

Be with those who help your being. ~Rumi







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The Rev. Danáe M. Ashley, MDiv, MA, LMFT is an Episcopal priest and marriage and family therapist who has ministered with parishes in North Carolina, New York, Minnesota, and is serving part-time as the Associate Rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Seattle and a therapist at Soul Spa Seattle.

Clergy Care Circles

Therapeutic group spiritual direction for clergy from diverse faiths and circumstances



Why interfaith?

Being a clergy person can be isolating, lonely, and difficult, especially when you may feel like others in your denomination are competitive or untrustworthy. A circle of clergy from diverse backgrounds and traditions encourages trust and ensures confidentiality. The diversity within the circles nourishes interfaith relationships and deepens faith..

What will we be doing?

Clergy are often so busy leading and helping other people discern their spiritual lives that they do not have significant time for their own. Clergy Care Circles are specifically about your relationship with God and offer themes to facilitate reflection individually and as a group.

Each meeting begins with a brief ritual and prayer, introducing the theme. Next, there is facilitated sharing as the Circle reflects on how the theme intersects in their own spiritual life. Finally, I will offer therapeutic tools at each meeting, depending on the needs of the group. "But it does not seem that I can trust anyone,' said Frodo. Sam looked at him unhappily. 'It all depends on what you want,' put in Merry. 'You can trust us to stick with you through thick and thin--to the bitter end. And you can trust us to keep any secret of yours--closer than you keep it yourself. But you cannot trust us to let you face trouble alone, and go off without a word. We are your friends, Frodo."

~ J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring



When do we meet?

Clergy Care Circles are small groups of no more than six clergy and meet once a month for two hours on a Thursday or a Sunday. Each session runs for four months and can be renewed, which means you can attend indefinitely or take a break or leave permanently without additional stress or expectation. Some seasons are busier than others and some seasons you need more connection. The Circles are here when you need them and there is no additional obligation.

Your application will help me discern which group would be right for you and I will contact you about the specific days and times after you apply.

What is the fee and how do I apply?

The fee for each four-month session is \$200 and will be paid via cash, check, or credit card at the first session, unless other arrangements are made. I will give you an invoice upon request in order to use continuing education or other institutional funds to pay for the group.

You can find the application on my website under the 'Clergy' section: www.soulspaseattle.com or email me at: soulspaseattle@gmail.com. The application is to help me discern what your needs are and is not meant to exclude anyone.