

Doctor of Ministry – Pastor as Spiritual Leader

Program in Christian Spirituality SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Application for January 2010

Due Aug. 15 for a September Admissions Response

This form may be submitted anytime prior to the application deadline.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Last name First name Social Security No. (required by law)

Home address City State Zip code

Home phone Home e-mail Home fax

Work address City State Zip code

Work phone Work e-mail Work fax

I prefer to be contacted: at home _____ at work _____ Maiden name _____
(for transcript access)

Are you or have you ever been a student at San Francisco Theological Seminary? _____
When? _____

PERSONAL & CHURCH INFORMATION:

Date of birth Place of birth Citizenship

Are you ordained? _____ To what ministry? _____

Date and place of ordination: _____

In which denomination were you ordained? _____

Current church or ministry setting: _____

Denomination Affiliation: _____

Optional: family information (e.g., marital status, name of spouse, children): _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION:

List all undergraduate, graduate, professional and post-graduate institutions attended, **beginning with the most recent.**

Institution	City/state/country	Dates: from/to	Degree Major
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SERVICE TO CHURCH COMMUNITY:

List pastoral and ecclesiastical employment and/or other service.

Church/agency	City/state/country	Dates: from/to	Position
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PRESENT EMPLOYMENT:

Employer	City/state/country	Years employed	Position
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BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Describe briefly jobs held longer than one year.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION EXPERIENCE (check one):

_____ I have been in a formal spiritual direction relationship with someone serving as my spiritual director for _____ year(s).

_____ I have been the recipient of spiritual direction in informal settings with others serving in the capacity of spiritual director for _____ year(s).

_____ I have no formal or informal experience of spiritual direction at this time. (Please note that spiritual direction will be required of all students in the D.Min./Pastor as Spiritual Leader.)

How did you hear about the D.Min./Pastor as Spiritual Leader program?

APPLICATION MATERIALS

In addition to a completed application form, applicants must submit the following:

1. Official transcripts from each academic institution you have attended to date, plus records of other study you believe are pertinent. Official transcripts are documents sent directly from one institution to another. For further information about adequacy of transcripts, please call the Program Manager at 415-451-2838.
2. Four references using the forms enclosed. There is a space provided on the reference form for waiving right of access to letters of reference. You should send one form to each reference along with a stamped envelope addressed to:

Program Manager
Program in Christian Spirituality
San Francisco Theological Seminary
105 Seminary Road
San Anselmo, CA 94960

REFERENCES: One reference required from each of the following:

- A. A spiritual director/mentor (i.e., someone **other than** a personal friend or family member who really knows you, e.g., a mentor, spiritual director, AA sponsor, longtime pastor, etc.)
- B. An academic reference (i.e., an individual qualified to reflect upon your academic ability)
- C. A church leader or member (i.e., someone who can attest to your understanding of pastoral ministry and relationship to the Church)
- D. A personal friend who can speak to your capacity for friendship relationships

Please list the names and addresses of your references corresponding to the above list:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____

3. A brief (seven double-spaced, typewritten pages maximum) response to the following:

- A. Tell us a bit about yourself (i.e., your inner world, the relationships that sustain you, the systems and structures that hold meaning for you, your connection to the church).
- B. Identify one event from the past ten years in which you encountered God deeply within your life or ministry. Describe how this experience has affected your sense of self, others, and the movements of God within you, your life, the church and your ministry.
- C. Describe your styles of prayer and your sense of God's movement in and through your prayer life.
- D. What is your present understanding and experience of spiritual formation? What has/who have been influential in your own spiritual formation, both as a Christian and as a Christian leader?
- E. How or why do you feel drawn to this program—one which emphasizes the importance of prayer, contemplative listening and discernment in pastoral leadership?

F. Within your present ministry setting, what do you perceive as challenges or impediments to the people you serve in their spiritual growth as individuals and as a community?

G. In no more than two pages (of the seven maximum), reflect on a book that has been important for your own spiritual formation. Articulate what it “said” to your life, why that was meaningful for you and the ways your spirituality has changed, deepened or grown as a result.

4. If English is not the primary language in which you converse and read, a copy of your TOEFL results. (A TOEFL score of 213 or higher is required for admission to the Seminary.)

5. A **\$40** non-refundable application fee.

Note: All admission materials become part of the Seminary’s record, with the exception of the letters of reference, which are destroyed after admissions decisions are made.

I hereby apply to be admitted as a student in the Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction program of San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Applicant signature

Date

It is the policy of San Francisco Theological Seminary not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, color, physical disability, national or ethnic origin in its education program. This policy complies with requirements of the Internal Revenue Service Procedure 321-1, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments as amended and enforced by the Dept. of HEW.

San Francisco Theological Seminary
Doctor of Ministry – Pastor as Spiritual Leader

Reference Form—**Spiritual Director/Mentor**

APPLICANT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

REFERENCE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Profession/ministry: _____

Applicant: Please complete the first section, including your signature, and give this form and an addressed envelope to your spiritual director/mentor.

I understand that this recommendation will be used only for the purpose of admission, that I have the right of access or may waive my right of access to it and that failure to check and sign below renders access void.

