



Baylor University  
GEORGE W. TRUETT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Greetings, and welcome to our community! We are thrilled that you will join with us in pursuit of God's call upon your life. The Office of Spiritual Formation is here to serve, support, equip, and encourage you as you learn, grow, and discern your vocation as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

*Please keep reading. Below you will find information about how to register for your Spiritual Formation courses, which sections of the course apply to you and your circumstances, and other information that is specific to the Houston and San Antonio extension campuses (slightly different from Waco) that you need to know.*

At Truett, we not only seek to teach you the Scriptures, theology, the practice of ministry, and the history of the church. It is our goal to help you grow and mature as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Our effort to educate, equip, and instruct you in this area is called spiritual formation. The word for this concept that may be more familiar to you is discipleship. Dallas Willard wrote, "Spiritual formation for the Christ-follower refers to the Spirit-driven process of forming the inner world of the human self in such a way that it becomes like the inner being of Christ himself."

## Why Spiritual Formation?

Spiritual formation is a crucial aspect of preparation for life, ministry, and vocation that you will receive at Truett Seminary. We want you to grow strong in your inmost being, learning to love God with heart, mind, soul, and strength—everything that you are—in order that you might faithfully love your neighbor as yourself, just as Jesus commanded. We want you to develop and experience a robust Christian spirituality, a life of communion with the Father, in the Son, walking in step with the Holy Spirit.

In Luke 6:40, Jesus told his disciples, "The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher." We want you to grow to be like Jesus, the Master Teacher, and to do so alongside others who are seeking to learn from him in order to do everything he commanded us (Matthew 28:18-20). We want Christ to be "fully formed" in you (Galatians 4:19). Whatever your vocation, we have a firm conviction that the church will be stronger if we all seek to grow in the likeness of Jesus, obey his teachings, and bless others as a result of our life in him.

## What Does Spiritual Formation Look Like on the Waco Campus?

On our Waco campus, the spiritual formation program facilitates growth in Christlikeness through four semesters of required Spiritual Formation coursework. These courses are taken in succession: PRTH 7101, PRTH 7102, PRTH 7103, and PRTH 7004, and are titled Spiritual Formation I, II, III, and IV.

In the first semester course, you will prayerfully consider your story, God's story, and your vocation as a follower of Christ. In semester two, we will explore and practice several spiritual practices, or disciplines, like fasting, service, and celebration. In semester three, you'll form a personal covenant, or rule of life, and learn discernment through a practice called group spiritual direction. In the fourth semester, you will participate in a retreat alongside your peers and under the guidance of mentors and your instructors.

At the outset of these courses, each class is organized into smaller subsets called Covenant Groups. In your covenant group, you will practice Christian community alongside fellow students, mentors, and instructors. You will be challenged intellectually to think about the spiritual life and to form a theology of discipleship. You will discuss assigned readings. In your covenant group, you will reflect upon and clarify how you pursue God now, and how you will do so in the future.

Ideally, you will remain with the same group over your four semesters of Spiritual Formation coursework. This means that once you begin your Spiritual Formation coursework, plan to register on the same day and for the same section each semester until you complete the series.

## What Does Spiritual Formation Look Like in Houston and San Antonio?

On our extension campuses, our goals in spiritual formation remain the same, as do our learning objectives. But how we accomplish those objectives differs based on the needs of our students in Houston and San Antonio.

Our course offerings in Spiritual Formation differ slightly at our extension campuses to meet the needs of our students at each site. Rather than three one-hour courses, plus a retreat experience in the fourth semester, presently we offer one three-hour course which covers the same material as at our Waco campus. **This course is normally offered during a fall semester on a rotation and must be taken to meet the spiritual formation requirements for your degree.**

Our goal is to develop a vibrant spiritual community among our students at extension. We will pursue this goal through our Spiritual Formation course offerings, when they occur, but via other avenues as well. In addition to the fall course, the Extension Site Director may coordinate and offer a retreat experience in the spring term to further cultivate spiritual community. The Extension Site Director will also incorporate spiritual formation aims into conversations held with students to disciple, encourage, and equip them for life and ministry.

If you have questions about when our course offering will take place, please contact your Extension Site Director and they will help you plan according to Truett's course offering schedule and meet the spiritual formation requirements for your degree at your extension site.

## Do I Need to Do Anything to Prepare for My Spiritual Formation Coursework?

**Yes, if you are a student on our Waco campus.**

In order to assist us in connecting you with other students in your spiritual formation courses, please complete the [Covenant Group Placement Questionnaire](#) here. We will use this information to get to know you a little better as we structure our spiritual formation courses. (You will use your Bear ID\* to log in to the questionnaire, so if you haven't activated it yet you will need to do that first.)

## Final Exhortations

Lastly, the Office of Spiritual Formation is here to serve you. We are here to encourage you, provide spiritual direction, pray for you, and support you as you follow Jesus.

Dr. Angela Reed serves as Director of Spiritual Formation. Rev. Ben Simpson is Associate Director of Spiritual Formation. Please stop by the Spiritual Formation Office in 208 and get acquainted. Set up a Zoom chat with us. Reach out. We not only serve students by coordinating the Spiritual Formation program. We also meet with students for pastoral care, spiritual direction, and to build spiritual friendships. Our Extension Site Directors, Dr. Keith Bruce and Dr. George Gaston, are also available to serve, counsel, pray, and care for you as you progress in your studies at Truett.

We're glad you are here. If you would like to set an appointment or learn more about the Spiritual Formation program, send an email or call: 254.710.6280.

May God bless you as you continue your journey. Once again, welcome to Truett!

Sincerely,

### The Office of Spiritual Formation

[Truett\\_SpiritualForm@baylor.edu](mailto:Truett_SpiritualForm@baylor.edu)

254.710.6280

*\* For logging into some systems you will use your Baylor ID, which is the 9-digit number. Other systems, including the covenant group placement questionnaire, will ask for your **Bear ID**, which is typically formatted as **FirstName\_LastName1**. Instructions for activating your Bear ID are available [here](#).*