



Reach For The Best  
In Yourself  
Inspire The Greatness  
In Others

## INTERFAITH SEMINARY PROGRAM

**OneSpirit**  
learning alliance

SPIRITUAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Out of Many. One Spirit.



# Many Paths. One Spirit.

## One Spirit's Vision

To inspire and advance the evolution of sacred consciousness in service to individuals, communities and the earth.

## One Spirit's Mission

Our mission is to offer experiential interfaith and interspiritual education and professional training to support personal transformation and prepare spiritual leaders.

"What makes a good school? To me it seems clear that a good school is one that is constantly engaged in self-examination, in improving itself, in becoming wiser in its ability to both teach and inspire. It's a school that is intent on turning out good people who will help make a better world. It's a school where ideas and ideals are in everyday circulation, the coinage of ordinary transactions.

"A school can educate in ways in which its curriculum cannot. It's the soul of a school— its intangible persona, its character, its principles, its daily life over time, the impressions it makes, the efforts it inspires, and the moral authority it possesses— that helps mold a [person] into an educated, assured, humane, and caring adult."

- Robert Lawrence Smith, A Quaker Book of Wisdom

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**“Once you have been through this program, there is no other way to be than to be of service.”**

## Want to Develop Your Inner Life?

The Interspiritual perspective recognizes that each individual has a unique soul, a personal expression of the life force that births us all. It sees that throughout history and across the globe various expressions of this fundamental Oneness have emerged, and that those expressions share a common foundation of understanding and experience.

By enrolling in a One Spirit program, you will learn how to use (and to support others to use) every experience in life as an opportunity for spiritual evolution. Our heart centered programs contain a deeper curriculum of evolving consciousness and spiritual maturity that will help you to:

- ❖ foster the unique expression of divinity that lies deep within your soul
- ❖ allow that higher wisdom to become the navigator of your life
- ❖ make a transformative positive impact in your life, in your community and in the world around you
- ❖ embody a greater sense of service and lead from a new perspective

Once open, once awake, once aware of the profound interconnectedness and the sanctity of all life, there is simply no other way to be in the world than to be of service.

**Are you being called to a higher level of service?**

**Are you ready to bring mind and heart into harmony as you take your next steps?**

One Spirit Interfaith Seminary will give you a new understanding of your place in the world, a new way to create a life of meaning and purpose and the skills and presence to humbly serve.

# expand.



# O u t o f M a n y . O n e S p i r i t .

Welcome. I am so happy that you have found us.

Many people in our society seek a more meaningful life. However, for many of us, traditional religious expressions and structures have failed to keep pace with a more modern relationship to spiritual life. Rather than externally-mandated beliefs or rites, we seek an authentic spiritual experience that invites us to be wiser and more compassionate, and supports the natural growth of our soul. We seek to make peace with ourselves and to have healthy, authentic relationships in our personal and professional lives.

Interspirituality expresses deep, universal truths about the human condition, but not as a "one-size-fits-all" endeavor. It aims to provide a clear understanding and direct experience of those truths, within a framework that allows each individual to develop an inner life that best supports their own growth. We recognize that all authentic spiritual traditions, at their core, are committed to the common values of peace, respect, wisdom, compassionate service, and love for all creation.

I believe that Interspiritual education must be practice-based and not merely conceptual. Spiritual practice is the means for inner development and transformative change. I also believe that Interspiritual education must focus on opening and expanding the heart as well as awakening the mind. Finally, I believe that Interspiritual education must include opportunities to create community where we can learn to listen deeply with openness, respectfully hold and resolve differences, do our own deep shadow work and practice the skills of leadership, empowerment and sacred service.

One Spirit's heart-centered, experiential programs allow you to open your mind and heart to a deep level of experience and inner wisdom that will inform and guide your inner journey and foster skillful engagement and service in the world.

Our programs have so much to offer and we hope that we will become a part of the next chapter in your life.

