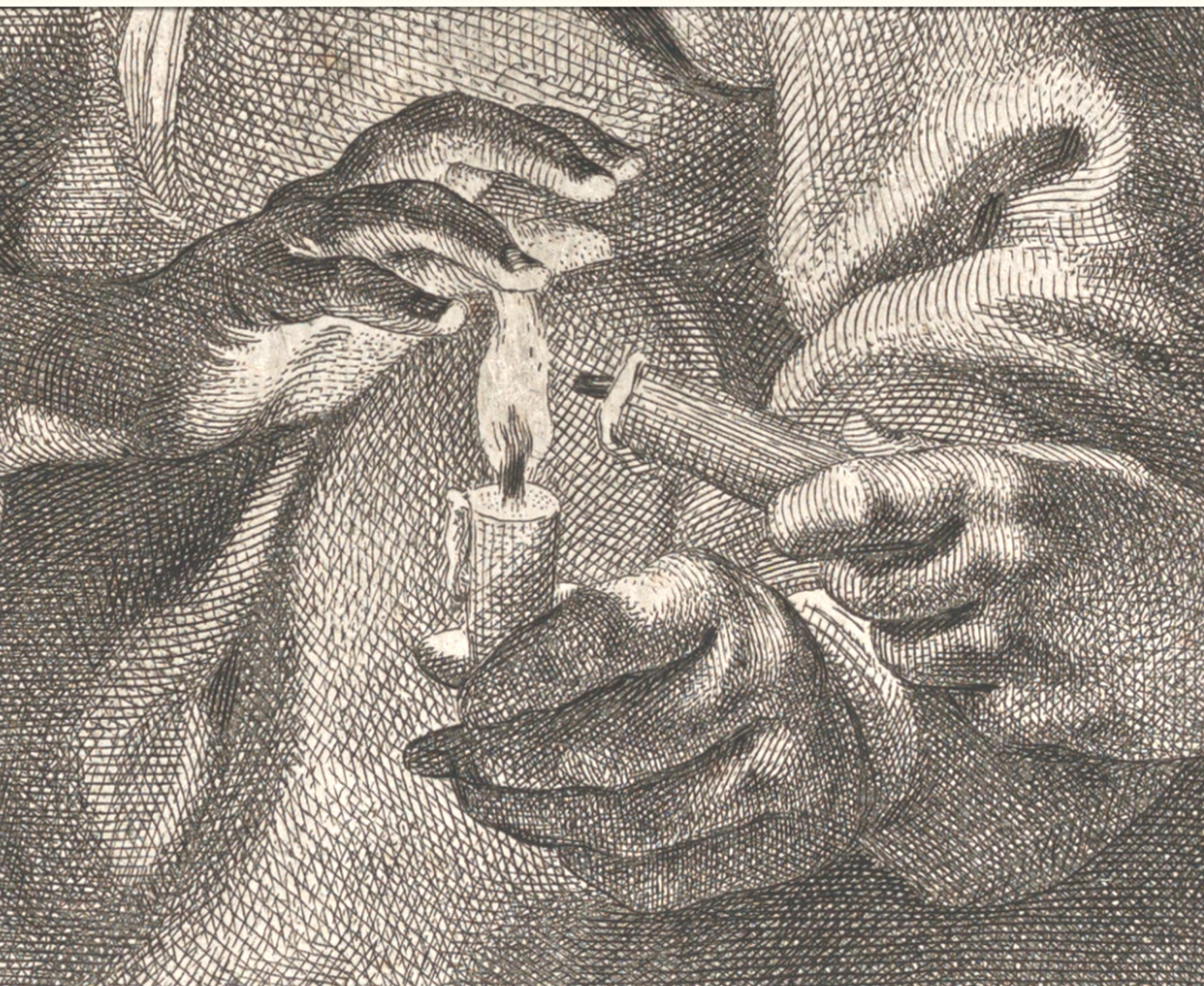
2027-2029 COURSE IN
SPIRITUAL COMPANIONSHIP

Presented by the CENTRE FOR
CONTEMPLATIVE SPIRITUALITY, Pretoria



Purpose

Spiritual companionship is an enduring, essential practice for Christians, offering a consistent space to confront the unfiltered reality of your life and encounter God within it. A spiritual director acts as a grounded witness – someone with whom you can honestly explore your journey, stay accountable to your path, and ultimately nurture a more profound relationship with the Divine.

