

Going Deeper:

CLERGY SPIRITUAL LIFE & LEADERSHIP

CLASS OF 2025 | JUNE 2024 – OCTOBER 2025



SHALEM INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION
1226 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005
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"I believe a new church is slowly emerging as this fresh attention to life in the Spirit becomes front and center in a congregation's life."

Tilden Edwards (Shalem Founder)
*Embracing the Call to Spiritual Depth:
Gifts for Contemplative Living*



Clergy everywhere are finding congregational expectations to be overwhelming. Balance is elusive, beauty goes unnoticed, and burnout is common as clergy often find themselves isolated and pulled in many directions. A life meant to be centered in God and absorbed in wonder becomes fragmented by stress and time management issues.

Created to address these challenges, Shalem's clergy program provides an opportunity for clergy of all denominations to practice living from the spiritual heart beneath the self-centered ego and analytical mind.

The Going Deeper program is designed to help clergy cultivate a deeper awareness of Divine Presence and an openness to what is being invited by the Holy—for themselves and their communities. In the face of multi-faceted pressure, clergy are invited to “center down,” as Howard Thurman describes, and listen for the Spirit’s guidance in challenging times.

The descriptive title “Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership” points to the **two primary focal points** of the program:

- An invitation to live from the spiritual heart.
- An invitation to lead and minister from an awareness of Divine Presence and a peace-filled openness to the Spirit’s leading.

The Clergy program’s peer and lay listening groups offer opportunities for shared community and discernment that are refreshingly different from task force and committee work.

Two online residencies near the beginning and end of the program offer space for personal renewal, prayer, worship, contemplative practice, and nurturing community with new clergy friends.

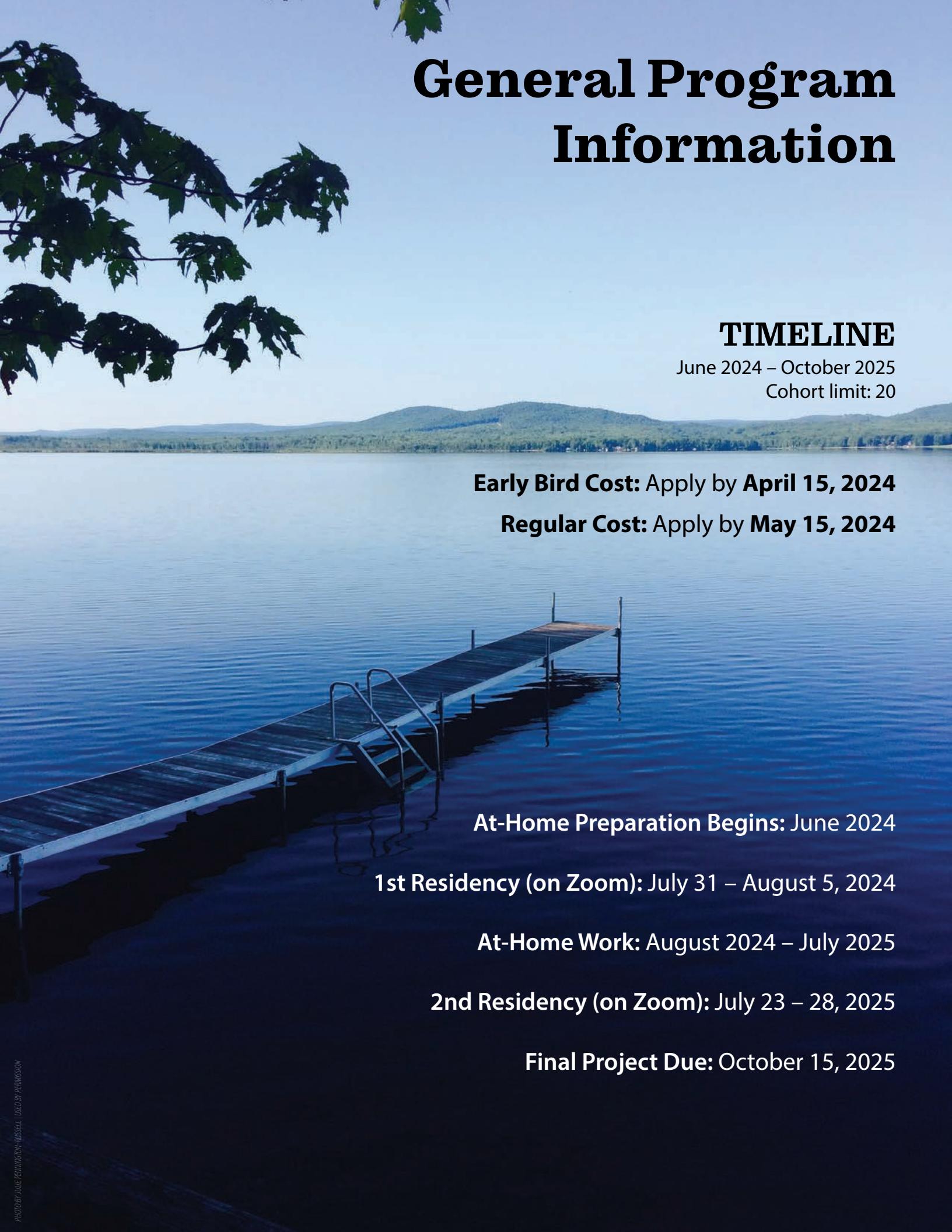
Both the structure and content of *Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership* offer a Christian contemplative orientation that encourages awareness of Divine presence, deep listening to the Spirit, and freedom to embrace a new way of being—personally and pastorally.

