



CENTER FOR SACRED STUDIES

Ministerial Training

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css.ministrytraining@gmail.com

Becoming a Minister of Prayer through the Center for Sacred Studies (CSS) online ministry training program prepares one to assist others as they move through the many transitions of life. Directed study creates the opportunity to explore specific methodologies, practices, theories, traditions, beliefs, scriptures, and philosophies, as well as allowing for the integration of individual spiritual experiences. In addition to developing the skills and knowledge to act as a support to others, this process is designed to enlighten an individual's practice of worship and daily living—for the purpose of living life as a “walking prayer”.

Individuals who successfully complete the course of training may be ordained as a Minister of Prayer, and will be qualified to conduct ceremonies, facilitate study groups, and mentor others in the process of spiritual growth unique to each individual.

Program Details

The two-year on-line program, which begins once per year on May 1, consists of 22 modules: 11 months' instruction each year, plus an annual 5-day retreat at Wildwood retreat center in the Bay Area of Northern California. The current cost of tuition and fees is \$5500, or \$2750 per year. An Auditing Option (which does not lead to ordination) is available for \$100 per month, or \$1100 per year. Financial Aid applications can be submitted for consideration, please contact the Registrar.

Participation in the program requires access to a computer and to a reasonably fast connection to the Internet. You should also be familiar with basic computer skills, including Internet use, email, and word processing.

Registration is accepted at any time during the year, but instruction begins for new students only once per year, on May 1. Full-time students are expected to follow the program structure month by month and graduate two years after they begin.

For more information or an application form, email the Registrar at css.ministrytraining@gmail.com.

Our Philosophy

To be a Minister of Prayer is to walk in the world *in dialogue with Creation*. This approach to life is based on the teachings of the “Original Peoples” — who related to the world by “listening” to the world around them as a form of guidance from Spirit. From this perspective, everything is considered as an expression of Spirit. This is a way of being that values being led by the heart, rather than the head.

The teachings and ways of the First Nation Peoples have been passed down from generation to generation, and link us with the forces of the Earth, the fundamental laws of Nature, and the original wisdom teachings — which are based on respect for all Life. The prevailing worldview of contemporary society is to look at the world through a materialistic lens — one that is competitive and wants to acquire things — a worldview that is based on fear rather than love.

The Ministry of Prayer curriculum has been consciously designed to transform this lens of perception into one that returns the individual, and thereby the collective, to the “original matrix” — one that dialogues with Creation as a way of life. This is a process that facilitates the path of discovering one’s own gifts of healing, what the Original Peoples call one’s “medicine”. This is a perspective that views every being as a unique herb in the garden of Creation. It’s a perspective that encourages one to cultivate that herb — to follow the Spirit of their true Self — and, ultimately, to actualize one’s Self.

Ministry Program

Ministers of Prayer are qualified to offer spiritually based guidance, counsel and support to individuals, groups, families, and communities regarding issues as diverse as birth, death, marriage, spiritual crisis, and the spiritual dimensions of healing. Ministers can also empower others, through awareness and clarity, to create and experience a state of peaceful well-being in their everyday lives.

Program of Study

The Ministry of Prayer program comprises a global learning circle, offering two years of instruction. Students in the virtual school complete one module per month, for 22 months.

A module consists of

- On-line video and audio instruction from the Instructor for that month’s module;
- On-line video and audio from an honored Elder;
- Assigned reading and applied practice exercises;
- A 500-word student reflection paper;
- A telephone consultation with your assigned Mentor;
- and 1-2 telephone conference calls: an Instructor call, and a “Dialogue with Jyoti”, CSS Spiritual Director.

In addition, students are asked to participate twice a year in a Maitri Breathwork workshop or **qualifying alternative breathwork in your area**, and to gather for an end-of-year retreat at Wildwood Retreat Center located in the coastal ranges of Northern Sonoma County, California. The retreats are required for completion of the training/ordination. <http://wildwoodfoundation.org/>

Auditing: Students who elect the Auditing Option have access to the audio and video content and participate in the conference calls. However, they do not have a mentor or reflection papers, and they do not participate in the breathwork workshops or in the annual retreats. The Auditing Option does not lead to ordination.

How it Works:

Student Monthly Requirements

Online Monthly Teaching Module (3+ hours) (note: self-paced study)

Master Teacher audio/video Instruction (1.5 hours)

Elders Corner (45 min.) - Online Elder audio/video instruction

Applied Practice, i.e. meditation (30 minutes)

Monthly Assigned Reading (variable)

Reflection Paper assignment (time variable – 500-1000 words in length)

Dialogue with Jyoti (1 hour)

Group Telephone conference call with Spiritual Director Jyoti

Instructor Conference call (1 hour)

Group Telephone Conference Call with Instructor for the month

Mentor Connection (45 minutes)

Connect with mentor on the phone (45 minutes)

Yearly Activities

(Retreat room & board and Breathwork session fees not included in tuition)

Retreat

1 five-day annual intensive retreat at Wildwood. Room and board (meals and bed) will be charged at the then current rates.

