

Tyndale Association of Spiritual Directors Code of Ethics

The following sets out the Code of Ethics for members of the Tyndale Association of Spiritual Directors, hereafter known as the TASD.

Ethical Principles

The expectations for ethical conduct as expressed in this Code of Ethics are based on the following principles:

- **Beneficence** - being proactive in promoting the directee's best interests
- **Fidelity** - honouring commitments to directees and maintaining integrity in the spiritual direction relationship
- **Non-maleficence** - not wilfully harming directees and refraining from actions that risk harm
- **Autonomy** - respecting the rights of directees to self-determination
- **Justice** - respecting the dignity and just treatment of all persons
- **Societal Interest** - respecting the need to be responsible to society

Both regular and associate members of the TASD will adhere to the Code of Ethics for spiritual directors established by the accrediting body CCPC Global (<http://www.ccpcglobal.com>), which states that:

The Certified Spiritual Director will adhere to the following Code of Ethics.

1. I believe in the dignity and worth of all human beings and pledge my service to God and to the well-being and betterment of all members of society.
2. I will maintain a proper professional relationship with all persons served, assisting them to help themselves and referring them promptly, when in their best interest, to other programs or individuals.
3. I will adhere strictly to established precepts of confidentiality in all knowledge, records and materials concerning persons served, also in accordance with any current government's regulations.
4. I will give due respect to the rights, views and positions of other professional counselors working in the public and private sector.
5. I will avoid claiming or implying any personal capabilities or professional qualifications beyond those I have actually attained, recognizing that competence gained in one field of activity must not be used improperly to imply competency in another.
6. I will respect institutional policies and procedures and cooperate with the religious institution or denomination with which I may be associated, consistent with recognized standards and procedures.
7. I will regularly evaluate my own strengths, limitations, biases or levels of effectiveness, always striving for self-improvement and seeking spiritual/professional development by means of spiritual awareness, further education and training,

Members of the TASD will live out this Code of Ethics in compliance with the following TASD Manual of Practice.

TASD Manual of Practice

1. TASD Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a network of educational and supportive opportunities for spiritual directors within the Christian Church in Canada and to help Christians take their next step in their relationship with Christ.

2. Membership

The TASD offers two forms of membership based upon one's qualifications and interests:

2.1 Regular Membership

Individuals who subscribe to the Apostles' Creed and have graduated from a degree program at an ATS (Association of Theological Schools) accredited school and have received training as a spiritual director in a recognized program, or who have received or are in the process of receiving the CSD (Certified Spiritual Director) designation.

2.2 Associate Membership

Individuals who subscribe to the Apostles' Creed, who are currently enrolled in a spiritual formation degree program at an ATS accredited school and/or are receiving training as a spiritual director in a recognized program, or who are in the process of completing the requirements of CSD designation. (Associate members enjoy all the benefits of membership with the exception of Insurance coverage and serving on the Executive Board.)

3. What is Spiritual Direction?

In light of the Psalmist's plea: ... *there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul* (Psalm 142:4 [ESV]), "Spiritual direction is a process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others." Robert Mulholland

Spiritual direction is a faith-filled discipline that has been a source of nurture for Christians for centuries by seeking what is best for the spiritual development of each individual ("directee"). It is a form of soul care which offers an individual the opportunity to meet with another Christian for the purpose of examining his/her relationship with God. Director and directee meet regularly for conversation and prayer. A director is not an advisor but a person who helps the directee pay attention to what God (the true Director) is doing in his or her life.

Spiritual directors are those who have received specific training in Bible, Theology, and Spiritual Formation, who assist directees in their spiritual journey. Spiritual directors are interested in the spiritual health, well-being, and growth of their directees. They provide this ministry through regular one-on-one sessions (or group sessions) that are focused on listening to, and working with both the directee and the Holy Spirit.

4. What is a Certified Spiritual Director (CSD)?

The purpose of certification is to recognize those who have acquired an acceptable standard of training, skills, and effectiveness as a spiritual director. Certification is available through the Canadian Council of Professional Certification. The criteria for certification and a description of the certification process are available on the CCPC website:

<http://www.ccpcglobal.com/certification/certified-spiritual-director-csd/>

5. The Spiritual Director's Personal Spirituality

The Sovereign LORD has given me his words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will. (Isaiah 50:4 [NLT])

Spiritual directors assume responsibility for their personal growth by:

- 5.1** receiving spiritual direction on a regular basis.
- 5.2** attending to their own spiritual life with God.
- 5.3** practicing through reflection, prayer, worship, the regular exercise of communal life in the Body of Christ including active association with their own faith community.

TASD Manual of Practice - Standards of Practice

1. The Spiritual Director's Personal Formation

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10 [NLT])

Spiritual directors first experience spiritual direction as directees and come into this ministry through a sense of calling, continuing to discern their vocation to spiritual direction and serving only as long as that vocation persists. They engage in ongoing formation and continuing education by:

- 1.1** maintaining an understanding of the cultural contexts in which contemporary spiritual direction operates.
- 1.2** pursuing training specific to the ministry of spiritual direction and engaging in ongoing formal and informal professional development.
- 1.3** appropriately drawing on Christ-centered teachings and spiritual practices.

2. Supervision and Accountability

Supervision is a positive and enabling process that offers the opportunity to bring a director and a skilled supervisor together to reflect on ministry practice. It is the process by which a director can review and evaluate their ministry through report, discussion and observation with an experienced practitioner.