This course aims to deepen your understanding of this craft through a rigorous blend of theory and practice. Beyond just developing technical skills to guide others, the training is designed to be a transformative journey, prioritizing your own personal and spiritual maturation.

Background

Since 2006, this course has functioned under the Centre for Spirituality of the Dutch Reformed Church's Circuit of Southeast Pretoria, in partnership with Excelsus, the University of Pretoria Centre for Further Development of Ministry. It offers ministers the opportunity to earn 150 CPD points for completing the full course.

The program was founded by Franciscan nun Sister Mary Fisher, who was later joined by Dr. Willem Nicol. Although Sister Mary Fisher returned to the USA in 2013, her foundational influence on South Africa's contemplative spiritual landscape remains central to our work.

Individuals from all denominations are welcome to sign up for the course. It is important to emphasize that books prescribed are sourced from the world of contemplative spirituality and theology. The spirituality to which you will be exposed, will take you on a journey and is more encompassing than the traditional and mainline religious paths.

The language of instruction for the course is English.

We encourage participants who are older than 35 years of age.

Companions On The Journey

George Angus integrates the depth of theology, psychology, and advanced training from the Jesuit Institute and the Center for Action and Contemplation with the tangible rhythms of a writer, spiritual director, and craftsman. Running The Restory Retreat Centre near Wakkerstroom with his wife Matilda, his approach to spiritual companionship bridges the mystical and the ordinary - offering a spacious, unhurried presence to help others discern the Divine in the raw fabric of daily life.

Nicolin Hoffmann's contemplative journey began in 2000 after reading dr. Willem Nicol's book -Gebed van die Hart. Shortly after that she was introduced to the spiritual practice of contemplative prayer during a silent retreat. This put her on a new path of an ever-deepening spiritual relationship with God. Nicolin completed training as Spiritual Director in 2009 under sister Mary Fisher. After Sister Mary's return to the USA, she became part of the training team for Spiritual Directors in Pretoria. Nicolin facilitates a weekly contemplative service at Andrew Murray Pretoria, and leads Spiritual Retreats on a regular basis. Nicolin is available for Spiritual Companionship in person and on Zoom, in both Afrikaans and English.

Marina van der Linde has studied theology at the University of Pretoria and obtained a PhD in the field of Christian Spirituality. She has been trained as a spiritual director and has been part of the facilitators team for many years. She is passionate about contemplative spirituality and all its aspects. She has been in full time ministry for more than 25 years, where she has been guiding people in processes of faith formation, inner transformation, contemplative spirituality and theology.

Course Dates (Preliminary)

Please note: The dates follow the same pattern as previous years and are subject to confirmation.

NB: Before submitting your application, please ensure that, should you be selected, you will be able to attend all modules and comply with the requirements of the course.

2027:

21-25 June:	Introduction Faith Journey Faith Practices Quiet	(Origins Retreat Centre)
24-26 August:	Image of God	(Ooskerk, Pretoria)
19-21 October:	The Listening Life	(Ooskerk, Pretoria)

2028:

22-24 February:	A-Z of Spiritual Companionship (Part 1)	(Ooskerk, Pretoria)
24-28 April:	Contemplative Living (Part 1)	(Ooskerk, Pretoria)
20-22 June:	The Enneagram	(Retreat Centre)
22-24 August:	A-Z of Spiritual Companionship (Part 2)	(Ooskerk, Pretoria)
24-26 October:	Contemplative Living (Part 2)	(Ooskerk, Pretoria)

2029:

20-22 February:	Discernment	(Ooskerk, Pretoria)
23-26 April:	Final Review	(Retreat Centre)

Costs & Applications

Costs

Tuition fee for two year course: R 21 750.00
payable in 24 monthly instalments of R R945.00 per month
from May 2027 - April 2029
(Course fee only. Excludes retreats, personal spiritual companionship,, books, personal travel and accommodation costs.)

