

Course Offerings:

- Introduction to Spiritual Guidance
- Journey of the Soul and Listening as an Act of Justice
- Learning to Listen in Painful and Anxious Places
- Discernment in the Journey: Joining Contemplation and Action
- Discernment with Communities: Incarnational Soul Tending
- Missional Imagination of the Spiritual Director in Context

What to Expect:

- Taking time for personal reflection, solitude and the experience of Christian spiritual practices
- Connecting in a learning community of peers, lay and clergy
- Receiving spiritual direction for yourself throughout the entire course.
- Participating in group instruction and small group practice and reflection
- Engaging in reading and home-based experiential learning in preparation for each retreat
- Reflecting your learning through writing or other expressive means
- Receiving guidance in discerning gifts and calling toward a spiritual direction practice
- Offering supervised spiritual guidance to another during the course.

Course Requirements

Although there are no specific educational requirements for this training, those applying should have an active spiritual life, a deep love for all God's people, strength in purposeful listening, embrace diversity, be in spiritual direction, and have personal time needed for the six retreats and course expectations.

NOTE: Rolling Ridge's "Way of the Heart" program provides an excellent foundation for "Gateways to God."

How To Apply

1. Please respond to the "Spiritual Autobiography" questions on the back of this brochure and email your responses to Beth Garnaas-Holmes at GatewaystoGod@rollingridge.org
2. Please contact two references to send a recommendation letter for you to Beth Garnaas-Holmes by email at GatewaystoGod@rollingridge.org or by postal mail to:
Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center
Attn: Gateways to God
660 Great Pond Road
North Andover, MA 01845
3. Please submit a \$100 non-refundable application fee with your application materials. This fee can be made online at www.rollingridge.org OR postal mailed to the address above (checks made payable to *Rolling Ridge*).

Applications are received until September 1, 2022 (or until class fills). Apply early as space is limited. Acceptance is on a rolling basis. You will be notified by the Gateways Director of your acceptance.

For more information contact Gateways Director, Beth Garnaas-Holmes at GatewaystoGod@rollingridge.org



Gateways to God Staff

Our Instructor: Dr. Heidi Miller

Our Small Group Supervisors

Beth Garnaas-Holmes, Gayle Kerr, Ruth Roemer and Deadra Ashton

Our Gateways Director: Beth Garnaas-Holmes

Course Fees and Requirements

The course fee includes course tuition and accommodations (note: books, travel, and other incidentals are not included)

Payments:

PLAN A: (2 payments)

- \$2300 one month after acceptance into the program
- \$2300 by May 5, 2023

PLAN B: (3 Payments)

- \$1570 one month after acceptance into the program
- \$1570 by May 5, 2023
- \$1570 by January 5, 2024

Due to the nature of this program, there are **no refunds** after the start of the course.

- Limited scholarships are available. Contact Gateways Director for details.
- CEUs available
- UMC clergy are eligible for MEF grants.
- Boston University School of Theology has a process to provide credits from this program toward Certification in Spiritual Formation in the United Methodist Church.

Retreat Schedule:

- #1 – September 19-22, 2022
- #2 – January 20-23, 2023
- #3 – May 15-18, 2023
- #4 – September 18-21, 2023
- #5 – January 26-29, 2024
- #6 – May 3-6, 2024

Training in Missional Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction: The art and skill of spiritual companionship, paying loving attention to God's presence and invitations within the everyday events and rhythms of our lives

Missional: Living and listening deep into Spirit and wide into my world.

Missional Spiritual Direction training equips us to listen and co-discern how God is present and incarnate. *How* God's love shows up in the flesh – in the hands and feet of our lives – matters: within the multi-contextual and multi-cultural life of the church, neighborhood and world.

Our Instructor: Dr. Heidi Miller



With more than 20 years in academic and non-profit settings, Heidi A Miller, Ph.D. currently serves as Director and Assistant Professor of the Master's in Practical Theology at Pfeiffer University in Charlotte, NC. Her areas of teaching, research, and writing focus on transformative leadership, spirituality, transition and trauma, justice, and worship. Heidi designs and facilitates curriculum in spiritual direction and soul tending in one-on-one, small group, community, congregational, and organizational contexts.

Spiritual Autobiography Application Questions

These questions are designed to help you in your own discernment and sense of readiness for training in deep listening and spiritual companionship in this way. Please complete and email the following to Beth Garnaas-Holmes at GatewaystoGod@rollingridge.org

List your Contact Information: name, address, phone, email address, emergency contact

Respond to the following:

1. Describe your earliest religious/spiritual experiences.
2. Who or what are the persons, books, and experiences which have influenced your life and faith journey?
3. Explain how your experience and understanding of God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit has developed and grown. Who or what is the Divine for you now?
4. Describe how your relationship with God and journey of spiritual formation is nurtured and fed.
5. What experience do you have in offering or receiving spiritual direction or companionship?
6. What draws you to the ministry of spiritual direction, and in particular the ministry of missional spiritual direction?
7. Describe the ways in which you presently engage in spiritual expressions of service or ministry.

Provide Two Recommendations:

Please have two letters of recommendation sent to Beth Garnaas-Holmes via email at GatewaystoGod@rollingridge.org, or via postal mail to Rolling Ridge.

For Laity: Please supply one recommendation from your pastor and one from another person who knows of your readiness, maturity, and interest in spiritual direction.

For Clergy/Religious: Please supply two recommendations from those who know of your readiness, maturity, and interest in spiritual direction. One recommendation should be from someone in a community you have served.

Gateways to God

Opening doors through deep listening in
spiritual companionship



A two-year training
in Missional Spiritual Direction

Faculty Instructor: *Dr. Heidi Miller*

SEPTEMBER 2022-MAY 2024

Rolling Ridge
Retreat and Conference Center