

Spiritual Direction Network

“If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit,” Jesus said, comparing our relationship with Him to the connection of a branch and the vine (John 15:5). The Vineyard USA Spiritual Direction Network provides trusted spiritual directors for pastors, leaders, and congregation members so they can experience that “life of the vine” and the fruit that comes from it.

The network is under the umbrella of the Vineyard’s Pastoral Health & Formation team, led by Danielle Pathak. This team provides soul care and formation initiatives for Vineyard pastors and leaders, as well as making spiritual directors and coaches available throughout the Vineyard.

LEARN MORE

[Visit vineyardusa.org](https://vineyardusa.org) to learn more about the Pastoral Health & Formation Team offerings and initiatives.

Please read [“Being and Becoming”](#) for an overview of Vineyard spiritual direction. “Being and Becoming” is a 2024 paper written by Jared Boyd, who interviewed several seasoned spiritual directors in the Vineyard.

What kind of directors will be in the network?

Whether they offer one-to-one direction or use their background more generally, the network looks for directors who are wise, humble, discerning, full of integrity, grounded in Scripture, and in step with the Holy Spirit. Directors are asked to be committed to healthy relationships, both in their personal lives and in their local churches. In addition, they should meet the following qualifications:

- Have completed a spiritual direction training program, preferably one that meets the [ESDAs training minimums](#) (see graftedlife.org).
- Are a faithful part of a Vineyard church and are recommended by a pastoral leader.¹
- Have been in the Vineyard for at least five years (the network representative can elect to waive this requirement).
- Offer spiritual direction aligned with the Vineyard’s statement of faith and practices.

Some people with a spiritual direction background may not want to participate in the network, but would like to stay connected to what is happening with pastoral care in the

¹ Directors not in a Vineyard church can indicate this on their application, and do further dialog after the application is submitted.

Vineyard. If so, please contact pastoralhealth@vineyardusa.org and ask to be added to the pastoral care mailing list.

What will the network offer?

The network will be a place of ongoing connection, both so directors can connect with peers and supervisors, and so they can connect with people looking for a director. The network offers:

- An online listing to share specialties and interests with prospective directees.
- Personal recommendations to suitable directees who are looking for a director.
- Connections with supervisors or supervision groups.
- Training and refreshment workshops and opportunities.
- Quarterly network Zoom gatherings for encouragement and training.
- Opportunities to train for working with Vineyard leaders and churches in specialized areas such as pastoral succession, sabbatical planning, and leadership transitions.

Additional opportunities will become available over time.

What will the network ask of members?

Directors will join for a year at a time, and complete a yearly renewal if they wish to continue. They do not need to be available to take new directees in order to be part of the network.

Yearly Membership Fee: As the network starts up, there will be a discounted fee of \$45. The goal is always to keep the fee as low as possible for members, while covering some of the background costs.

In addition, directors will be asked to:

- Apply to join the network, including providing a pastoral referral.
- Complete an onboarding module after their application is accepted. This will include a personal baseline reflection around their rule of life and practice of spiritual direction.
- Participate in quarterly network Zoom gatherings (please join at least 2 a year).
- Be in spiritual direction, on a schedule that works for them personally.
- Be proactive about scheduling supervision; three to four meetings a year are suggested, whether in a monthly series or periodically.
- Consider offering a pro-bono direction series during the year.
- Renew yearly, which will include revisiting their personal baseline and reflection.

Getting Started

Application

You can find the network application at <https://vineyardusa.fillout.com/SDNApplication>

Questions? Contact Connie Willems, spiritualdirection@vineyardusa.org.