



DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON Student Spiritual Director Covenants

In consideration of the undersigned student being permitted, during my practicum year with spiritual direction certificate program, to engage in supervised spiritual direction within the Diocese of Charleston and receive referrals from the Diocese, its parishes or other diocesan organization, the undersigned agrees as follows:

1. I am:
 - a. enrolled in my practicum year as a student in spiritual direction certificate program; and
 - b. a Roman Catholic parishioner in good standing with my Roman Catholic parish in the Diocese of Charleston.

2. By signing this covenant, I certify that I will:
 - a. always strive to be obedient to the official teachings of the Roman Catholic faith;
 - b. not give any advice or spiritual guidance contradictory to the official teachings of the Catholic Church and Magisterium of the Church; and
 - c. not use any technique involving physical contact with the directee, utilize the enneagram system of personality typing or any other method or practice contrary to Church's teachings, beliefs or practices.

3. I also agree to the following:
 - a. I shall not practice beyond the limits of my competence in any ministry situation and shall refer directees to other professionals when appropriate.
 - b. I shall work ethically within the framework of the teaching of the ordinary and universal Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church.
 - c. I shall take responsibility for and commit to my own spiritual development by ongoing education, training, participating in peer supervision, and regular meetings with my own spiritual director.
 - d. I shall assume the responsibility to establish and maintain clear and appropriate physical and psychological boundaries in all spiritual ministry sessions and ministry related relationships.
 - e. I will adhere to the provisions of the Diocese's Policy Concerning the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults from Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel and related Code of Conduct (the "Policy and Code of Conduct").

- f. I will avoid physical contact of any kind with the directee. Such actions may be misconstrued and must be avoided.
- g. I will carefully consider the potential negative consequences before accepting a directee with whom I have a pre-existing relationship.
- h. I will not audiotape or videotape or otherwise record sessions.
- i. I will not engage in inappropriate communications with directees on social media or other electronic or video technology platforms.
- j. I will conduct all spiritual direction sessions in appropriate settings at appropriate times. Ministry sessions are not to be held in places or at times that would tend to cause confusion about the nature of the relationship with the directee. Sessions shall not be held in the director's or directee's home or residence. It is acceptable to conduct virtual (Zoom, Google Meet, etc.) sessions from the director's residence.
- k. I will keep all information disclosed by the directee during the ministry session in the strictest confidence, except as may be required by law or diocesan policy regarding suspected or known abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult.
- l. I will not accept payment, stipends or other contributions for spiritual direction.
- m. During my practicum year as a student in the program, I will be supervised by an experienced spiritual director approved and recommended by the program (or the Diocese). I will participate in all required supervision sessions and curriculum of the program.
- n. I will immediately notify in writing the Diocese of my withdrawal, suspension, or termination from the program.

4. At the earlier of the conclusion of my practicum year in the program or my withdrawal, suspension, or termination from the program, I understand that the permission granted herein to engage in supervised spiritual direction within the Diocese and allowance to receive any referrals from the Diocese its parishes or other diocesan organization shall automatically terminate. After that time, I agree not to practice as a spiritual director within the Diocese of Charleston until I receive written approval from the Diocese of Charleston allowing for such practice.

5. I understand that any action inconsistent with the within covenants, or failure to take action mandated by these covenants, may result in revocation of my permission to engage in supervised spiritual direction within the Diocese of Charleston and future loss of referrals by the Diocese of Charleston, the parish or other diocesan organization hereunder, AND, if I am using parish or diocesan office space, may result in the termination of the use of such space. In addition, any action inconsistent with this covenant that also violates the Policy and Code of Conduct may result in the loss of my approval to volunteer for the parish and Diocese of Charleston.

6. I further understand that the Diocese of Charleston, parish or other diocesan organization may cease its permission to allow me to engage in supervised spiritual direction or the referral of directees to me and my use of their office space at any time, for any reason or no reason.

Print Student Spiritual Director's Name

Student Spiritual Director's Parish

Student Spiritual Director's Signature

Signature of Pastor/Administrator of
Student Spiritual Director's Parish (or
Diocese)

Date

Date

Student Spiritual Director's Contact Information

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Work Telephone

Cell Phone

Home Telephone

Email