Spiritual directors demonstrate accountability by:

- 2.1** receiving regular supervision from a qualified supervisor (Certified Spiritual Direction Supervisor) or by engaging in group supervision with peers.
- 2.2** remaining open to processes of accountability and support through their faith community.
- 2.3** consulting, when necessary, other appropriately qualified professionals. For the purposes of this code, "appropriately qualified professional" includes but may not be limited to counsellors, pastors, physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, and therapists.
- 2.4** respecting therapy relationships and ensuring directees inform their appropriately qualified professional(s) of the concurrent direction relationship.
- 2.5** representing their qualifications and affiliations accurately, by providing valid documentation that supports their claims in these areas.

3. Personal Limitations

In acknowledgement of their personal limitations and for the sake of their effectiveness in relationship with directees, spiritual directors:

- 3.1** recognise the boundaries of their energy by limiting the number of directees and by scheduling their meetings so that there is sufficient space in their lives to properly attend to each directee, themselves, and their responsibilities.
- 3.2** recognize the limits of their competence by referring directees to other appropriately qualified professionals when needed.

- 3.3 attend to their own physical health, acknowledging how illness can affect their ability to be fully present to directees.

4. Personal Relationships

In order to ensure that spiritual direction provides a safe relationship for the directee, spiritual directors are advised to:

- 4.1 avoid being in multiple roles with directees. When this is not possible, directors will ensure that the directee understands the director's role. (See TASD Manual of Practice, Appendix A, Spiritual Direction Agreement)
- 4.2 remove themselves from situations that compromise the integrity of the spiritual direction relationship.
- 4.3 avoid entering a relationship with a directee where there is a possible conflict of interest with other directees (for example, members of the same family) unless consent has been received from both parties.
- 4.4 honour other spiritual directors and qualified professionals by not disparaging them or their work.

5. Spiritual Direction Agreement Form

At its commencement, to ensure a clear understanding of the spiritual direction relationship both the Spiritual Director and Directee will consent to enter into a spiritual direction agreement as outlined in Appendix A, Spiritual Direction Agreement.

6. Responsibility to the Directee

In order to safeguard and respect the dignity of each directee, spiritual directors will:

- 6.1 limit inquiry into the personal life of the directee to those matters directly relevant to spiritual direction.
- 6.2 keep good psychological boundaries being careful to note and dispel instances of transference and countertransference.
- 6.3 respect the uniqueness of each directee, seeking to discern what is most helpful according to the directee's temperament, personality type, background and needs
- 6.4 resist engaging in any proselytising that is directed towards changing the commitment of a directee to another faith community.
- 6.5 remove themselves from situations that compromises the physical and/or emotional integrity of the spiritual direction relationship.

7. Confidentiality – Maintaining the Confidentiality of the Directee

To ensure the privacy of directees, spiritual directors:

- 7.1 keep their directees' identities confidential within the limits set by the law.
- 7.2 treat what is shared in a spiritual direction session as holy, keep all oral, electronic, and written matters pertaining to direction sessions confidential and secure, and ensure directees are aware of the director's need to share content from sessions with qualified professionals for the purpose of supervision or consultation.

- 7.3** do not give to or receive from other spiritual directors, ministers, or professionals information about a directee without the written permission of the directee. (See TASD Manual of Practice, Appendix B, Consent for Release of Personal Information)
- 7.4** will not be bound by confidentiality:
 - 7.4.1** if a directee communicates information regarding an imminent serious threat to others or discloses a decision to physically harm him/herself the Director is required to intervene by contacting the appropriate emergency support services.
 - 7.4.2** if a directee shares information regarding the abuse or neglect of a child or where the director has reasonable cause to suspect that abuse/neglect is taking place, the director is required to contact the appropriate authorities, as stipulated by the Child and Family Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.11, Duty to Report, Subsection 72.1.

Appendix A

Spiritual Direction Agreement

1. I understand that my Spiritual Director, Insert Name, is in good standing and a graduate of the Insert Name of Spiritual Direction Training Program which includes engagement in supervised practice and has met all the requirements to become a Spiritual Director.
2. I understand that Director's Name is accumulating hours for/has received/or applied for (*delete the options that are not applicable*) Certification as a Spiritual Director (hereafter referred to as CSD) through CCPC Global Inc. CSDs must meet the accountability requirements of receiving Spiritual Direction and engaging in peer supervision.
3. I understand that Director's Name is a member of TASD - The Tyndale Association of Spiritual Directors, and also practices under the TASD's Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.
4. I understand that all forms of communication between a Spiritual Director and a directee are confidential and are held in confidence within the limits of the law.
5. I understand that any case material brought to supervision meetings by my Spiritual Director is kept anonymous.
6. I understand that appointments will last for approximately insert number minutes. I understand that I am responsible for scheduling and keeping my appointment(s) as well as informing of cancellation in a timely way.
7. I understand that the agreed upon fee will be \$ Insert amount per session, or as negotiated on a sliding scale, payable as fee for service.
8. I understand that while healing may occur during our sessions together, Spiritual Direction is not intended to replace counseling, therapy or medical advice or treatment.

I, the undersigned, acknowledge having received and read the Spiritual Direction Agreement Form and accept the terms as written

 Spiritual Directee

Date

Spiritual Director

Appendix B Consent for Release of Personal Information

I, _____ (Name of Directee) consent to, _____ (Spiritual Director) to release to

Name of Health Care Provider/Third Party: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Reason for Request:

Specific Information Authorized for Release:

As requested by

Spiritual Directee Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Phone

Email Address

Date Authorized:

Expiry Date:

Spiritual Director Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Phone

Email Address

Date: