

Living in Ministry: Peer Coaching for Pastoral Leaders

A Program for Clergy and Professional Church Lay Ministers

September 2011–May 2012

Co-sponsored by the Kairos Spiritual Life Center and the Boundless Way Zen

As clergy and lay ministers, we often find that our relationship with God has become “professional”—effective for ministry but no longer feeding us personally. Parish ministry can require so much of our energy that we find it difficult to step back and discern our own needs.

*“This came along at just the right time for me. I learned amazing, simple things—the quality of the teaching and time together and in coaching was really precious to me.”**

This ecumenical program is designed to support clergy and professional lay ministers in our personal, professional and spiritual lives, through three day-long retreats, two morning sessions, and the formation of intentional life-coaching relationships with peers in the group. At the center of this program is the belief that we are naturally creative, resourceful and whole; we will use the process of peer coaching along with meditation and prayer practices to deepen our ability for discernment and action.

*“In subtle but significant ways, this experience has impacted my ministry, giving me a greater sense of freedom and trust, a valuable experience of collegiality and commitment to spiritual practice.”**

Participants receive Peer Coaching training, and then engage in this process as both a coach and a coachee. Each participant will be in two pairs: in one pairing as the coach, in the other as the one being coached. This allows participants to strengthen their ability to listen and discern with others as well as receive support for their own life and ministry.

*“This has helped me to be more of a Presence than an “expert”, and to trust, to take risks even when the going gets tough!”**

*Participants in the Living in Ministry 2010-11 program

THE PROGRAM

Three Retreat Days (9 a.m.–2 p.m.): October 13, January 19 and May 3

These gatherings will focus on learning and practicing peer coaching, as well as offer time for spiritual and professional reflection.

Two Morning Gatherings (9–11 a.m.): December 1 and March 8

The morning sessions will provide an opportunity for continued learning and connection with others in the program.

Peer Coaching Opportunity: Participants will participate in four 30-minute coaching sessions per month (to be done in person or by phone): two sessions in the role of coach, and two being coached.

*All training sessions will be held at the Boundless Way Zen, 1030 Pleasant Street, Worcester.
Lunch is provided for Retreat Days.*

Tuition for this program is \$425, and may be paid in two installments. *Please note: Tuition is \$400 if registration and first installment of \$200 are received by July 30.* Some scholarship aid is available; please contact Nancy Elder-Wilfrid for information about scholarships.

Registration is limited; please register by September 12, 2011.

David Rynick and Nancy Elder-Wilfrid are leaders for this program. David is a professional life coach and ordained Zen Roshi. Since 2005, he has been leading the peer-coaching program for the Episcopal House of Bishops and similar trainings for other clergy groups around the country. In his private coaching practice, David works extensively with religious leaders to support their personal, professional, and spiritual development. David and his wife, Melissa Blacker, are currently the resident teachers at the Boundless Way Zen. Nancy was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1980, and has served parishes in Massachusetts, New Jersey and New Hampshire. She currently serves as the transitional pastor for United Congregational Church, UCC, in Worcester and as the director of the Kairos Spiritual Life Center, a ministry of All Saints Church. Nancy has offered spiritual direction since 1994, with a special focus in spiritual direction with clergy.

REGISTRATION FORM *Living in Ministry: Peer Coaching for Pastoral Leaders*

To register, please complete the form below and mail with your first installment check of \$200 to:

Kairos Spiritual Life Center, All Saints Church, 10 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01609

Make check payable to All Saints Church, memo: Kairos Center.

Registration deadline is September 12.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ Email _____

Denomination/Congregation _____ Years in Ministry _____