



Graceland
UNIVERSITY 1895

Community of Christ
SEMINARY

Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission

DISCERNMENT FACILITATOR TRAINING

WHO

THIS ONLINE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IS FOR THOSE WHO FEEL CALLED TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING, LEADERSHIP, AND FACILITATION OF GROUP DISCERNMENT PROCESSES. PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE PRACTICAL, HANDS-ON SUPPORT FOR STRUCTURING DISCERNMENT PROCESSES IN DIVERSE CONTEXTS AND RESPONDING TO COMMUNAL DYNAMICS THAT ARISE IN THE DISCERNMENT JOUREY.

WHEN

VISIT WWW.GRACELAND.EDU/CIMM TODAY TO REGISTER FOR THE 2023-2024 COHORT. THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 1, 2023. THERE WILL BE 6 ONLINE SESSIONS INCLUDING BI-MONTHLY ZOOM GATHERINGS FOR YEAR 1 AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE IN PEER SUPPORTED DISCERNMENT REFLECTION GROUPS FOR YEAR 2.

COST

PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE 7 CEUS (CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS) THROUGH COMMUNITY OF CHRIST SEMINARY. THE COST OF THE PROGRAM IS \$100 PER CEU, OR \$700 FOR THE CERTIFICATE.

CONTACT KATIE HARMON-MCLAUGHLIN
(KHARMON@GRACELAND.EDU) FOR MORE
INFORMATION.

DISCERNMENT FACILITATOR TRAINING

Course 1: Foundations of Discernment Leadership and Facilitation

Zoom Gathering: January 14, 2023 12PM-4PM CDT (includes 8 weeks of online engagement)

Participants will develop a posture of deep listening in communities and systems as a core gift and skill of discernment facilitation. This session will explore foundations of discernment in the Christian tradition, theological and scriptural grounding in discernment, and will introduce qualities and competencies of discerning leadership.

Course 2: Discernment as Process: Preparing the Community and Entering the Process

Zoom Gathering: March 11, 2023 12PM-4PM CDT (includes 8 weeks of online engagement)

This session will cover the initial steps of preparing a community for discernment, introduction of discernment in a community with varying levels of understanding, setting appropriate expectations and timelines, creating a community covenant, the prayer for spiritual freedom, and articulating an accurate question that represents the heart of the matter for the discerning community.

Course 3: Discernment as Process: Staying with What is Unfolding

Zoom Gathering: May 13, 2023 12PM-4PM CDT (includes 8 weeks of online engagement)

Session three will address the substantive, holistic invitations of "gathering data" to address the question at hand, listening carefully to movements of consolation and desolation in the group, and staying with what is unfolding. Because this is often the place where communities feel the most stuck, we will address strategies for working through possible frustration or lack of clarity. Participants will receive a variety of practices and tools including guidance for how to structure sessions to be responsive to what is emerging in the group.

Course 4: Discernment as Process: Identifying and Living the Next Faithful Steps

Zoom Gathering: July 8, 2023 12PM-4PM (includes 8 weeks of online engagement)

Session 4 addresses the final movements in the discernment journey including identifying emerging direction, seeking group consensus, praying for confirmation, and taking action. Participants will explore faithful facilitation as possibilities begin to emerge and how to support the group in the movements from process to praxis including invitations for a habit of discernment to guide and inform the community as it moves into the future. Focus will be given to implementation and common questions and issues in bringing a process to closure.

Course 5: Facilitating Communal Discernment: An Adaptive Leadership Practice

Zoom Gathering: September 9, 2023 12PM-4PM (includes 8 weeks of online engagement)

Participants will explore the art and skill of spiritual facilitation as it applies to discernment leadership. Discernment leadership requires structure and planning blended with flexibility and adaptability. Session 5 will discuss the prayer of spiritual freedom for discernment facilitators, navigating the various spiritual and communal movements throughout an entire process, and practical tools for organizing and guiding a group in the fluidity of a dynamic process.

Course 6: Practices and Resources for Discernment Facilitators

Zoom Gathering: November 11, 2023 12PM-4PM (includes 8 weeks of online engagement)

Experienced discernment facilitators draw from a deep reservoir of practices and tools as preparation for responsive leadership within the movements of the discerning community. This session will orient discernment facilitators to resources, practices, and possibilities for a variety of circumstances that might arise throughout a discernment process.

Practicum Groups

The best way to learn discernment facilitation is to engage leadership of the process with a discerning community. Year 2 will offer ongoing encouragement and support for participants through peer-supervised practicum groups that will meet bi-monthly for 1 year. The groups will meet to provide mutual support as facilitators find themselves in different stages and situations along the communal discernment journey.

Primary Instructor: Katie Harmon-McLaughlin, D.Min-c, Community of Christ Seminary Faculty Associate