christian Spiritual Formation Certificate Program exists to invite all people into a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ that is marked by the two greatest commandments: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” and “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31). This involves the transformation of our entire being, by God's Spirit, into the likeness of Christ.

In light of this command, the CSFC program has been created to intentionally assist individuals to radically deepen their relationship with Christ and be inwardly conformed to His image in order to invite others to follow Christ and usher in the kingdom of God. These goals are achieved in an atmosphere of trust, honesty and integrity laying the groundwork for participants to vulnerably risk sharing their stories and encountering God’s invitation to healing and wholeness.

Values

We seek to live out the following key values:

- Radical devotion to Jesus Christ
- Community as the key avenue by which God does his best work
- Eagerness to grow in humility and self-reflection before God
- Vulnerability and authenticity with each other
- Prayer as our lifeline to living the kingdom of God here and now
- Spiritual disciplines as a way of life
- Commitment to being a life long learner

- A robust Christian spirituality that includes:
 - **Salvational.** It is the gracious gift of life that flows from God's heart of love beginning with conversion to Christ through repentance and faith and the miracle of the new birth; it enlarges through growth into the likeness of Jesus Christ; and it will finally consummate with the perfecting of body and soul at the Savior's second coming (I John 3:2)
 - **Trinitarian.** A satisfying relationship with the living God who exists as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (2Cor. 13:14).
 - **Revelational.** It is framed and nourished by the Word of God rightly unfolded by sound principles of interpretation
 - **Wholistic.** God desires to redeem us physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.
 - **Pneumatic.** Our faith is empowered by the Holy Spirit which testifies to Christ, heals deep wounds, and restores our souls.
 - **Balanced.** Growing in Christ involves a balance between knowing, being and doing.

What the Program Provides

The Christian Spiritual Formation program provides a comprehensive and intense learning environment that engages each participant in a multi-level experience leading to personal growth and a deeper walk and faith in Christ.

Outcomes

Through the enabling of the Holy Spirit through lectures, quality teaching, spiritual direction groups and curriculum participants will realize a deeper and more intimate relationship with Christ evidencing in measurable transformational changes in their lives and relationships. Participants will discover what they see to be God's call on their life and realize their particular place in furthering the kingdom of God.

What Is Required

Those participating in this program will need to commit their time, emotional and spiritual resources to reflecting and growing into a deeper, more vibrant relationship with Christ.

Key Elements That Make This Program Unique

1. Participants are self-selected
2. An atmosphere is created that fosters the following key elements:
 - a. Safety and security – respect and honoring of each individual is shown regardless of their orientation in life and faith expressions
 - b. Trust is developed with participants being encouraged to honestly share their thoughts and feelings without being shamed, judged or criticized.
 - c. Questions can be posed and dialogue is encouraged regarding questions of one's faith.
 - d. The serene setting of the retreat center provides an environment conducive to prayer, solitude and reflection.

3. Communion and worship are an important part of the weekends emphasizing the importance of the Eucharist and sacraments.
4. The spiritual direction groups are a significant aspect of the program where participants are able, in a confidential and safe environment, tell their story with God filled with disappointments as well as joy. These groups provide a place within the context of 7-9 individuals to experience in real time what it means to be loved and respected, validated, listened to and hear all of which is bathed in safety and security
5. The curriculum binder that are provided for each attendee following the retreats are a work of art and have been designed to engage all of one's senses and appeal to a variety of learning style. The curriculum binders can be reviewed many times over in one's lifetime. It is not uncommon for participants to report back that they are going through the binder content again on their own after the program. A total of four binders are provided for each year. There are twelve weeks of lesson plans that incorporate the following:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Weekly theme
 - c. Scripture that ties into the theme
 - d. Prayers and poems
 - e. Classic literature from Christian writers
 - f. Opportunities for reflection
 - g. Sermons
 - h. Artwork
 - i. Journal questions
 - j. Examen

What the Leaders Provide

Ray and Nancy bring a set of intangibles that mark the quality and depth of the program.

1. They are both licensed therapists for over 35 years each.
2. They deeply value a balanced integration of their faith and doctrinal perspectives with truth-based understanding of human growth and development.
3. Nancy has been a teaching professor at Moody Bible Institute which has afforded her the opportunity to develop and refine both her professional perspectives on teaching as well as her spiritual gifts as a teacher. She is passionate about helping people grow and mature in their relationship with Jesus Christ. In her teaching she engages the participants with probing questions in order to lead them to truth in an interactive way.
4. Ray has gifts in leading groups and facilitating the process of aiding group members in addressing the blocks in their own formation with empathy, wisdom and discernment. He leads the group to collectively listen to the Spirit of God as they listen to each person tell their story. As each attendee chooses to be vulnerable and share they soon learn that whatever the issue, problem or pain expressed God will meet them and bring them into a healthy resolution and awareness.

5. Ray and Nancy have been married for 42 years and have chosen to work hard towards having their marriage be a healthy one. Their vulnerability, trust, respect and honesty with each other gets translated to the group as a whole and helps to set the stage for group members to consider risking themselves in the sharing of their thoughts, feelings and faith.
6. There is also an online spiritual direction zoom call that participants are able to participate half way through the 12-week curriculum. This provides participants with a connection with each other as well as address questions and concerns that may arise during the course of the learning.
7. People grow to trust that we have confidence, knowledge and have experienced what we are inviting them to experience with God.
8. There is value added with a husband and wife team leading the cohort. Participants are able to experience the masculine and feminine voices in a singular message.