

**SELAH SPIRITUAL DIRECTION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**  
**for MINISTRY PREPARATION**  
**at**  
**Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**

This is a co-curricular program, offering select MASF students a Certificate in Spiritual Direction through Leadership Transformations' Selah Certificate Program. It is administrated through LTI's Selah Program, Dr. Susan P Currie, Director.

**Program Philosophy and Requirements**

**Residency Retreats**

We believe that the skills necessary to attentive listening are learned best in attentive space—away from the busyness and distractions of daily responsibilities, and away from the temptation to think of spiritual direction as a collection of academic “information” to be mastered in a classroom. Hence Gordon-Conwell's Selah track is designed around 5 required retreats, beginning with a 1-day retreat in September, followed by 4 one-night overnight retreats at a local retreat center, offered during one of the Reading Weeks each semester. Each overnight retreat will begin at 9am on the opening day and end at 5pm the next day. Students are responsible for their transportation to and from the retreat center; carpooling options will be supported. (\* See below for dates.)

In between each Residency retreat, students will be required to continue course work and course practice, which will provide much of the growth we bring into our retreat times together. (See details below.) Readings pertaining to the theme of each retreat will be assigned ahead of time, and a brief reflection paper will be due at each retreat, summarizing the congruence and dissonance between the readings and the students' experience of God in prayer and in spiritual direction, given and received. Additional brief practice-based assignments will be due for each retreat.

**Received Spiritual Direction**

Students are required to meet with a trained spiritual director 3 times each semester for each of their 4 semesters in the program. This balances out to approximately once a month during each semester. Meetings last approximately one hour. Selah will help students connect with local spiritual directors. Students are expected to pay their spiritual directors directly for each session, at a rate negotiated between them.

**Offered Spiritual Direction**

Beginning in the second semester of their first year in the program, students are expected to offer regular, ongoing spiritual direction to two directees, meeting 3 times each semester for the remaining 3 semesters of the program. Related to these meetings, students will complete two written 1-page forms each month (3x each semester), for review with their Selah faculty Supervisor.

## **Supervision**

Students will meet monthly in a mentoring/supervision relationship with one of Selah's faculty (3x each semester). In these Supervision relationships, students will receive encouragement and feedback on their practice of spiritual direction as well as their interaction with and appropriation of the course material.

## **Overview of Program Requirements**

### **Year 1**

- Monthly meetings to receive spiritual direction from a trained spiritual director (3x fall semester, 3x spring semester)
- Monthly meetings to offer spiritual direction to two directees (beginning second semester; 3 times to each of two directees in the spring semester)
- Monthly meetings with a Selah faculty Supervisor: 3x in fall semester (to check in and review your coursework); 3x in spring semester (to review coursework in general as well as your practice of spiritual direction) (6 meetings total in Year 1)
- Attendance at day-long Introductory Selah Retreat in September, and at one-night overnight Selah Retreats at a retreat center, once each semester during October and February Reading Weeks
- Completion of the assignments for each Residency Retreat: the readings, and the Reflection Paper on those readings, and the practice-based Focus assignment

### **Year 2**

- Monthly meetings to receive spiritual direction from a trained spiritual director (3x fall semester, 3x spring semester)
- Monthly meetings to offer spiritual direction to two directees (3x to each of two directees in fall semester, 3x to each of two directees in spring semester)
- Monthly meetings with a Selah faculty Supervisor, 3x in fall semester, 3x in spring semester (to review coursework in general as well as your practice of spiritual direction) (6 meetings total in Year 2)
- Attendance at overnight Selah Residency Retreats at a retreat center, once each semester during October and February Reading Weeks
- Completion of the assignments for each Residency Retreat: the readings, and the Reflection Paper on those readings, and the practice-based Focus assignment

## **Student Qualifications**

- A developmental maturity that demonstrates consistent experience of intentional reflection on your life with God, including some familiarity with the central practices of meditative Scripture reading, listening prayer, reflective journaling, and personal retreats with components of silence and solitude.
- Previous experience of being companioned in paying attention to your life in God. (While this may have been experienced primarily as a mentoring/discipling/soul friend model, students enrolling in Selah are expected to begin meeting in an intentional spiritual direction relationship with a trained and experienced spiritual director as soon as they begin their time at Gordon-Conwell.)

- A felt call to companion others in their growing attention to God's presence and shaping work in them.
- A demonstrated experience of having offered spiritual companionship to others. (While this may have been in a mentoring or soul friend model in the past, once a student enrolls in Selah they are expected to begin offering formalized spiritual direction to at least 2 people by the beginning of the second semester of the program.)
- Commitment to Personal Spiritual Practices: Students will be intentional and regular in their practice of the spiritual disciplines of Scripture reading, prayer, and reflection. Additionally, they will have some sort of identity in/accountability to the body of Christ as a worshipping community.

#### **Application Process:**

- Submit your Application Form, Application Essay, and 2 reference letters or emails (one from a pastor, one from someone who knows you in a spiritual companionship way—someone who has had an ongoing relationship with you of helping you tend to the life of your soul in prayerful, attentive ways), to the Director of Selah by July 31 of the year you enroll in the MASF degree program. (It takes 2 full academic years to complete the Selah program—September of year one through April of year two.)
- Interview with the Director of Selah (in person or phone/ Skype)
- If/ once you're accepted into the program, you'll be given Selah's Financial Worksheet to fill out, demonstrating your Tuition Payment Plan. (This includes referencing any financial support you may receive through the seminary, and/or through other sources such as your home church or ministry support system.)
- Your place in Selah will be held with a \$380 deposit check or credit card payment, payable to Leadership Transformations Inc. The remaining \$3,420 tuition may be paid in a lump sum (due Oct 1) or via a monthly payment plan (with an added \$90 payment plan fee for paying monthly); 18 monthly payments of \$195/month will be billed to your credit card beginning on October 1 of your enrollment year and ending on March 1 of your completion year. Tuition covers all Selah Residency Retreats—room and board at retreat centers, faculty costs; and all Selah Supervision meetings and oversight. Students are responsible for purchase of course books, and for their payments to their own spiritual director for monthly received spiritual direction during the length of the program.]

\*\* Gordon-Conwell is offering a \$1000 scholarship to the first 5 students accepted into the Selah Certificate track. This will reduce the Selah track tuition to \$2800, with a deposit of \$280, and final payment made either with a lump sum payment of \$2520 or monthly payments of \$145 billed to your credit card over 18 months.

\* Dates of Retreats for 2013-2015 cohort:

- Saturday September 21, 2013 (one-day, on campus)
- Monday October 14 -Tuesday October 15, 2013 (Mon mid-morning to Tues late afternoon)

- Monday February 17 – Tuesday February 18, 2014 (Mon mid-morning to Tues late afternoon)
- Monday October 13 – Tuesday October 14, 2014 (Mon mid-morning to Tues late afternoon)
- Monday February 16 – Tuesday February 17, 2015 (Mon mid-morning to Tues late afternoon)