_____ I hereby waive my right of access to this letter of reference.

_____ I hereby do not waive my right of access to this letter of reference.

Applicant signature

Date

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REFERENCE: We have found that one of the best indicators of the capacity to be a spiritual leader is the way an applicant participates in his/her own spiritual growth. Thus, we are asking you to write about your direct experience of the applicant, being careful to omit the specific content you have heard from the applicant. We are looking for feedback from you around things like the level of the applicant’s self-awareness, his/her ability to be discerning about his/her inner life, that the applicant has an on-going relationship with God, is teachable, open, has or does not have the capacity to listen, etc. As a spiritual mentor, you are aware that emotional and psychological maturity in pastors/spiritual leaders is of great importance. It will help us if you recognize that a wholly positive report is not apt to be balanced or useful, and we would like to be as helpful to applicants as possible throughout the admissions process and into the program. Feel free to use additional paper if you need more room for your responses, and please be specific in your responses. The applicant has been asked to provide you with this form, together with a stamped envelope addressed to: *Program Manager, Program in Christian Spirituality, San Francisco Theological Seminary, 105 Seminary Road, San Anselmo, CA 94960*. Please complete this form and return it to us at your earliest convenience. If you have questions, please call the program office at (415) 451-2838 or send email to DASD@sfts.edu.

1. How long, and in what capacity, have you been accompanying this applicant as a spiritual director/mentor? Do you know him/her in any other context? If so, describe.

2. Do you believe the applicant has the capacity to attend closely to his/her own life with God, as well as invite other people into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God? Is he/she able to listen to others attentively and respond appropriately? If so, what experience of or gifts do you observe in the applicant as a spiritual leader?

3. Assess the applicant's ability to notice his/her own inner experience and talk about it.

4. Where/what are areas for significant growth in the applicant's life?

5. In your opinion, does the applicant have the psychological and spiritual maturity necessary to keep her/his own issues separate from those of another and to maintain appropriate boundaries?

6. Please add any additional information that might assist the Admissions Committee in assessing this applicant's potential for meeting the demands both of graduate work and in serving the church as a spiritual leader (e.g., describe other issues in the applicant's life of which we should be aware).

San Francisco Theological Seminary
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Reference Form—**Academic**

APPLICANT

REFERENCE

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

Profession/ministry: _____

Applicant: Please complete the first section, including your signature, and give this form and an addressed envelope to your academic reference.

I understand that this recommendation will be used only for the purpose of admission, that I have the right of access or may waive my right of access to it and that failure to check and sign below renders access void.

_____ I hereby waive my right of access to this letter of reference.

_____ I hereby do not waive my right of access to this letter of reference.

Applicant signature

Date

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REFERENCE: The applicant has been asked to provide you with this form, together with a stamped envelope addressed to the *Program Manager, Program in Christian Spirituality, San Francisco Theological Seminary, 105 Seminary Road, San Anselmo, CA 94960*. Please complete and return it directly to us at your earliest convenience. It will help us if you recognize that a wholly positive report is not apt to be balanced or useful, and we would like to be as helpful to applicants as possible throughout the admissions process and into the program. If you have questions, please call the PCS program office at (415) 415-2838 or send email to DASD@sfts.edu.

1. How long and in what context have you known the applicant?

2. Assess this applicant's potential for meeting the demands of graduate work.

3. Do you believe the applicant has the capacity to attend closely to his/her own life with God, as well as invite other people into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God? Is he/she able to listen to others attentively and respond appropriately? If so, what experience of or gifts do you observe in the applicant as a spiritual leader?

4. In your opinion, does the applicant have a teachable spirit, and can he/she thoughtfully reflect upon the complexities of life?

5. Where/what are areas for significant growth in the applicant's life?

6. Please add any additional information that might assist the Admissions Committee in assessing this applicant's potential for meeting the demands both of graduate work and in serving the church in the capacity of spiritual leader.

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Reference Form—Church Relationship

APPLICANT

REFERENCE

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

Profession/ministry: _____

Applicant: Please complete the first section, including your signature, and give this form and an addressed envelope to your church relationship reference.

I understand that this recommendation will be used only for the purpose of admission, that I have the right of access or may waive my right of access to it and that failure to check and sign below renders access void.

_____ I hereby waive my right of access to this letter of reference.

_____ I hereby do not waive my right of access to this letter of reference.

Applicant signature

Date

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1. How long and in what context have you known the applicant?

2. Does the applicant know and appreciate the dynamics of pastoral ministry and leadership? Please describe.

3. Do you believe the applicant has the capacity to attend closely to his/her own life with God, as well as invite other people into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God? Is he/she able to listen to others attentively and respond appropriately? If so, what experience of or gifts do you observe in the applicant as a spiritual leader?

4. In your opinion, does the applicant have the psychological and spiritual maturity to keep her/his own issues separate from that of another?

5. Where/what are areas for significant growth in the applicant's life?

6. Please add any additional information that might assist the Admissions Committee in assessing this applicant's potential for meeting the demands both of graduate work and in serving the church in the capacity of a spiritual leader.

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Reference Form—**Personal Friend**

APPLICANT

REFERENCE

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

Profession/ministry: _____

Applicant: Please complete the first section, including your signature, and give this form and an addressed envelope to a personal friend.

I understand that this recommendation will be used only for the purpose of admission, that I have the right of access or may waive my right of access to it and that failure to check and sign below renders access void.

_____ I hereby waive my right of access to this letter of reference.

_____ I hereby do not waive my right of access to this letter of reference.

Applicant signature Date

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1. How long and in what context have you known the applicant?

2. What are the qualities you like most about the applicant?

3. Would you consult or speak with the applicant about your spiritual life? Why or why not?

4. In your opinion, does the applicant have the psychological and spiritual maturity to keep her/his own issues separate from another's?

5. What are your hopes for the applicant in terms of his or her personal and spiritual growth?

6. Please add any additional information that might assist the Admissions Committee in assessing this applicant's potential for meeting the demands both of graduate work and in serving the church in the capacity of spiritual leader.