



Fellowship For Today

School of Ministry

Student Information Packet



Learning • Living • Love
TOGETHER

Fellowship For Today

Purpose Statement

The Fellowship For Today is a dynamic community co-creating love and healing. We honor the spiritual expression of all. We encourage individual transformation through the realization and celebration of Divine Oneness. We realize the True Self through meditation, prayer, service, friendship, study, healing, love, forgiveness, tithing, teaching, learning and creative expression. Our impact is felt individually, in the community, globally and universally.

Guiding Principles

- The essence of our being is Spirit. We gather together knowing that the Divine/God is Love, and unites us all. We use many forms of spiritual expression to consciously unite us with the Divine.
- The Fellowship For Today recognizes a supreme spiritual Presence, a divine Oneness called by many names.
- Our thoughts, beliefs and feelings create our experience of the world. We heal ourselves, each other and the world through our thoughts, prayers, and actions.
- There are many paths to Truth. We honor all spiritual traditions and find connectedness in all teachings. We interact with all people and aspects of the world from a place of respect, inclusion, acceptance, forgiveness and love.
- Each person's spiritual journey is unique. We nurture spiritual, mental, emotional and physical well-being through sharing of our individual journeys in loving community. All are welcome to join the Fellowship family and to retain membership in other spiritual groups.
- Loving service builds community and reminds us of the Oneness of all. We manifest Divine Love through mutual support, social action and a commitment to social, political and environmental justice.

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Fellowship School of Ministry is:

- To support personal and spiritual development.
- To fulfill the purpose and principles of the Fellowship For Today, creating a learning environment that facilitates:
 - Realization of individual wholeness
 - Building of healthy relationships
 - Intellectual, emotional, physical, community, social and spiritual healing
 - Creation of strong spiritual community and greater spiritual unfolding
 - Development of a personal response to the call to service
- To honor the wisdom teachings and practices of various spiritual paths and religious traditions.

CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY

1. Students engage in a process that emphasizes the development of intellectual, emotional, physical, social and spiritual awareness. Course work combines theoretical and experiential learning.
2. Achievement of the curriculum competencies is in the hands of each student. Individual students, with their Advisor(s), develop a plan for completion of competencies based on prior personal and spiritual education, work history and experience.
3. Fulfillment of competencies may be granted for studies successfully completed through other schools, work experience, seminars, and workshops related to the curriculum.
4. Emphasis is on Metaphysical/New Thought teachings as expressed through A Course in Miracles, Science of Mind and other New Thought philosophies and universal themes common to all major religious teachings that promote the recognition of One Mind, One Power, One Divine Presence.
5. Establishment of a three-level approach inspired by the stages of consciousness. Level 1 is intended to help students shift from victim consciousness to empowerment. Here students develop practices and structures to support them in the realization of their dreams. Level 2 is intended to shift students from living a personal agenda to living a divine purpose. Here students are growing in sacred service and assisting others in growth and development. Level 3 is intended to shift consciousness from being a vehicle of the Divine to being the full embodiment of the Divine and living in Oneness. Students who successfully complete all three levels qualify for ordination.

Please Note, this list is meant as a broad overview of what will be covered each term. It is not intended to be a complete course outline.

LEVEL I: Fundamentals of Personal Empowerment COMPETENCIES

The Fellowship School of Ministry's focus is on meeting specific competencies versus hours of instruction. Successful completion of Level I is based on *demonstration* of the following competencies.*

1. Experiential knowledge of the Fellowship For Today's Guiding Principles and Purpose Statement, as well as knowledge of and respect for meditation, prayer, chant, visioning, tithing, and other practices mentioned in the Guiding Principles.
2. Experiential knowledge of New Thought and Science of Mind principles, including how to do the five step affirmative prayer/spiritual mind treatment.
3. A declared commitment to spiritual development, engagement in a personal spiritual practice, and an understanding of the Self as the source of life experience.
4. An experiential understanding of at least three types of Transformational Practices/Healing Modalities and their effects.
5. Completion/presentation of a final project each term.

KEY COMPONENTS of the LEVEL I: Fundamentals of Personal Empowerment CURRICULUM

Core Classes:

Fall Term:

Roads to Truth: Principles of New Thought/Fellowship For Today (10 weeks)

Winter Term:

Beyond Limits: Introduction to Science of Mind (12 weeks)

Plan and execute Burning Bowl Ceremony

Spring Term:

Five Gifts for an Abundant Life (8 weeks)

Workshops: School of Ministry students may attend other classes/workshops/seminars to fulfill the competencies. Examples include: Byron Katie's The Work, Emotional Freedom Technique, Forgiveness and Breath Workshops, etc. These may be taken at the Fellowship or through other organizations.

Spiritual Practice: Each term students will choose and commit to a different specific spiritual practice (e.g. Prayer, Chanting, Movement, Meditation, Tithing, and Visioning).

Other: Personal and spiritual transformation such as therapy/healing may be required.

*Competencies subject to revision/clarification.

LEVEL II: Fundamentals of Community Consciousness COMPETENCIES

The Fellowship School of Ministry's focus is on meeting specific competencies versus hours of instruction. Successful completion of Level II is based on *demonstration* of the following competencies.