*Rev. Diane Berke*

REV. DIANE BERKE, PH.D.,  
FOUNDER & SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



# What is an Interfaith/ Interspiritual Minister?

The Interfaith Seminary Program is a two-year part-time professional training program that leads to ordination as an Interfaith/Interspiritual Minister.

An Interfaith/Interspiritual Minister:

- ❖ is committed to deepening their own relationship to the Divine and supporting others in discovering and deepening theirs.
- ❖ is uniquely qualified to bridge the sacred and secular and to celebrate both diversity and unity, in service to anyone in need, no matter their worldview or tradition of origin
- ❖ assists others in making meaning of life's events and sees all of life's circumstances as opportunities for growth and evolution

An Interfaith/Interspiritual Minister understands that in order to effectively be of service, one must be engaged in an ongoing process of personal healing, emergence and growth. The Interfaith Seminary Program is designed to prepare and support students along their journey of self-discovery and professional development as they forge their own personal ministerial path.

## What if I don't plan on working in formal Ministry?

"One Spirit has offered me tools to be able to live in this world with integrity, honesty and love...and to enrich the lives of those with whom I come in contact."

We see ministry as a way of living and being in the world, not simply or even necessarily as an occupational choice to be a clergy person. One Spirit ministers express their skills and gifts in a multitude of creative ways, always in spiritual service to the values, issues and concerns that touch their own deepest caring and passion.

# What is an Interfaith/ Interspiritual Seminary?

The first year of the Interfaith Seminary Program provides a strong foundation in the Interspiritual perspective of the world religions and faith traditions, contemporary wisdom and personal spiritual development.

Each month students immerse themselves in a particular tradition through reading, lecture, discussion and personal spiritual practice. Emphasis on experiential learning allows students to embody the flavor that each religion brings to the universal truths at the heart of every tradition, as well as develop a clear understanding of the unique aspects of each path.

In addition, first year students will explore:

- ❖ their own personal history and current relationship with the Divine
- ❖ ways to deepen their spiritual life through new insights and spiritual practices
- ❖ principles of conventional and transpersonal psychology
- ❖ the experience of forming authentic community

Second year focuses on the heart of ministry - Skillful Compassionate Service. An Interspiritual perspective is applied to the practice of ministry in all its manifestations, including:

- ❖ the creation of rites and rituals to support individuals, families and communities that bring meaning and depth to life
- ❖ the development of personal and professional code of ethics
- ❖ facilitating liturgy and worship
- ❖ exploration of spiritual leadership
- ❖ spiritual counseling and prayer support
- ❖ being present to the cycles of life including death, dying, and loss
- ❖ self-care and caring for others

# Educational Approach

One Spirit Interfaith Seminary is a two-year part-time professional training program leading to ordination as an Interfaith/Interspiritual Minister. The program is designed to facilitate the process of inner transformation and to develop our capacity to be of service. The seminary program provides an interactive learning experience which includes individual and group sharing, facilitated growth experiences, and structured spiritual exploration in an adult-oriented classroom setting. One Spirit emphasizes direct experience, personal understanding, and intellectual clarity in an atmosphere of genuine community that encourages both individual and interpersonal development.

## Teachers and staff

Rev. Diane Berke is one of the most honored, respected and celebrated teachers in interspiritual education with more than 30 years of experience in educating interfaith Ministers and has received the Huston Smith Interfaith Educator award.

Our strong, diversified and experienced group of Deans skillfully and lovingly shepherd students into ministry. One Spirit's teaching staff is supplemented by an amazing, gifted team of guest presenters.

