

## **Licensing of Spiritual Directors**

Diocese of Kootenay

Spiritual listening and support is a ministry of all Christian people. In their role as spiritual leaders, parish priests are encouraged to exercise the ministry of spiritual direction within the scope of their training and experience. There are others – both lay and ordained – who are seen by their community to have a special gift and calling for this ministry. These people will be expected to undertake further formation and training and be authorized by a Bishop's license to minister as a spiritual director within, and under the authority of, the diocese.

Because spiritual direction is a ministry of the church, it best flows from a local worshipping community. Thus, licensed spiritual directors will have a suitable place in their local church in which to exercise this ministry. If a directee is at a distance, direction may be offered via phone or videoconference. (Exceptions to this arrangement may be made for special circumstances.)

Spiritual directors will ordinarily be licensed by the Bishop under the authority of their local parish priest. Incumbents will ordinarily be licensed under the authority of another person designated by the Bishop, usually the Coordinator of Spiritual Development.

*(Please note: This license does not grant membership at Diocesan Synod)*

### **Criteria for Licensing:**

- Be a regular worshipping member of a local Anglican Church
- Be seen as a person of prayer, integrity, and spiritual maturity
- Be receiving regular spiritual direction
- Have a discerned call to this ministry, both by the person and their parish community
- Possess an adequate level of theological education (the minimal requirement is EfM)
- Have suitable training in listening skills and/or pastoral counselling
- Complete a basic level of training in an approved program of spiritual direction
- Adhere to the Diocese of Kootenay's Code of Ethics for Spiritual Directors
- Be a member of the Spiritual Directors Group (**or** a suitable equivalent), which exists for the purpose of regular supervision, peer support, and ongoing training and development
- Obtain a Criminal Records Check every three years
- Have a letter of agreement with the parish, to be reviewed annually, laying out the understanding of this ministry, the use of suitable ministry space, and any other arrangements that are agreed upon

### **Spiritual Directors from Other Denominations:**

People known to us from other denominations who are already practising spiritual directors need not be licensed by the Diocese of Kootenay. In order to recommend them as directors to our membership they will need to agree to adhere to the Diocesan Code of Ethics for Spiritual Directors and be recommended in writing by the head of their judicatory (or in the case of religious, by the Superior of their Order) at least every three years stating that the director remains in good standing for this ministry and has completed a regular Criminal Records check.