

United Methodist Certification in Spiritual Formation

Students who are enrolled in Perkins School of Theology's *Certification in Spiritual Direction* program can receive credit toward *United Methodist Certification in Spiritual Formation* on its paraprofessional track.

Certification in specialized ministries in The United Methodist Church demonstrates a level of competency and standards set by the denomination. These standards include faith formation, academic training and experience, membership in The United Methodist Church, and continuing study in the area of specialization.

Persons pursuing United Methodist certification must be a member of The United Methodist Church and have two years of supervised experience in the specialized area of ministry at the time of certification. The full list of requirements and steps into United Methodist Certification Studies can be found under "Certification Studies" at www.gbhem.org.

Persons enrolling or continuing studies in Perkins' Spiritual Direction program who desire paraprofessional certification in Spiritual Formation in the United Methodist Church should make their interest known to the certification registrar of their annual conference Board of Ordained Ministry and should complete the *Enrollment Form for Paraprofessional Certification* (Para HE 4065), providing it to the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The form is available at www.gbhem.org.

Upon successful completion of Perkins' *Certification Program in Spiritual Direction* program, enrolled candidates for United Methodist certification should provide Perkins' office of Advanced Ministerial Studies (318 Kirby Hall) proof of successful completion from Perkins' office of Spiritual Formation (i.e. a clean photocopy of the confirmation of completion letter from the director), proof of United Methodist Certification Enrollment (a copy of HE 4065), along with payment of a processing fee of \$25.00 payable to Perkins School of Theology. Such submission will allow students to meet requirements for four courses with the United Methodist Certification process.

Candidates for United Methodist Certification in Spiritual Formation will also need to compete a fifth course, *United Methodist Studies*, to complete the academic requirements for United Methodist Certification. This course is currently offered on a periodic bases in a 7-day intensive format in January or June. Please visit <http://www.smu.edu/Perkins/PublicPrograms> for the schedule of classes. Please note that this class does not meet the requirements for ordination in The United Methodist Church. Persons who have completed previous courses in United Methodist Doctrine, Polity and History for United Methodist ordination may receive United Methodist Certification credit for the work by contacting the [United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry](http://www.gbhem.org).

Upon completion of all academic requirements, candidates may complete the final steps toward United Methodist Certification, including submission of the *Application for Paraprofessional Certification* ([Para HE 4066](http://www.gbhem.org)). Details of this process can be found at www.gbhem.org.