"I believe the slow work of redirecting the Church towards the wisdom of contemplative awareness is transforming everything. Each step in the Going Deeper program has taken time...yet change is visible. I am less anxious in ministry—and so is the parish. Decisions are welcomed because they are wisely made and overall, there is a sense of less 'parish business' and more 'spiritual work' afoot."

~ Nicole Uzans (Class of '22)
Anglican Church of Canada,
Nova Scotia



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General Program Information

Timeline

June 2024 – October 2025

Cohort limit: 20

Early Bird Cost: Apply by **April 15, 2024**

Regular Cost: Apply by **May 15, 2024**

At-Home Preparation Begins: June 2024

1st Residency (on Zoom): July 31 – August 5, 2024

At-Home Work: August 2024 – July 2025

2nd Residency (on Zoom): July 23 – 28, 2025

Final Project Due: October 15, 2025

Who Would Benefit from *Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership?*

All clergy who:

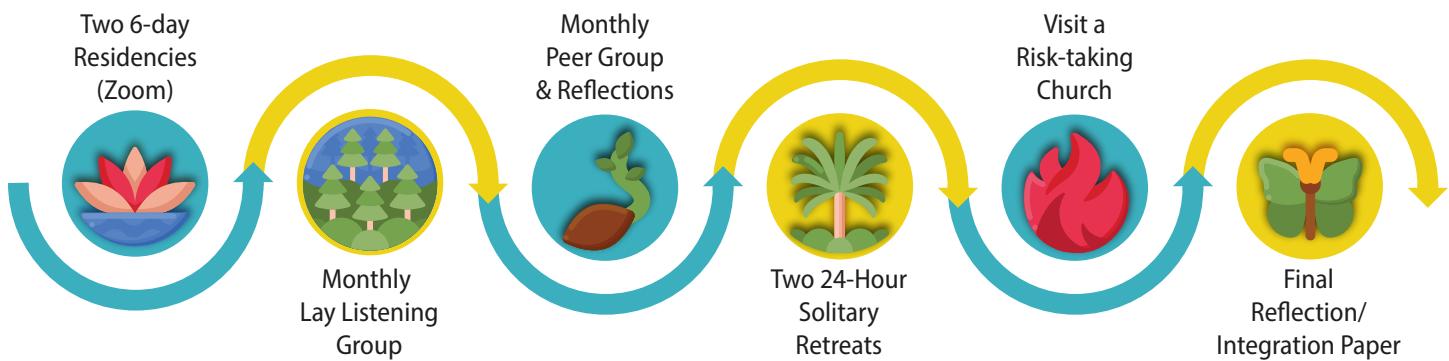
- Lead congregations or faith communities
- Practice as healthcare chaplains, school, and university chaplains
- Come from all denominations
- Yearn for a deeper spiritual life from which to live and minister
- Are in transition to a new faith community or a new chapter of life
- Seek an opportunity to rest and reflect with supportive colleagues
- Desire to bring more of a grounded-in-God self to all relationships
- Yearn for a life-giving prayer practice that undergirds all that is
- Desire to reconnect with an original call to ministry

**Members of clergy support groups already meeting regularly
are welcome to attend this program together.**

"The emergence of true self that has come about since I began this program has become the harmonic in my soul, the gift that keeps on giving, the switch that has turned on the inner light in ways I could never have imagined. The lay listening group that meets each month is simply extraordinary. We have become a soul connection—an *Anam Cara*, if you will—where the commitment to prayerful reflective practice, deep listening and community has allowed God freedom to be God (to use the words of Gerald May)."

