



PO Box 1130, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP22 9RP  
Tel: 01494 569056 Email: [info@retreats.org.uk](mailto:info@retreats.org.uk) [www.retreats.org.uk](http://www.retreats.org.uk)

### **Conference for Spiritual Direction Trainers February 2023**

#### **Feedback from discussions focussed around the Draft Guidance for Developing Formation Programmes for Spiritual Directors Circulated prior to the Conference**

#### **Session 1: Initial response to the Draft Guidance and being at this conference**

Chance to meet others – want to do our best, share positively  
Wider field of SD – transforming & forming, quality in difference  
Good practice – energy  
Different structures, accountability  
Timeliness – God’s timing  
Collective desire – wisdom  
Resources and Re-sourcing  
Understanding national scene – reassurance  
Unity not uniformity – commonality  
Feedback to tutors & students – national effort for a good practice = validates  
Hold up practice with own practice  
Catch the vision of evidence and contribute to  
Learning together and taking back  
Range of experience of running and attending courses / online  
Interest in particular areas e.g. theology of SD  
Guidance = soil in the feeding of 5000: How do we provide nourishment?

*(Continues)*

## **Session 2: Comments on and Suggestions for the Guidance**

Include quote from Gospel of John in the introduction?

Have a key summary

Key words and how they fit into the course: congruence, discernment

Was it difficult to make it fit all – experience and none?

How to make flexible

Examples of good practice/courses? Outline of possible course, topics, resources, books, diversity

What is God calling you to do in your context? Trust self

Is there a middle way? Learning from each other

Risk of narrowing options or significant omission?

Another document?

No course is the same each year – adapting to feedback/current trends

What ways is the course **not** congruent e.g. appraisal – outline in principle at outset

What happens to people after course? Formation process implications

Self-discernment, e.g. by those who drop out – validation

Continue validation by team, we all feel inadequate

Congruence = good

Long document – less is more as per SD

Trust is key – DBS checks, safeguarding – signposting where to find

Expectations of doc – living doc – best practice – national

To support and encourage – servant not master – originated from this group

Self-regulating

Useful resource – same as SD Guidelines

Can this guidance be quoted?

Not prescriptive – disclaimer

More attractive in presentation, hints, examples

**(Session 3: Continued facilitated discussions in small groups)**

*(Continues)*

#### **Session 4: Further Comments & Suggestions for inclusion/improvement of the Guidance**

Language of 'direction' and 'director' – see diagrams

Team formation – vulnerability

Generosity of sharing knowledge and good practice

Aligning SD w/course – add column – core competencies

Adding p7 A way of reviewing course

What could this become? – other appendices – add on

Balance – concise & examples in appendix

Presentation of doc at end

p4 'Distinctive' aspects – e.g. self-awareness & second list 'any listener'

Congruence – incongruence = trainer's role – making judgements on suitability

p11 Expected outcomes – trainers as well

p17 Training team pray, share, reflect (more detail needed)

How to deal with no structural or financial support

Gratitude – all courses different – no document perfect

Too long: reduce from 28pp to 12pp – more guidance needed

Share resources – books, other networks

Cost issue appropriate no of hours, payments/bursaries

End of course, quality control, assessment, specific and helpful conversation

App 5 – supervised triad example

DBS & safeguarding – what is needed?

Important to maintain space created in team

Value visiting experts

Process & content tension – responding to needs/things that arise/no need to use all

Guidance – soil & flowers – use in intro + hopes of how guidance is to be used

Use of small groups

External review

Contemplative – needs reference?

Team supervisor

'Guidance' – is this term OK or not? 'The Framework', collective wisdom