

**Spiritual Directors
Diocese of Pennsylvania
2026**

Carrie Allport
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Carrie Allport, MTS, MA-SD, is a beloved child of G-d, covenant partner, mother of 2, lifelong student, novice gardener, sometimes runner, and spiritual companion. Steeped in the Anglican tradition, but raised in the Bible Belt, she identifies as a part of a lost generation in the Church. She shares spiritual direction with individuals & groups, and has a tender spot for offering spiritual companionship with covenant partners. She is passionate about the compassionate care of clergy households, the compassionate care of our climate-changed world, and compassionate care in life-long discernment. As a member of a clergy household, she and her family are trying, just for today, to answer the call of the priesthood of all believers.

The Rev. Joshua Barrett Tracey
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Biographical Information: Josh is a trained spiritual director (Anam Cara), parish priest (Episcopal), dodgeball try-hard, and skilled procrastinator. His heart is shaped by campfires and sacraments, the joy of friendships, and the mystery of grace that keeps showing up where it is least expected. Josh is passionate about holding open the door to the space already cleared by God in our lives. He wrestles with representing an institution that has let him and others down, while experiencing it as a place of abundant life. He enjoys working with those in various formal vocational discernment processes, aware of its many twists and turns. A joyful extrovert with a monk's heart, he lives outside Philadelphia with his husband and orange cat, where you can find him trying to make meaning out of doing laundry (again!).

Megan Bartlett
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Biographical Information: I am a Lutheran pastor's "kid" who has felt at home in the Episcopal Church since 2006. Although I enjoy my work as a licensed professional counselor, I find my greatest fulfillment as a spiritual director, accompanying people as they seek to understand and deepen their relationship with the Divine. I feel called to companion those in discernment about a major transition (e.g., career, vocation, relationship, or relocation), those who are grieving or experiencing a "dark night of the soul", and those who aren't feeling nurtured by the Church or have been hurt by those who represent the Church. My belief that God exists both with us and within us guides me as I listen deeply and offer tools to increase awareness of God's presence. Some spiritual tools and practices that I use both in my life and in spiritual direction include body focusing, Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, Breathwork, nature walks and the labyrinth, and poetry/art.

I am currently meeting with directees on Zoom and look forward to hearing from you.

Melissa Berkey-Gerard

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Philadelphia

Biographical Information: I am a seeker of the Spirit in all places— in worship, in nature, collaborating in community, struggling for justice, slowing down to walk at the pace of a toddler. In spiritual direction, I create space for others to listen deeply to the Spirit, and to their deepest longings, and to live from that place. I am an active contemplative. I have extensive work with traumatized and burned-out individuals and communities, and desire to help you find what heals you, what re-connects you, what energizes you. I celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and work from an anti-racist standpoint. I'm a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary (MDiv) and earned my spiritual direction certification through Kairos School of Spiritual Formation. I have served as a pastor and chaplain, and have extensive experience with human rights organizations, and organizations working with people experiencing homelessness and returning home from incarceration. While I call home a Mennonite congregation, I work with people of all denominations. I live in Philadelphia with my spouse, two children, pets, and many plants. [NOTE: not taking new directees until May 2026]

Joanne Brewer Conway, Ed. D.

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Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia

Biographical Information: I spent the bulk of my professional life as a practicing Psychologist. Over the years I grew to see the need for a strong and grounded spiritual life for a meaningful and generous life. Upon retirement, I received training in Spiritual Direction from Oasis Ministries for Spiritual Development. My orientation is contemplative combined with active listening and expanding self-awareness through deep questioning. I value journeying with others in their spiritual exploration and find great joy in my work with others. I am open to working on Zoom or in person. I am located in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia.

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Burton Dilliplane

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Bucks County

Biographical Information: Nancy is a graduate of the Shalem Institute's Spiritual Guidance and Group Spiritual Direction programs. She delights in walking alongside others as they listen for the voice of the Holy One and discern God's invitation and blessing in this rapidly changing world. Her approach is contemplative--that is, in both individual and group direction, we spend part of our time together in silence, seeking to let God's breath become our breath, God's dream, our dream. Nancy is also an Education for Ministry mentor and an Episcopal Priest with nearly 20 years' experience in parish ministry. She feels called to companion individuals, groups and faith communities as they grow deeper in their relationships with God and one another and engage more fully with their baptismal vocations.

Eric Frankhouser
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Perkiomenville

Biographical Information: I am a Spiritual Director, joining with those who want to grow closer to their God. I co-journey with those in search of, and desire to grow closer to, the Spirit, Energy, and Love in all of creation, including ourselves, and our God. All Faiths, Genders, Identifications, and Spiritual Affiliations welcome. Formal formation through Chestnut Hill College: Holistic Spirituality with Spiritual Direction Masters Program, and Neumann University Spiritual Direction Graduate program. Additionally, I hold several certifications, such as Centering Prayer Presenter, Mindfulness, EFM Mentor, and am a retreat leader as well as a facilitator of several spiritual growth focused groups.

