



LEADING CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUPS & RETREATS:

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY

Class of 2013

APPLICATION FORM – PAGE 1

Please provide two copies of the completed application, including the essay, and a \$45 nonrefundable application fee, payable to Shalem. Application Deadline: 1/10/12

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____
(home) city, state zip

(work) city, state zip

PHONES _____
(home) (work) e-mail

Religious Affiliation _____
(Denomination & Community/Congregation, if applicable)

Sponsoring Organization (if any) _____

Current Occupation _____

Date of Birth _____ Highest Earned Academic Degree _____ Major Subject _____

Is there anyone connected with Shalem with whom you are acquainted?

How did you hear about this program?

Shalem participation (events attended or Shalem authors read or heard, if any):

Outline the highlights of your formal and informal religious educational background after high school:

Outline your primary vocational history:

Are you applying for scholarship assistance? No _____ Yes _____
If yes, please enclose the Scholarship Form with this application.



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APPLICATION FORM – PAGE 2

NAME: _____

Please write a short essay (up to two double-spaced pages) that includes answers to the following questions:

1. What attracts you to this program?
2. What important life experiences lie behind this attraction? Include the nature and extent of your participation in, study about, and/or leadership of groups relevant to group spiritual formation and exploration.
3. What specifically do you sense you need from such a program?
4. With whom and where do you expect to use your learnings?
5. What is your understanding, at this point, of the intent of contemplative group spiritual formation/exploration that defines its importance for you?
6. What do you feel are the most important qualifications for a leader of such a group or retreat?
7. How would you honestly assess your assets and deficits relevant to being such a group spiritual leader at this point?

Please list the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two or three people whom you would trust to know your work or potential as a group spiritual formation leader. Ask these people to send us a letter of recommendation for you before the application deadline, using the guidelines on the Recommendation Form.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

I do ___ do not ___ wish to apply for graduate credit through the Washington Theological Union. (If you wish credit from WTU, please contact them directly.)

Please return completed application form to:
SHALEM INSTITUTE, 3025 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017



LEADING CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUPS & RETREATS:
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RECOMMENDATION FORM

Application Deadline: January 10, 2012

Dear _____,

As part of my application for the Shalem Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups & Retreats Program, I am asking you to write a letter of recommendation for me. Please address the questions listed below and provide any additional information that might help Shalem evaluate my application. Please send your response, along with this form, to Shalem by the above deadline.

Thank you,

(Signature of Applicant)

1. In what way are you acquainted with the applicant and her or his ministry?
2. What is your personal appraisal of the applicant's gifts, calling, and actual work (if any) as a spiritual formation group leader (i.e., as someone who can create environments that assist people's direct presence for God, guiding them in prayer, silent meditation and reflection, and maintaining a prayerful presence as a leader)?
3. Can you relate any comments from other people regarding the applicant's gifts and abilities as a group leader?
4. What is your appraisal of the applicant's personal spiritual maturity and practice?
5. What is your opinion of the applicant's psychological maturity and stability?
6. Would you have any hesitation in referring someone to the applicant's group if she/he were leading one?
7. Please mention at least one area of the applicant's way of being with groups that you feel may be in need of attention for the sake of furthering the quality of her/his leadership.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Please send your response to:
Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation
3025 Fourth Street, NE, Suite 22, Washington, DC 20017
Telephone: (301)897-7334
website: www.shalem.org