



# *San Francisco Night Ministry*

*Fifty plus years serving people in the night*

The Rev. Trent Thornley, *Executive Director & CPE Certified Educator*

The Rev. Valerie McEntee, *Night Minister*

## CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

### THE CPE CENTER

- **What is the San Francisco Night Ministry (SFNM)?**

Since 1964, the San Francisco Night Ministry has been a religious nonprofit offering care to the nighttime people of San Francisco. Every night of the week, spiritual leaders and ordained clergy walk the streets while volunteer Crisis Line Counselors staff phone lines.

For almost 55 years, the only in-person services available to people on the streets in the middle of the night have been police, fire, ambulance . . . and the night ministers of SFNM.

Our mission: The San Francisco Night Ministry provides compassionate, non-judgmental crisis intervention and counseling, spiritual and emotional care that respects differences, and referral services to agencies and shelters on the streets and every night of the year.

- **Description of the CPE Center and the types of ministry settings available.**

SFNM is fully accredited to offer Level I, Level II and Supervisory CPE by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (One West Court Square, Suite 325, Decatur, GA 30033, phone: 404-320-1472, [www.acpe.edu](http://www.acpe.edu)).

The CPE program works with the regular night ministry program to offer spiritual care services to people on the streets at night in San Francisco, as well as staff the Crisis Telephone Line. CPE students also participate in leading other programs, as appropriate to their spiritual traditions, such as twice-weekly outdoor Christian worship at Open Cathedral, the Monday Night Meditation Group, which is a Buddhist-inspired, trauma-informed meditation period, and the Tuesday Night Gathering of fellowship and study. Emerging programs include a yogic-based “Movements” gathering.

- **Innovative ministry in the digital age.**

Spiritual care is evolving beyond traditional structures and organizations. Most CPE centers operate and are funded in health care contexts. The SFNM is a nonprofit organization funded by donors and staffed in large part by volunteers. SFNM values cutting-edge approaches for creating and sustaining ministry and for connecting communities across social location and economic differences.

CPE at the SFNM offers students the opportunity to learn about grass-roots nonprofit operations and ministry in the digital age. Students will acquire skills for social media outreach and community building. For example, students will set a fundraising goal to raise support for SFNM in a peer-to-peer campaign. *All students will participate in CPE regardless of reaching their goal.*

## THE CPE PROGRAM

- **What CPE programs are currently scheduled?**

SFNM is now accepting applications for two programs:

- (1) Buddhist-inspired CPE Spring 2020: A part-time “extended” CPE unit from January 13th – May 15th open to students with an openness to learning about Buddhist spiritual care.
- (2) Intensive CPE Summer 2020: A full-time, 40 hours/week, CPE unit from June 1st – August 14th open to all students.

Please feel free to contact us about future programs. SFNM will accept and file applications from interested candidates for yet-unformed CPE programs beyond 2020.

- **Who can be a CPE student?**

CPE training at the SFNM focuses broadly on how to be present with suffering in ourselves, with others, and in groups for the purpose of transformative healing. For that reason, the program is open to all people who have successfully completed four years of college or an equivalent and who are deeply rooted in a spiritual tradition, community, or practice. Spiritually-driven “helping professionals” – such as social workers, therapists, and nurses – are welcome to apply.

Upon completion, students will receive certified credit for one unit of CPE by ACPE, Inc.

SFNM does not discriminate against persons on the basis of race, gender identity, age, faith group or spiritual tradition, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- **How is time spent in the CPE programs?**

In general, a unit of CPE is 400 hours. We divide those hours into 300 hours of ministry experience in the clinical setting of the streets of San Francisco, and 100 hours of education in seminars and individual and group supervision.

- **What are the hours for the clinical responsibilities?**

For most of their clinical hours, CPE students are doing the work of Night Minister or Crisis Line Counselor from 9:45 PM until 2:15 AM on scheduled nights. When the CPE student is involved with the Open Cathedral, the time usually is 2:00 – 4:00 PM on Sunday or 5:30 – 7:30 PM Thursday. Tuesday Night Gathering is held from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Other programs are still emerging.

- **How does the CPE student do the clinical work?**

The CPE student will accompany one of the staff night ministers when meeting with people of the streets at night. When it is determined the student is sufficiently acclimated, the student then will be paired with another CPE student for ministry on the streets. When the CPE student is working as a Crisis Line Counselor, the student will be paired with an experienced Crisis Line Counselor. When it is determined that CPE student is sufficiently acclimated, students may work alone or, occasionally, will be paired with someone who is learning or is new to being a Crisis Line Counselor.

- **What are the hours for the educational time?**

Extended Unit (Spring 2020)

This is a part-time program over approximately 20-22 weeks. Every effort is made to accommodate the daytime schedules of students. The first week or two of the program will involve more intensive orientation activities. Thereafter, group work and seminars occur on one afternoon or evening per week (TBD). Individual education and clinical hours are tailored to each student, with the understanding that all 400 hours are completed by the end of the program.

