

# Our Call to Soul Healing

Ensuring Spiritual Care for Marginalized People

**Online Formation Program in Soul Care**  
Program Director Vie Thorgren, DMin

**15-month program**  
**June 2023 - August 2024**



**Restoring Connections**

formerly known as the  
Center for Spirituality at Work

Are you companioning people in poverty and wondering how to include spiritual care? As you serve people struggling with trauma and mental health issues, have you wondered how you can support them? Are you longing for a renewal in service? We invite you to join our next international learning cohort.

For more information and to apply, please visit:  
**[www.restoringconnections.org](http://www.restoringconnections.org)**

## Soul care and spiritual presence for those who are most neglected

We have been involved in the preparation and support of spiritual directors and all those who serve on the margins for 35 years, training more than 650 individuals on 6 continents. Along with cultural competency and special skills for working with marginalized people, there is an emphasis on trauma-informed care, mental health issues, and specific training in secondary trauma. A 2020 survey shows our graduates are providing soul care for people in prison, unsheltered individuals, youth in group homes, survivors of human trafficking, women in transition, migrants and refugees, wounded veterans, and homebound individuals.

### Important Online Dates for 2023-2024 Cohort

- Application Deadline - April 21, 2023
- Opening Webinar - June 13, 2023 (time determined by participants)
- Opening Intensive - July 21-28, 2023
- Twice monthly webinars (dates & times determined by participants)
- Monthly supervision (dates & times determined by participants)
- Closing Intensive - August 17-23, 2024

The program was what I needed to update my theology and enhance my work with people on the margins, in my case the chronically ill and terminally ill. It was affirming and life-changing. -*Andy Drance*

This program was an incredible opportunity for me. Not only did it provide me with the guidance, knowledge, and skills needed to accompany others as a spiritual director, but it also helped me to deepen my relationship with God and grow in discernment and prayer in my own life. The program's emphasis on being in relationship with those on the margins was particularly life-giving to me and provided me with many opportunities to learn and grow in my own spiritual journey alongside those that society often overlooks. -*Carla Graham*

I got the confidence and the ability to help people on the streets deepen with God. It also helped me heal and accept my own past. -*Alberta Lopez*

Five years ago, the Lord called my wife and I to serve as spiritual formation missionaries to leaders who are experiencing ministry trauma. Even though we had been in ministry for three decades, we needed to be "retooled." We looked at several programs and were led to Restoring Connections' Formation for Soul Care because of its emphasis on doing spiritual direction with the marginalized. We were not disappointed. It was the best decision for stewarding our calling. -*Kevin Navarro*

Developing and shepherding this program has been a joyful and challenging life-work. It has drawn me more deeply into communion with God and my brothers and sisters on the margins who have been my primary teachers. -*Vie Thorgren*



# Restoring Connections Formation in Soul Care

Are you experiencing a call to the ministry of spiritual direction?

Do you serve and companion people in poverty?

Is now a good time for renewal in your service to others?



**Formation in Soul Care** is an online, international 15-month program animated by a commitment to people in poverty and designed to meet your needs.

## Receive

- Individualized attention
- In-depth supervision

## Integrate

- The rich tradition of spiritual direction
- Spirituality and faith with mental health, human biology and the social sciences
- Cultural competency
- Various models for soul care with groups
- Spirituality and social justice

## Grow

- In your own spiritual life
- In the art of Soul Care
- In interior freedom through sharing with marginalized people
- In discernment as daily practice
- In appreciation for your own giftedness

## Application Deadline

- April 21, 2023

## Program Dates for 2023-24 Cohort

- Cohort Opening Webinar: June 13, 2023
- Opening Intensive: July 21-28, 2023
- Twice Monthly Webinars
- Monthly Supervision
- Closing Intensive: August 17-23, 2024

## Program Cost

- \$1200 includes program materials, instruction, supervision and advising.
- Books extra
- Scholarship assistance available



For more information visit [www.restoringconnections.org](http://www.restoringconnections.org)  
or contact Program Director Vie Thorgren at **303-383-1610x2**



**Restoring Connections**  
formerly the Center for Spirituality at Work

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD  
ONE RELATIONSHIP AT A TIME

**Restoring Connections**  
P.O. Box 102168  
Denver, CO 80250-2168  
303-383-1610  
[www.restoringconnections.org](http://www.restoringconnections.org)  
[vic@restoringconnections.org](mailto:vic@restoringconnections.org)

Dear Friend,

I am pleased to hear of your interest in the Formation Program in Soul Care. The application process for this program includes completion of the following:

- Application form (enclosed).
- Reference from an individual who has known you at least two years (not a family member). This person should be someone able to answer the questions on one of the enclosed reference forms. The reference should be returned directly to our office by mail or to my email.
- Reference from a pastor, ecclesiastical superior or lay minister in a position of authority in your church/congregation. This person should also use one of the enclosed reference forms and return it directly to our office mailing address or to my email.
- An interview with the program facilitators (this will be done by web conference).
- \$50.00 application fee (non-refundable).

