



NVIS

CORRESPONDENCE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

√		Elective Title	Tuition
	1	BECOMING A UNIVERSAL HUMAN	\$80
	2	THE SHAMANS JOURNEY FOR PERSONAL AND GLOBAL HEALING	\$80
	3	TAO OF MALE AND FEMALE – SACRED UNION	\$80
	4	CALLING ALL EMPATHS	\$80
	5	DEEPENING YOUR SPIRITUAL PRACTICE	\$80
	6	THE INTERFAITH WEDDING*	\$250
	7	PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING*	\$150
	8	PERFORMING CHRISTIAN RITUAL AS AN INTERFAITH MINISTER*	\$150
	9	DISASTER MINISTRY*	\$150
		<i>All courses are available in .mp3 or CD format</i>	

* for Clergy and Ministerial Students only

Descriptions

1. THE SHAMANS JOURNEY FOR PERSONAL AND GLOBAL HEALING

In this experiential and interactive workshop, Rev. Farmer will guide students as they learn of shamanism and the shamanic journey, experience a shamanic journey, and participate in a personal healing ritual. Shamanism is the oldest spiritual and healing tradition.

The shamanic journey is an indigenous technology used to connect to the spirit realms where spiritual wisdom, guidance and medicine are obtained and used for individual, community and global healing. Rev. Farmer will discuss and share insights on the role of shamanism in our expanding and shifting consciousness; and, how shamanism is a foundation of his ministry.

Please Have Available: Bandana or eye covering, pen/paper

Presenter: Rev. Anthony Farmer

Rev. Anthony Farmer is an Ordained Interfaith Minister (The New Seminary 2008), and Ordained Interfaith-Interspiritual Cleric and Wisdom Keeper (Order of Universal Interfaith 2010). He is the Senior Minister and visionary of Visions of the Heart Spiritual Life Center, a growing Interfaith Community in Takoma Park, MD. As a spiritual teacher and guide, Rev. Farmer synthesizes the wisdom, experience and energies of an Interfaith Cleric, a Shamanic Practitioner, a Reiki Master Teacher published author, and a Spiritual Life Coach to his sacred ministry of guiding people in reconnecting and learning to live from their heart.

2. TAO OF MALE FEMALE – SACRED UNION

With the rapidly shifting energies of present time, we are acutely aware of the need to recall the Divine Feminine in order to balance the masculine energy that has been dominant for so many centuries. Yet, as our awareness evolves, we can see past the human duality of man vs. woman, and appreciate the Taoist perspective that opposition is a “surface illusion”, and the transcendent reality that the Divine Feminine and Divine Masculine require each other. To truly bring balance to our planet and to ourselves, it is time to call in the potent spiritual potential of both energies. In this experiential and didactic workshop we will reacquaint ourselves with the beauty and power of both masculine and feminine energy from a variety of religious perspectives, and explore ways to balance these energies within ourselves and in our world.

Presenter: Rev. John Smith

John M. Smith, LCSW has been a practicing psychotherapist for over 33 years. In addition to his traditional training, John has developed skills in many areas of therapeutic intervention including Reiki, Psychodrama and Thought Field Therapy. He is also certified as a Laughter Yoga Trainer and Laughter Yoga Leader. John was recently ordained as an Interfaith Minister (2012) after attending the New Vision Interspiritual Seminary (NVIS) in New York City, and he is the Director of the newly formed Inner Faith Sanctuary in La Jolla, Ca, offering counseling to heal religious trauma, and assisting individuals both to reclaim and embody their sacred path.



NVIS

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3. CALLING ALL EMPATHS

Understanding Your Sensitivity and Letting It Work For You

Have you ever been called 'too sensitive'? Have you ever wondered why some people's energies stick with you and you can't get rid of them? Have you ever tried to heal or counsel someone and ended up with their energy or their problems? Many of us believe we are just too vulnerable to the world around us, or we just can't adjust to people or energies. Perhaps it is not that at all. Perhaps you are an Empath and you don't know it. In this workshop we will focus on what it means to be empathic, how to use it to help people and the world, and how to help yourself stay balanced and not affected by all the energies you come in contact with. We will do exercises and meditations to help each of us connect with that empathic, intuitive being inside of us and learn how to release the unwanted energies that we take on.

Presenter: Reverend Deborah Steen Ross

Reverend Deborah Steen Ross has been in the Holistic Health field for more than 30 years with certifications in Nutritional Counseling, Applied Kinesiology, Hypnotherapy and Counseling and holds Masterships in four styles of Reiki including The Radiance Technique ©. She has studied many forms of energy healing and has created her own technique called Release © which works with concepts of Issue Therapy and energetic release work. Reverend Steen Ross teaches workshops in energy healing and has a private practice in spiritual counseling and healing work. She is the Director of the New Vision Interspiritual Seminary (NVIS).