## Our program offers:

- ❖ a heart-centered teaching style that is experiential and personally transformative
- ❖ an Interfaith/Interspiritual perspective that looks at the deep teachings of the world's wisdom traditions and explores the common foundation of evolving human consciousness
- ❖ a compelling and rigorous curriculum in a safe environment that encourages us to ask meaningful questions, engage in honest self-reflection, and be open to moving beyond our current beliefs and interpretations of reality

# Program Structure

## Classwork

Seminary classes are held one weekend per month. Sessions include opportunities for didactic and experiential learning, dialogue with classmates, experiential and theoretical exploration of the issues or traditions being studied. Personal inner exploration of the issues and topics help each student to further expand and grow their spiritual maturity. Students are required to participate in all classes, either through attending class in New York City or on Live Webstream or by listening to the audio recordings of each class session. The online class website offers a forum for both attending and distance students to explore ideas, share concerns, and learn to minister to one another.

## Homework

Each month there are several homework assignments that include exploration of spiritual beliefs and practices, reflection upon personal experience, life reviews, and creation of rituals and ceremonies. Monthly readings and writing assignments are designed to support classroom work and take you deeper. Dialogue between Deans and students around written assignments are an opportunity to deepen your thinking and expand your experience of the sacred. Students can expect to devote 40 hours per month to their Seminary studies which includes class time, reading, homework and study group.

## Distance Learning

The One Spirit Interfaith Seminary provides a well-developed distance learning component, with more than half of our current student body engaged as distance learners joining us live via Zoom video conferencing. Our distance learners are such an integral and contributing part of the classes that we refer to them as companion learners. Our companion learners are able to ask questions, share reflections, and interact in many ways with the in-class presenters, teachers, deans, and other students using the Zoom videoconference platform.

Companion learning is inherently a different experience than in-person study. It requires a greater degree of independence and self-initiative. Nevertheless, most companion learning students find the training program to be a rich and life-enhancing experience, and develop a strong sense of spiritual community with their classmates and colleagues over the course of the two-year training. Companion learning students are free to attend class whenever feasible. All students, both companion learners and attending students, are required to attend the year-end Intensives held in New York.

## Intensives

Each year of the Seminary program culminates in a four day/three night residential Intensive held just outside of New York City. It is a time for attending and distance learning students and staff to come together. The environment and the program create a profound energy that empowers participants to enter more deeply into the practices and the teachings that they have experienced during the year, and to take the next step on their spiritual journey. All students, both attending and distance learners, are required to participate.

## Ordination

Upon successful completion of all training requirements, students are ordained in a private, sacred ceremony held during the Second-Year Intensive. The title of "Reverend" is conferred upon graduation. A formal public Commencement Ceremony is held at Riverside Church, one of New York City's largest and historic churches. Family and friends are invited to share in this joyous, powerful, and deeply moving commencement celebration.

Student's education is enhanced through:

- ❖ Sacred service
- ❖ Mentors
- ❖ Spiritual practice
- ❖ Study groups
- ❖ Electives
- ❖ Practica



**Please visit [1Spirit.org](http://1Spirit.org)**  
for a more detailed description of our program

# What is Interspirituality?

Beneath the diversity of theological beliefs, rites and observances lies a deeper unity of experience that is our shared spiritual heritage. It is on this deeper ground of experience that we can recognize and embrace one another as brothers and sisters, and help each other become more fully who we are as individuals and as a community.

At their mystical core, all authentic spiritual paths are committed to the common values of peace, compassionate service, and love for all creation. An inner life awakened to responsibility and love naturally expresses itself through engaged spirituality, in *"acts of compassion..., contributing to the transformation of the world and the building of a peace-loving culture that includes everyone."* (The Mystic Heart)

One Spirit was founded to support and foster this work.