The Rev. Mary McCullough
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Horsham, Montgomery County

Biographical Information: I am a retired priest in the diocese, with a Master's Degree in Spiritual Direction from Neumann University. Continuing Education includes Certificates from Shalem Institute's program in *Clergy Leadership Spiritual Life and Leadership* program, as well as *Transforming Community: Leading Contemplative prayer Groups and Retreats* and *Group Spiritual Direction*. Spiritual direction is a way to cultivate a deeper connection to what is holy. A basic, key, fundamental theological assumption for me is that the Holy Spirit of God is ever present in our lives; revelatory in one's relationships, desires, insights, learnings and resistances. Together, in a trusted covenantal relationship, we explore this mysterious and joy-filled presence. I am happy to meet online or in person.

The Rev. Julia M McKeon
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Yardley

Biographical Information: I offer spiritual direction as a companion on the sacred journey of life walking with others as they deepen their relationship with God and discern the call of the Holy Spirit. She received training in spiritual direction through Mercy Center in Burlingame California and Stillpoint in Pasadena California and has an MDiv degree from Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley. She has trained in the Enneagram and Grief Counseling. Julia is a priest in The Episcopal Church and worked for many years as a hospital chaplain. She welcomes all faith traditions and spiritual practices. Sessions are available by phone, zoom, Skype, or in person in the Bucks and Mercer county areas.
Focus Areas: Couples/Families, Dying/Sick/Hospice, Grief and Loss, Health Care, Mindfulness/Meditation, Women's Issues.

Lorie Simmons
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Mount Airy Neighborhood of Philadelphia

Biographical Information: I am a spiritual director in the Franciscan tradition, called to companion people in the many diverse ways we humans experience and seek the Divine. My own spiritual path (and career as teacher, librarian, art historian, editor, and content creator) has revealed the Holy in all of creation, the arts, our bodies, and relationships--and led me to worship in many faith communities (including Jewish and Hindu groups), to ministry in the Catholic world, and now in retirement, to a home in the Episcopal Church. My companioning approach includes generous hospitality of spirit, deep listening, and contemplative discernment. Zoom or in person.

Br. Thomas Steffenson
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Biographical Information: Thomas joined SSF in 2016. He's a writer, artist, and spiritual director, currently living in New York City while he completes training as a Jungian analyst at the C.G. Jung Institute of NYC. Thomas has an active spiritual direction practice, is the acting chaplain for the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan, and a member of St Mary the Virgin Episcopal church in New York City. As a life-professed member of Society of Saint Francis, Thomas is part of the leadership team and is also one of the co-facilitators within the Formation program. (Accepts fees as donations to the order.)

The Rev. Jessie Thompson
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Biographical Information: I am a Pacific Northwest native who now lives in the desert (though I've served in the Diocese of Pennsylvania). I am continually discovering how landscape impacts our sense of identity and spirituality. I am a Spiritual Director/Spiritual Companion and an Episcopal priest with a passion to gather folks to create space for the Holy. I have a BA in Religion, a Certificate in Anglican Studies from Church Divinity School of the Pacific (Graduate Theological Union) in Berkeley, CA, and received a Master of Divinity and a Post-Master's Certificate in Transforming Spirituality with an emphasis in Spiritual Direction at The Seattle University School of Theology & Ministry. I have experience as an interfaith chaplain at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, one of only two Level I trauma centers in the state of Oregon and home to the only burn center between Seattle and Sacramento. I am a graduate of the Shalem Institute's Contemplative Leadership program. I have over 25 years of ministry experience, faith formation facilitation, and student/adult leadership training. My passions and areas of teaching/spiritual listening include creating space for people to encounter the Holy, Body Theology, Labyrinth work, MBTI, Enneagram, contemplative practices, LGBTQIA+ spirituality, the Divine Feminine, inner healing that leads to justice and healing in the wider world, discovering God's deepest desires in our lives, work around transitions and 'middle space,' hospitality/intentional vulnerability, anger, forgiveness, grief, and loss. My heart beats for the marginalized, and I seek to provide safe spaces for all to feel welcomed, known, loved, and celebrated. I am a sucker for watching God's grace show up in unexpected places, and I love the idea of second-chances and transformation. I have enjoyed working with a variety of folks from different faith (and non-faith) traditions, as we listen together for how the Holy might be healing and moving in your life. For more information, visit: www.desertsoulcompanion.com.

Candace Woessner
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Shillington

Biographical Information: Spiritual companionship encourages lifelong connection with the Holy through reflection and attention to the present moment. With training under the direction of Gerald May and Tilden Edwards, I earned a certificate in spiritual direction at Shalem Institute in 2000 and have been companioning others since that time. I am happy to meet with spiritual friends on zoom and in person.

Nina Rynd Whitnah (D. Min.)
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Paoli

Biographical Information: I come to the practice of Spiritual Direction from a long and rich experience of spiritual companionship that I have found in small groups as well as one-on-one friendships. Cultivating the dimension of shared, focused attention on behalf of another person is a natural progression for me of a style of relating that I have nurtured in my life, and I see it as a deep and sweet privilege. I completed a Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Formation for Ministry Leaders in 2010 at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (South Hamilton, MA); my project thesis explored spiritual formation during wilderness times. I finished training as a spiritual director in 2012 through Selah, a ministry of Leadership Transformations, Inc.