4. DEEPENING YOUR SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Your spiritual practice is a culmination of the tools, techniques, methods you use to stay connected and receive guidance, and it can be so much more. In this time of mystical, cosmological and personal energetic shifts, we are being called to strengthen and recommit to our spiritual practice. Through presentation, discussion, meditation and reflection, Rev. Anthony Farmer will guide you to deepening, exploring, realizing and becoming your spiritual practice, which is the foundation for the ministerial walk and a spiritual life.

Presenter: Rev. Anthony Farmer (see Bio above)

5. THE INTERFAITH WEDDING*

* for Clergy and Ministerial Students only

From the First Phone Call to the "I Do"

This course will demonstrate how to organize and work with Interfaith couples to create the perfect marriage ceremony for each couple, no matter what their religious beliefs. We begin with how to talk to prospective couples (and their parents if necessary), and how to close the deal, make contracts, and then how to create the ceremony. We will also cover advertising, what to do the day of the wedding, how to fill out wedding licenses and much more.

Rabbi Ross and Rev. Ross often perform interfaith weddings together and have created a method of working with couples and creating the perfect ceremony for each occasion: www.lovingheartsceremonies.com

Presenters: Rabbi Roger Ross & Reverend Deborah Steen Ross

Rabbi Roger Ross received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Philosophy from New York University, and is a graduate of The New Seminary in New York City. Rabbi Ross received Smicha (Rabbinical Ordination) from the Rabbinical Seminary International. He is the Executive Director of the Rabbinical Seminary International as well as the Rabbinical Fellowship of America, International. He is a Board member of the International Federation of Rabbis, and is the Board Chair and the CFO of the New Vision Interspiritual Seminary (NVIS). Rabbi Ross has a private practice in Marital Counseling as well as Spiritual Counseling for couples and singles.

Reverend Deborah Steen Ross (see bio above)



NVIS

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6. PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING*

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This course will cover specific topics and information needed for the minister who plans to counsel and care for couples as they move through the time preceding and leading up to creating their wedding/civil union. Includes lecture, role play, individual reflection, large and small group discussion and process. We will consider some Interfaith and cross cultural considerations, as well as blended families, family of origin, issues around intimacy, money, power and communication.

Presenter: Reverend Susan Alice Mufson

Rev. Susan Mufson LCSW, is an ordained Interfaith Minister (graduate of TNS) and a psychotherapist in private practice in New York City. She specializes in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, childhood trauma and abuse, traumatic bereavement, as well as spiritual issues. Rev. Susan frequently offers classes and workshops on religious injury and the human/animal bond.

Presenter: Rabbi Roger Ross (see bio above)

7. PERFORMING CHRISTIAN RITUAL AS AN INTERFAITH MINISTER

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Communion, Rites for the Dying, Baptism, etc.

A hands on course for Interfaith Ministers who wish to serve others by performing Christian rituals across the life cycle. We will learn to research, create and perform communion services, baptisms, healing rituals and rites for the dying in a specifically Christian manner, yet in keeping with Interfaith ethics and inclusivity. Graduates will be able to perform these rituals with confidence and grace, in churches, hospitals, homes or anyplace else where they may be needed.

Note Required Text: *Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (1979)*

Presenter: Rev. Francesca Fortunato

The Reverend Francesca Fortunato serves as Pastor of the Church of St. Nicholas in Brooklyn and co-Pastor of the Church of St. Mychal in Manhattan. She was ordained as an Interfaith Minister by The New Seminary in 2003 and as an Independent Catholic Priest by the Orthodox Catholic Church of America in 2006. She holds a Masters degree in Holistic Theology from the American Institute of Holistic Theology and has ecclesiastical endorsement with the International Council of Community Churches (a Protestant denomination). Rev. Francesca is a frequent guest preacher at Dignity, NY (a community of LGBT Catholics) and is a member of Pride in the Pulpit and Queer In Faith. She lives in Brooklyn with her Partner, Rev. Lynn Walker and their feline family, Alice and Trixie.

8. DISASTER MINISTRY

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The purpose of this course is to provide basic training for Interfaith Ministers who may be called upon to minister to victims of disasters. This course prepares Interfaith Ministers to provide brief crisis intervention and spiritual care services in disaster situations and offers Best Practices for working in disaster settings. Using both didactic and experiential methods, this course will provide participants with an understanding of crisis dynamics in disaster settings and demonstrate intervention strategies for Interfaith Ministers. Issues of interagency coordination and cooperation at the scene of disasters and Family Assistance Centers will also be addressed.

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Grace Telesco

Rev. Dr. Grace Telesco received a Ph.D. in Social Work from Fordham University and is a Diplomate of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress. Following the September 11th attacks on the WTC, Dr. Telesco, working as a Police Lieutenant, was appointed the Interagency Coordinator of Mental Health Services at the Family Assistance Center where families of the victims received crisis intervention and support. Following Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Telesco was deployed to New Orleans by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to be a part of the elite DTAC (Disaster Technical Assistance and Consultation) Team providing assistance to the Governor of Louisiana and the State Office of Mental Health. Rev. Dr. Telesco is also an ordained Interfaith Minister and Founder and Spiritual Leader of the Darshan Center for Spiritual Evolution.