Not included in the tuition fee:
Estimated costs subject to price increases

- June 2027 Origins Retreat Centre
- June 2028 Retreat Centre
- April 2029 Retreat Centre
- Weekend silent retreat in 2027/28/29 at prescribed retreat centres
- "8 Day (7 Night)" Silent Retreat in 2028, at prescribed retreat centres

Applications & Selections

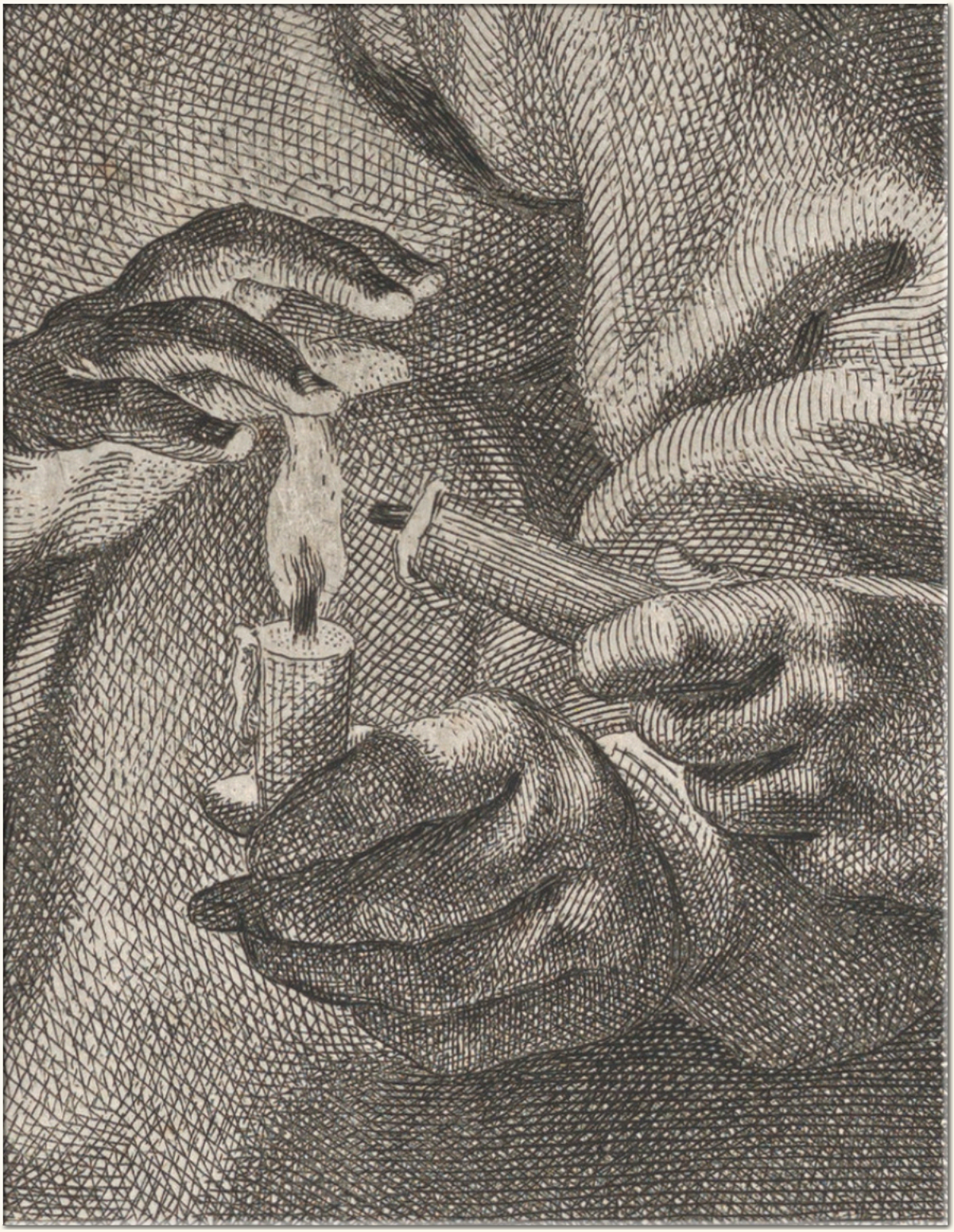
Applications close 26 March 2027.
15 applicants will be selected.
The selection process will require completion of an application form, accompanied by a recent photo, as well as an interview with the panel of organizers, in person or via zoom.
The outcome of the selection process will be communicated by the end of April 2027.

Procedure for application:

Send an email to **info@sd-za.org** stating that you would like to apply.
The application form will be e-mailed to you.
Before submitting your application, please ensure that if selected, you will be able to attend all modules and comply with every requirement of the course.

Criteria that will be taken into consideration when selecting an applicant:

- A good understanding of contemplative spirituality and the contemplative life.
- Already in a regular personal process of spiritual companionship.
- Having a regular and committed personal faith practice, which includes,among other things, centering prayer.

For more information contact:

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