

DEEP TIME SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

***Deep Time Spiritual Direction seeks to listen the new story into articulation
within the lives of individuals and the whole earth community.***

(Perspective Statement: see DTNetwork.org)

Deep Time Spiritual Direction is a process carried out through one-to-one interpersonal conversations. The aim of the conversations is to bring to birth the fruit and language of the New Story as we move from old ways of being and understanding to what is emerging as the future and the new. It seeks to establish and maintain a growth orientation (or direction) in the life of the person seeking such a relationship.

Spiritual direction involves three persons or parties:

- The person seeking direction (directee), the listener or guide (director), and Ultimate Reality, whether that Reality is perceived as Person or not. Brian Swimme calls this 'All Nourishing Abyss'.

Two movements are held in a constant relationship to each other, namely:

- Listening to and articulating the ongoing vocation of one's life within their community
- Progressively elaborating an integrated and adequate response to that sense of vocation.

This process is based on the belief that the spiritual journey is unique to each person and that we are each fashioned and transformed according to this secret call / vocation within us.

One person as guide and companion (director) is invited to, and is regularly available to, assist another person (directee) in listening deeply to this call within their own lives. The directee is open and responsive and at no time abandons critical judgment or responsibility. The director as listener is also open and responsive and acts responsibly in keeping the goal of spiritual formation and growth central in the conversation. The relationship is not an authority-obedience nor a superior-subject relationship. A fully-integrated life is characterised by freedom on both the part of the director and of the directee. In some instances, the relationship may lead to referral to other forms of professional help, always at the personal discretion of the directee.

The director's primary effort is devoted to assisting the other to objectify, appropriate and then evaluate their experience. It involves listening, questioning, waiting, encouraging, challenging and clarifying. She/he may never fully understand the experience of another but places trust in them and in the Ultimate Reality of the directee's choice. While the director may name that reality differently, the conversations hold true to the directee's chosen naming.

For the director, the inner freedom necessary to let another find and follow their own path within this guidance is the result of his/her own personal formation and growth in spiritual freedom. At times, the director will take segments of the conversation (with due regard for anonymity on the part of the directee) to a supervisor or supervision group for clarification of her/his own inner work as he/she seeks to stay true to the intention of the spiritual direction contract.

For the person seeking direction, open and honest sharing of experiences leads on to inner reflection on the ways their experience of formation and transformation affects their daily life. This in turn leads on to the integration of inner reflection and the rest of life, a deepening commitment to whatever forms of ultimate reality they hold to be true, and a more balanced, intense and effective involvement in the way that sense of reality is expressed in practice in their local and global community.

***"For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice."
(TS Eliot, Four Quartets)***

Di Shearer

is in practice in a ministry of spiritual direction from within a Deep Time Perspective
in South Australia and by Zoom or phone across the world.

As a premium member of the Deep Time Network, Di has completed professional development
modules in the following areas:

Foundation, Montessori Education and Deep Time Education across all levels,
Big History, The Scroll of Life, Cosmos and Gaia, Emergence of the New Human,
Cosmology Basics, Cosmic Themes and Human Development, Exploring through Myth & Ritual,
Deep Time Leadership Program (2021-2022)

Spiritual Leadership and the New Consciousness,
Reclaiming the Cosmic in Holiday Rituals,
Hidden Heart of the Cosmos.

The World View of Thomas Berry: The Flourishing of the Human Community

Journey of the Universe Series: MOOC

Her life and faith experience include the following:

As Educator

Secondary School Teacher, Teacher Educator, Adult and Community Educator, Theological Educator
Specialist Researcher in Intercultural Communication
Retreat Leader and Facilitator of Spiritual Practice Circles – Ecumenical & Interfaith

In Prophetic Action

Development of Post Compulsory Education in Malaysia
Involvement with indigenous communities in Malaysia
Action for Australian Reconciliation
Adult Development and Human Resource Consultancy.

In Faith Development

Guided by contemplative reading of contemporary philosophy, theology and ethics
and of mystics across the centuries held in the light of modern cosmology and psychology.
Member of the Australian Network for Spiritual Direction and the Conference for Spiritual Direction
Higher Degree Research in the Principles of Personal and Social Being,
Ministry Practice with special reference to the writings of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Di has the following qualifications: Doctor of Ministry (Adelaide College of Divinity) Doctor of Philosophy (Griffith
University, Queensland). Master of Arts (Theology: Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry) (Australian Catholic University).
Master of Education (Adelaide University), Graduate Diploma in Instructional Uses of Computers (South Australian
College of Advanced Education), Bachelor of Divinity (Melbourne College of Divinity, Bachelor of Arts (Adelaide
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*'We learn much from the natural maturity which age brings to the spirit, provided that the spirit has already some depth
of experience to which it spontaneously returns and from which it gradually draws quite different things from those it
drew before!'*

(Abbe Henri de Tourville)

All enquiries welcome!.