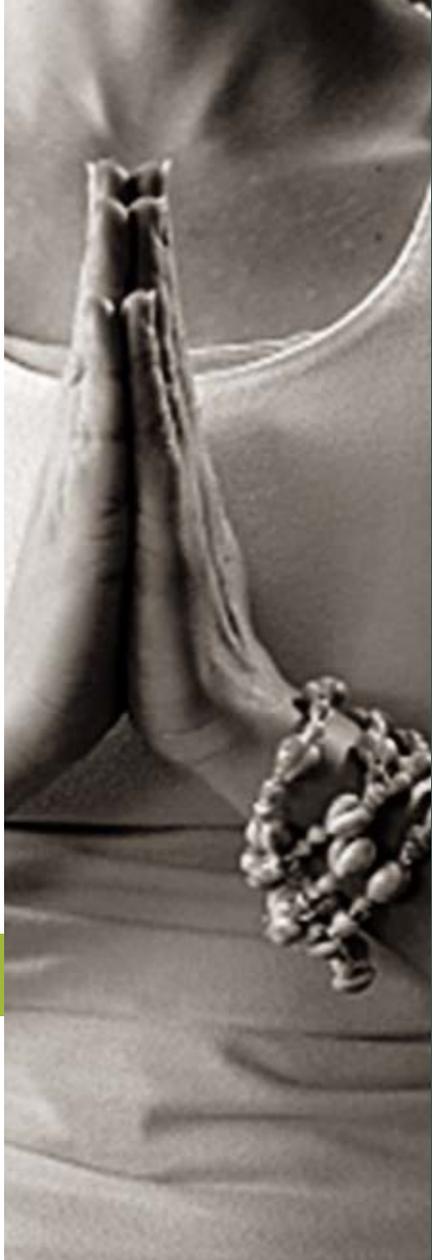
Many Paths. One Spirit.

## Why is Interspirituality Important Today?

We are living in a time of both profound challenge and extraordinary possibility for the human family, a time when the difficulties facing us cannot be solved without an evolutionary leap to a more inclusive level of compassionate human consciousness. Everywhere we look, signs of this evolution have begun to appear, including the emergence of this more inclusive, integrated vision of spirituality.

In our rapidly changing and ever-shrinking multicultural world, many are seeking a deeper more meaningful spiritual experience and expression - one that challenges us to be wiser and more compassionate, and one that both affirms our individual development and enhances our capacity to be in community.

Drawing from the wisdom of other cultures and spiritual traditions helps to support us in developing spiritual maturity and brings meaningful new ways to celebrate the markers and transitions in our lives. As we learn to engage in spiritual practices we cultivate deep reservoirs of peace and access the passionate caring that fosters our creative, skillful engagement with the world around us.



**We hunger  
for a more  
seamless  
life, in which  
every moment  
and every  
encounter is  
infused with  
a sense of the  
sacred.**

# One Spirit's Unique Place in Spiritual Education

As a leader in Interspiritual education, One Spirit's Interfaith Seminary professional training program is redefining ministry and ordination. Our Interfaith/Interspiritual approach weaves together the ancient religious traditions with contemporary knowledge in creative ways relevant to 21st Century life.

We are all now living in a very exciting and compelling time. We desire to live less and less compartmentalized and divided, and more and more with a sense of connection and community. We recognize that the inner work we have been doing in the ashrams,

in the retreat centers and on the yoga mats extends into our personal and professional lives. We see that businesses now encourage mindfulness practices and conscious leadership. Organizational mission statements now include words like wellness, personal development, connection and collaboration, with a focus on how to inspire, support, nurture and encourage their employees.

Our friends and families, once limited by geographical location, are now more diverse, inclusive, global and connected.

This inter-connectivity of our personal, spiritual and business lives is an invitation to expand our understandings, discover our essential oneness, and learn how to engage, lead and serve from a new more, holistic perspective.

At One Spirit, not only do we understand the importance of evolving consciousness, spiritual maturity, and sacred service,

we understand the unique circumstances of our time. Our graduates live and serve all over the globe. Our ministries show up in our homes and communities; in boardrooms and businesses; in prisons, hospitals, churches and shelters. One Spirit Ministers are uniquely qualified to bridge the sacred and secular, and to celebrate both diversity and unity, in service to anyone in need, no matter their worldview or tradition of origin.

This work knows no boundaries and creates new opportunities and possibilities to be of greater service in the world. Working with your personal passion and our unique curriculum of experiential inquiry, in-depth study and practical applications, you will begin to create a seamless life in which your every moment and every encounter are infused with a sense of the sacred and a more profound sense of your personal call to service.



evolve.