All application materials should be sent to my attention at the address given on this letterhead. The application deadline is **April 21, 2023**. Applicants are encouraged to apply to the program as early as possible. Applications will be reviewed as soon as they arrive and you will be contacted for an interview. All interviews will be completed by May 19, 2023.

Admission to the program presumes your commitment to:

- opening webinar June 13 (time determined by class participants)
- both intensive sessions (July 21(evening)–July 28, 2023) and August 17-23, 2024); online time is a few hours each day but participants are asked to reserve the intensives as a retreat week allowing for personal rest, reflection and recreation.
- twice monthly 2-hour webinars (dates determined by class participants)
- monthly supervision with their assigned supervisor (dates determined by participants)
- a soul care practicum and relational presence with people on the margins
- regular reception of spiritual direction

Thank you again for your interest. I hope to have the opportunity for further contact with you.

Sincerely,

Vie Thorgren  
Program Director



**RESTORING CONNECTIONS**  
(formerly the Center for Spirituality at Work)  
**FORMATION IN SOUL CARE**  
**APPLICATION FORM**

P.O. Box 102168  
Denver, CO 80250-2168  
303-383-1610

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[vic@restoringconnections.org](mailto:vic@restoringconnections.org)

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Spiritual Director:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**A. Please answer the following (using a separate sheet of paper) as completely as possible:**

1. Briefly state the reason(s) for your interest in this program.
2. In what context do you expect to use your learning from this program?
3. What has been your own experience of soul care/spiritual direction? As provider? As recipient?
4. At present, what distinctions would you make between counseling, therapy, social work and soul care/spiritual direction?
5. What do you feel are your main liabilities to competency as a spiritual companion to others? What are the areas in which you feel you most need education and training?
6. Identify the faith community of which you are a part. In what ways have you participated in the life of your own faith community? What do you see as your primary commitments in the past? At present?
7. What commitments to your own growth have you made in the past five years?
8. What reading have you done in spirituality/soul care in the past five years?
9. Are you presently involved in direct ministry to the poor and marginalized? If so, please explain. If not, are you willing to make a commitment to some level of contact with the poor during the 15-month interval?

*Over* →

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Please assess your competency in the following areas:**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Superior</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
Knowledge of Scripture					
Knowledge of the various traditions of spirituality					
Theological background					
Spiritual theology					
Understanding of Social Justice issues					
Knowledge of psychology					
Understanding of developmental theory					
Communication skills					
Discernment					

**Please return this form with your non-refundable \$50.00 Application Fee by April 21, 2023 to:**

Dr. Vie Thorgren  
Restoring Connections  
P.O. Box 102168  
Denver, CO 80250-2168  
vie@restoringconnections.org

**Make checks payable to Restoring Connections.**

If you wish to use a credit card, please call 303-383-1610 x 2 to provide CC info.



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To Individuals Providing References:

Restoring Connections recognizes soul care/spiritual direction as a vital ministry and we have committed ourselves to the education and continued development of competent spiritual directors. It is our belief that this ministry involves a personal call that can be verified by the community's experience.

We are grateful that you are willing to assist us with the selection process by serving as a reference for this applicant. We hope that you will take the time to respond fully to the questions on the attached form.

References should be returned no later than **April 21, 2023** via mail or email to:

Vie Thorgren, Director  
Restoring Connections  
P.O. Box 102168  
Denver, CO 80250-2168  
[vic@restoringconnections.org](mailto:vic@restoringconnections.org)

Sincerely,

Vie Thorgren  
Director



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 REFERENCE FORM**

P.O. Box 102168  
 Denver, CO 80250-2168  
 303-383-1610

www.restoringconnections.org  
 vie@restoringconnections.org

Name of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known this person? \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the applicant in the following areas:

Characteristics	Poor	Average	Good	Superior	Outstanding	No Basis for Judgment
Social Awareness and concern						
Emotional maturity						
Ability to work with others						
Ability to relate to others						
Openness to personal growth						
Independence and initiative						
Adaptability						
Common sense						
Openness to criticism						
Communication skills						
Developed value system						
Respect for others						
Quality of affective presence						
Openness to others of different faiths, ethnicities, cultures, economic levels						
Understanding of the Gospel message						
Commitment to Church community						
Lived experience in the Christian tradition						
Basic knowledge of contemporary theology						
Integration of Christian living, prayer life, spirituality						

*Over*



**Please comment (using a separate sheet of paper) on the following based on personal observation and experience with the applicant:**

1. In what kinds of situations have you had the opportunity to directly observe the behavior and quality of relationships of this applicant?
2. Do you personally believe that this applicant is called to the ministry of soul care/spiritual direction? On what evidence do you base your opinion?
3. Do you feel that this applicant has an awareness and recognition of God's presence and activity in his/her life? In what ways have you seen this demonstrated?
4. How is this applicant involved in his/her own faith community?
5. Please give any other information or observations that would be helpful to us in evaluating this person for admission to this certificate program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

May we contact you for further clarification if necessary? \_\_\_\_\_

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