1. Experiential knowledge of A Course in Miracles, including but not limited to its history, core concepts/lessons and impact on your personal growth and spiritual development.
2. Experiential knowledge of the process of Visioning, as a tool to determine God's plan in your life.
3. Positive personal qualities including compassion, service to others and respect for life, and an understanding of nonviolent approaches to social conflict and an ability to practice good conflict management skills.
4. Good communication skills, one-on-one, writing, and have an experiential understanding of effective group process and meeting management.
5. An experiential understanding of the role of tithing and fundraising in a spiritual community, and an ability to plan, conduct and evaluate fundraising activities.
6. Understanding of how to address the needs of and cultivate the talents of different subgroups, such as children, teens, families, elders, singles, l.g.b.t. community, ethnic and racial groups, and the recovery community.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of how to build community and an ability to build community within the Fellowship and/or other organizations.

KEY COMPONENTS of the LEVEL II: Fundamentals of Community Consciousness Curriculum

Core Classes:

- Fall Term: A Course In Miracles – Disappearance of the Universe & Wapnick video (10 wks)
- Winter Term: Healthy Congregations (Leadership) Training
Plan and Execute Burning Bowl Ceremony
- Spring Term: How to Listen to God: Wally Paton
Transformational Practices

Workshops: School of Ministry students may attend other classes/workshops/seminars to fulfill the competencies.

Spiritual Practice: Each term students will choose and commit to a different specific spiritual practice (e.g. Prayer, Chanting, Movement, Meditation, Tithing, and Visioning).

Leadership Practice: Project: set up a program and committee to reach out to a segment of the community. Have at least two other people on your committee, use visioning and prayer and effective group model. Progress reported to the Steering Committee. Examples of projects: MSU Outreach, LCC Outreach, Community Outreach, Fellowship Essentials, etc.

LEVEL III: Fundamentals for Fellowship Ordination COMPETENCIES

The Fellowship School of Ministry's focus is on meeting specific competencies versus hours of instruction. Successful completion of Level III is based on *demonstration* of the following competencies.

1. Demonstrate a broad respectful knowledge of other religious and spiritual traditions (Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Agnosticism, and Indigenous/Primal).
2. Demonstrate effective teaching and public speaking skills.
3. Demonstrate short-term counseling skills, with the ability to refer people to the appropriate resources when needed.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of life transitions, related ceremonies and rituals.
5. Demonstrate basic financial management and administrative skills necessary for leading a church or group (administrative, financial management, tithing, and fundraising.).
6. Completion of comprehensive final project, including internship.

KEY COMPONENTS of LEVEL III: Fundamentals for Fellowship Ordination Curriculum

Core Classes:

Fall Term:

Comparative Religions (REQUIRED READING "The World's Religions", or The Illustrated World's Religions", by Huston Smith)

Winter Term:

Comparative Religions Field Studies
Internship (relating to your final project)
Plan and Execute Burning Bowl Ceremony

Spring Term:

Ceremonies and Rituals – guest speakers on: Weddings, Funerals, Special Services, etc.

Through the Year:

With the direction of your advisors and the ministry team, identify areas you would like to improve in, and pursue on your own any of the following:

Public Speaking: Join Toastmaster's or another such group, pursue public speaking opportunities, or speak at Fellowship Sunday service for additional practice.

Transformational Practice: Take additional classes or workshops such as the Work of Byron Katie, Forgiveness Training, Transformational Breathwork, Access Consciousness, Higher Brain Living, etc.

Teaching: teach or co-facilitate a 6 to 10 week class on Principles of New Thought, Fellowship Foundations, Beyond Limits, Introduction to A.C.I.M., Five Gifts, etc.

Presentation of your final project.

ADVISORS

The Advisors assist students in completing his/her competencies. The Advisory Team for each student builds as they progress through the program. Level 1 has one advisor, Level 2 has two, and Level 3 has three. Advisors serve as mentors, coaches, evaluators and advocates. The Advisors play an active role in determining the competency of a student, and recommending him/her for completion of each Level.

ADMISSION AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

Admission to the Fellowship School of Ministry is based on a written application, references, demonstrated commitment and an interview. To become an applicant for admission to the program, you must have fulfilled the following minimum requirements.

- Possess a Bachelor's degree or demonstrate commensurate experience.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the program through:
 - Payment of a \$50.00 non-refundable application fee.
 - Completion of application form.
 - Participation in a personal interview.

Optional – Completion of Fellowship For Today membership form.

It is expected that our students will be actively involved in the Fellowship as a way to learn and understand the intention and energy of spiritual community from the Fellowship For Today perspective. If at all possible, we would love to have you become a member. We understand that you may already be an active member of another congregation and as stated in the Fellowship Guiding Principles: "We respect and search for Truth in all spiritual teachings – individuals can subscribe to our guiding principles and still retain membership in any other group."

APPLICATION TIME-LINE

All required materials must be received by the application deadline. Individual Interviews will be scheduled with each applicant.

Level I 2013-2014 Application deadlines are due: September 1, 2013

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- \$50.00 non-refundable application fee due at time of application.
- Students will be responsible for materials required during the program. This includes paper, notebooks, journals, etc. as well as purchasing or borrowing books needed for courses and/or seminars or paying for copied materials. Tuition for Level 1 is \$1,200.00 (not including the \$50.00 deposit. Students are responsible to create and fulfill their own payment plan (weekly, monthly, by term, etc.), with the understanding that at least one third of the full tuition will be paid each term (\$400.00). Tuition must be paid in full in order to successfully complete each level.
- Level 2 and Level 3 tuition is \$1500 per level.

Note:

If the cost for the program is an issue for you, please contact us to discuss alternative possibilities. Students who receive such consideration will provide an agreed upon number of hours of service back to the school. The work plan will be determined with the Fellowship for Today Ministry Team.