

REVIVAL OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION WITHIN PROTESTANTISM

Spiritual Direction takes place when two people agree to give their full attention to what God is doing in one or both of their lives and seek to respond in faith.

Eugene Peterson, Presbyterian Pastor

The fact that anybody can do it and at any time must not be construed to mean it can be done casually or indifferently. Spiritual Direction needs to be practiced out of a life immersed in holiness.

Lorraine Everett, Free Methodist Minister

Spiritual Guidance remains an act of faith where 'deep calls unto deep.' This act is no longer the prerogative of ordained clergy.

Martin Engleheim, ELCA Lutheran Pastor

Spiritual Direction at its basis is the process of naming. What is often unnamed is unnoticed. Naming focuses attention. The simple act of naming what you are doing is a part of recovery. The precise name, whether spiritual direction or something else, confers a dignity to the process.

Bill Brandon, Baptist Pastor

Spiritual Direction is a many-colored coat of resources. Abused in an authoritarian time as a propagandist tool to mold a person into conformity with some external model, today all in the church could benefit from a more intentional process of Spiritual Direction.

Tilden Edwards, Episcopal Vicar

Spiritual Companionship is based on the biblical principle that God is always doing something active... that there is always movement of the Spirit in life. This is simply the prayerful act of noticing the familiar and naming the particular...

Lori Peters, UCC Pastor

TRENDS AND DIMENSIONS FOR PROTESTANT SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

- Experience of God in daily life. “God is a God that is alive and present.”
vs. Monastic focus on ascetical and mystical practices
- Emphasis on lay and women’s equality in direction
vs. Clerical/Religious authoritarianism
- Much of direction will be done in small groups
vs. Preference for one-on-one tradition
- Plurality of bible and theological language
approached from a critical and devotional stance
vs. Ecclesiastically ‘approved sources’
- Spiritual Direction will include a concern for social justice
vs. Primary focus on the ‘salvation of the individual’