Peter Wiltshire (Class of '23)
Melbourne, AU, Uniting Church in Australia

Program Components



Summer Residencies

Two 6-day residencies offer a spacious, prayerful, creative, collegial experience where you will have an opportunity to deepen your appreciation of the many ways God's Spirit is seeking to be alive in your life and leadership. Both residencies will be held on Zoom.

Participate from the beauty of the seashore, the mountains, a lakeside, the desert, or the familiarity and comfort of your own home.



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Residency elements include:

- » Fellowship and inspiration from other contemplative-minded clergy
- » Rest, renewal, and a guided 36-hour Silent Sabbath
- » Honest, spiritual community and the forming of a new network of mutual support and practical learning
- » Presentations by residency staff with individual and small group reflection on themes central to living and leading from the spiritual heart, such as:
 - Nurturing Spirit-led leadership in yourself and your faith community
 - Personal and congregational discernment based on deep listening
 - Experiencing new and ancient practices of contemplative prayer
 - Addressing conflict prayerfully
 - Sacred activism from a contemplative heart
 - African contemplative spirituality for leadership
 - Cultivating a peaceful heart
 - Touching the Holy across faith lines
 - Experiencing oneness with Creation
 - Leading contemplative church business meetings (!!)



At-Home Assignments

- Readings focused on contemplative presence and spiritually-grounded leadership
- Personal spiritual practice supported, if possible, by a spiritual director
- Periodic reflections, deep listening, and caring support with a peer group of clergy participants
- A visit to an innovative, risk-taking church of your choosing
- Create a listening group of laity from your church for spiritual deepening and mutual support
- At least two 24-hour periods of solitary retreat time
- A final reflection/integration paper that invites you to look back with God over your experience in the program to discern what you are being drawn to integrate into your life and leadership.



Program Directors



Emily Johnson Kellar (Co-Director)

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Emily serves as minister of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, UCC in Dartmouth, MA. She earned her MDiv from Andover Newton Theological School, now located in New Haven, CT. A graduate of *Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership* program, Emily also has taken online courses with Shalem and been on the pilgrimage to Assisi. Emily served a previous UCC congregation south of Boston. Emily is a follower of Jesus the Christ and seeks to walk in the way of Love. Emily has a deep love of interreligious dialogue and believes there are many pathways to the Divine.



Julie Pennington-Russell (Co-Director)

First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC,
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Now in her 38th year of pastoral ministry, Julie has served as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Washington, DC, since 2016. She earned her MDiv from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, CA. A graduate of Shalem's *Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership* program, Julie also is completing the *Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance* program and co-led Shalem's 2022 pilgrimage to Assisi. As a follower of Jesus Christ, Julie finds much joy in introducing and integrating contemplative prayer practices into the fabric of congregational life.



Past Presenters

Presenters in the first summer residency
will be announced in the spring of 2024.

Recent presenters include:



Margaret Benefiel



Winston Charles



Michael Battle



Carole Crumley



Ann Dean



Stuart Higginbotham



Jeff Jones



Kirk Byron Jones



Sarah Willie-LeBreton



Liz Ward

Total Cost of the Program

(Includes start-up materials, program staff, and administration fees.)

Early Bird **\$3,400** *(Apply By April 15, 2024)*

Regular cost **\$3,600** *(Apply By May 15, 2024)*



The program fees shown here cover about 75-80% of the total costs. The balance is funded by gifts from donors, and as a result, their prayers as well as their financial support accompany you in this program.

Tuition Assistance: In some cases of financial need, Shalem can offer limited tuition reduction depending on your need and the number of other requests. We ask that you prayerfully consider the amount you can pay and the amount you are requesting. We also encourage you to look for sources of funding from your spiritual communities. If you wish to be considered for reduced tuition, please submit a completed Tuition Assistance Form at the time of your application.

Please contact the Shalem Finance Office (301-897-7334) with any questions.



“For pastors who yearn to delve deeper and serve from the true center of their hearts under the guidance of the Spirit, I wholeheartedly endorse this transformative program.”

Daniel Daeseop Yi (Class of '23)
PCUSA, California