Breathworks

1 full day Breathwork session twice per year (4 total), offered at various locations. A full day, usually 9am – 7pm. Rates vary by location and instructor. The type of Breathwork varies by location: Maitri, Holotropic, and other types are accepted. Please confirm this with your Mentor/Director that it will satisfy the requirement.

Course of Study: Modules and Instructors

Year One Modules

May 1 – March 31	Instructor	Elders Corner	Date
1. Following the flow of the Prayer	Jyoti	Bob Boyll	May Y1
2. How to work the process	Jyoti and Russell D. Park, Ph.D.	Beatrice LV Holy Dance	June Y1
3. Choosing your spiritual practice	Nancy Rowe, Ph.D.	Rita LV Holy Dance	July Y1
4. Walking your prayer	Ryan Brandenburg	Aama Bombo	Aug Y1
5. Transpersonal Psychology	Russell D. Park, Ph.D	Tsering Gyaltong	Sept Y1
6. Mystical Faiths	Gloria Karpinski	Bernadette	Oct Y1
7. World Trauma	Alena Hrabcakova	Agnes Baker Pilgrim	Nov Y1
8. Death and Dying	Ann Rosencranz, M.A.	Rita Blumenstein	Dec Y1
9. Prayer as a Science	Ryan Brandenburg	Julieta	Jan Y1
10. Prayer As Action	Darlene Hunter	Clara	Feb Y1
11. Dialogue with Creation	Omileye Achikeobi-Lewis	Makere Ruka Te Kurako	Mar Y1
RETREAT	Late March		

Year Two Modules

May 1 – March 31	Instructor	Elders Corner	Date
12. Earth-Based Ways of Prayer	Jyoti	Rev. Elouise Oliver	May Y2
13. Plant Medicine	Ann Rosencranz, Bob Boyll	Nadine Martin	June Y2
14. Archetypal Medicine	Suil	Padrinho Alfredo	July Y2
15. Ritual	Luisah Teish	Luisah Teish	Aug Y2
16. Prophecy	Omileye Achikeobi-Lewis	Marie Meade	Sept Y2
17. Spirituality & Practical Feet	Matthew & Terces Engelhart	Loretta Afraid of Bear Cook	Oct Y2
18. Communities	Jyoti	Eli Painted Crow	Nov Y2
19. Sustainability	Ryan Brandenburg	Gina Rose Halpern	Dec Y2
20. What is Your Personal Code of Ethics	Russell D. Park, Ph.D.	Peter Yarrow	Jan Y2
21. Unity as a Practice	Barbara & Charlie Whitfield	Victoria	Feb Y2
22. Practical Applications of Ministry	Darlene Hunter	New Elder - TBD	Mar Y2
RETREAT	Mid-April		

Visit www.centerforsacredstudies.org/mtp-areas-of-study/ for more information about the courses and the instructors.

Ministry Training Program Staff

Jyoti (Jeneane Prevatt, Ph.D.) – Spiritual Director

Jyoti, Spiritual Director of the Center for Sacred Studies, is an internationally renowned spiritual advisor and psychological consultant. Her background includes education in cross-cultural spiritual practices, social services program development, training at the Jung Institute in Switzerland, and extensive international travel. She has devoted her life to bringing unity to the planet, by facilitating the development of alliances between individuals who are the guardians of indigenous culture and traditional Medicine ways.

To find out more about Jyoti and her published works, visit www.mothersgrace.com.

Hann, MA, CMT

– Director of Educational Programs and Mentor Liaison

Wendy Cummins, CSS Director of Educational Programs, CSS Minister, Maitri Certified Breathworker, Wendy is a founding member of Kayumari and the Ministry Training Program. She has been a teacher in the SG school for 11 years. Wendy works as a Spiritual Counselor, Body and Energy Worker as well as a mentor for students in the Maitri Breathwork Certification Program and the Ministry Training Program. Wendy is dedicated to spiritual and personal growth; committed to supporting people going deeper within themselves.

About the Center for Sacred Studies

The Center for Sacred Studies is dedicated to sustaining ways of life based on collaboration and reciprocity with the Earth and all Her beings.

CSS creates opportunities for individuals from different traditions to meet and share their ways of life, heal relations, create collaborative relationships, and combine resources in order to manifest solutions to the challenges that currently threaten the global village.

CSS activities include providing prayer services, ceremonies, and gatherings for worship according to various traditions. The purpose of these offerings is to invite individuals, families, and communities to develop devotion, and to strengthen their relationship to the Divine.

To learn more about CSS, see www.centerforsacredstudies.org

Contact Us

For more information or for application materials, please contact:

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