# Applying to One Spirit

One Spirit Learning Alliance welcomes all qualified adults, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation. All applications are reviewed and each candidate is carefully considered. Acceptance into the program is based heavily on the applicant's character and emotional and spiritual maturity.

Ideal Candidates demonstrate the following qualities:

- ❖ a serious commitment to their spiritual life
- ❖ a desire to be of service to the world
- ❖ the recognition that there are many valid paths
- ❖ a well developed capacity for self-awareness and self-responsibility
- ❖ a determination to grow and cultivate a mature spirituality
- ❖ a desire to deepen their understanding and experience of the Infinite
- ❖ an interest in bringing spirit into all their relationships

Formal academic requirements are reviewed but not required for admission. However, applicants must be able to communicate, read, and write effectively at a post-secondary educational level.

Building healthy community is an important part of the One Spirit experience. Applicants are expected to demonstrate the ability to function as part of a community. This entails a commitment to emotional and spiritual integrity, honest communication, and responsible speech and behavior.

**The admission process** can take up to four weeks. **PLEASE APPLY EARLY** to assure your place in the class beginning in September. After applications are received and reviewed, prospective students will be contacted by admissions staff to arrange an in-person or telephone interview. Interviews generally take one hour.

Our experienced admissions team is available in person, by phone or by email to provide a personal perspective on the One Spirit experience and to help you determine if Seminary or one of our other core programs is right for you. We invite you to visit the One Spirit offices, attend a One Spirit Info Session, browse our website, or make an appointment to get to know the staff and students.

## Apply Now

call 212.931.6840 x151  
admissions@1Spirit.org  
www.1Spirit.org

# commit.

# serve.

Last year we asked our graduates about how they were ministering out in the world. What we learned was breathtaking: One Spirit Ministers spend an average of 24 hours each in monthly volunteer service. This means that over the course of one year, our graduates are giving the equivalent of more than 14,000 workdays of service around the world, making peace, consoling the grieving, feeding the hungry, and helping people navigate life's most challenging transitions through ceremony, counseling, and selfless work.

## How Do We Serve?

Percentage of graduates who serve in the following ways:

Prayer.....	76%
Ceremonies.....	71%
Counseling.....	66%
Community Service.....	57%
Education.....	41%
Familial Support.....	39%
Healing Arts.....	35%
Sacred Activism.....	26%
Congregational.....	23%
Chaplaincy.....	20%



# Live Your Soul's Full Potential

As a leader in Interspiritual education, One Spirit has an organization wide commitment to personal, professional, spiritual and educational development.

**You will be encouraged, supported, and at times challenged, to re-examine your life, to find new possibilities for self-expression and new ways to be of service.**

The entire process will bring the calling that is uniquely yours to the forefront of your life, so that you experience your life's purpose more fully. By engaging with the opportunities provided by our programs, you will become more present in every moment, and more mindful in every encounter. Your ability to serve others in a changing world will expand exponentially as your inner state develops, and your capacity for skillful service becomes a natural part of your every activity.

Regardless of the role you currently play in society, if you yearn to live life more fully, have deeper relationships and be a positive influence in the world, then this program is relevant for you.

## Who Should Apply?

- ❖ Therapist
- ❖ Counselor
- ❖ Practitioner
- ❖ Chaplain
- ❖ Social Worker
- ❖ Sacred Activist
- ❖ Consultant
- ❖ Teacher
- ❖ Corporate Executive
- ❖ Clergy
- ❖ Health Care Professional
- ❖ Celebrant
- ❖ Coach
- ❖ Mentor
- ❖ Retiree
- ❖ Volunteer
- ❖ Parent or Grandparent
- ❖ Healer

**Understand the deepest yearnings of your soul.  
Express your unique gifts in a way no one else can.  
Help others on the same journey.**

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For more information and registration see [www.1Spirit.org](http://www.1Spirit.org)

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