Intensive Unit (Summer 2020)

This is a full-time, 40 hour/week program over approximately 11 weeks. Every effort is made to accommodate the daytime schedules of students. The first week or two of the program will involve more intensive orientation activities. Thereafter, group and seminar work occur on two afternoons per week. Individual education occurs during a morning or afternoon, and clinical hours are arranged five nights per week, with an occasional afternoon.

- **Who will supervise the CPE units?**

The Rev. Trent J. Thornley, ACPE Associate Certified Educator will supervise the CPE program.

Trent is an ordained Buddhist Dharma Leader in the Nyingma tradition of Anam Thubten and Dharmata Sangha. Trent is also an ordained minister of the Metropolitan Community Churches, a progressive Christian denomination with an outreach to the LGBTQ+ community.

Trent holds a Master's degree in Buddhist Studies from the Graduate Theological Union and a Certificate in Buddhist Chaplaincy from the Institute for Buddhist Studies. Trent is also a Certified Professional in the International Enneagram Association ([www.livingenneagram.com](http://www.livingenneagram.com)).

## ABOUT CPE

- **What is the goal of CPE?**

Development of spiritual formation, spiritual competence, and spiritual reflection.

Traditionally, CPE is ministry training required by many churches for ordination and required by many hospices and hospitals for professional chaplaincy. CPE at the SFNM more broadly provides training in the “ministry of presence” and deep listening skills for people who are deeply rooted in a spiritual community, tradition, or practice, and who cultivate a heart of service in the world.

- **What is the style of CPE supervision at this center?**

A collaborative learning style, seeking to identify and support the strengths each student brings to the program and to their service in the world.

- **What is unique about CPE training at this center?**

\* SFNM offers an innovative, community-based CPE program serving the most marginalized populations in our society. Students will receive extensive experience in crisis counseling.

\* Students will get exposure to the workings of a nonprofit organization as a clinical context.

\* Students will acquire skills for social media outreach and community-based fundraising.

- \* SFNM is the longest continuously running night ministry of its kind. SFNM enjoys a 55 year history in San Francisco and a citywide reputation for providing compassionate care to people.
- \* Students are challenged to provide a listening presence to people experiencing crisis in what may be perceived as the impersonal setting of the streets of San Francisco. Spiritual care to all people encountered in the night is another important aspect of the CPE Night Minister's role.
- \* As a part of the SFNM, students will collaborate with other professionals and organizations within the San Francisco ecosystem of community services.
- \* SFNM values an openness to learning and responsible functioning in a multifaith setting.
- \* Students will work with the Enneagram, a spiritually-based personality typing system increasingly used across many fields and institutions.
- \* Students in the Spring CPE program will learn Buddhist-inspired spiritual assessment models and other Buddhist-specific approaches and teachings, including a Buddhist Enneagram.

## TO APPLY

- **Application Submission**

Application: <https://www.acpe.edu/ACPE/Resources/Forms.aspx>. Use the "CPE Application."

Send completed application and processing fee of **\$35** (payable to "San Francisco Night Ministry"):

Rev. Trent J. Thornley  
 San Francisco Night Ministry  
 1031 Franklin Street  
 San Francisco, CA 94109

*Please include your clearly-identified email address in the application.  
 Please indicate clearly which CPE program or programs you are applying for.*

Direct any questions to Rev. Trent at [trent@sfnightministry.org](mailto:trent@sfnightministry.org).

- **Application Deadline**

Students are accepted into the in a rolling admissions process until the particular program is filled. For the Spring 2020 extended unit, it is best to apply by December 31, 2019. For the Intensive CPE Summer 2020 fulltime unit, it is best to apply by March 30, 2020, though there may be openings thereafter. We also file applications for future programs in 2021 and beyond.

- **Selection Process**

All applications are acknowledged by email within 30 days of their receipt. If SFNM decides to proceed with your application, you will sit for a personal interview (arrangements made for students who cannot travel). At the interview, we will give you a timeline for informing you of our decision.

If accepted, you will secure your place in the program by submitting a deposit of \$200 within two weeks of your acceptance. The deposit will serve as tuition. The deposit is nonrefundable, except in the case of serious illness or unexpected catastrophe.

- **Fundraising Goal**

Accepted students will set a goal to raise \$3000 in a peer-to-peer fundraising campaign supporting the SFNM and its mission. Peer-to-peer fundraising involves a personalized campaign designed by the students through Give Lively (<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/night-ministry>) (Click “I Want to Fundraise For This”). Setting up the campaign is relatively easy with the Give Lively tool.

SFNM will support students as needed. Students may set a higher goal if they wish to do so. Also, SFNM will work with students for whom the amount of goal would be prohibitive to applying for or joining the program, such as some international students or students in a community facing economic hardship.

*All students will participate in CPE regardless of whether they reach their goal.* In the program, students will practice skills for sustaining nonprofit ministry through ongoing social media outreach.

If you are so moved, you may commence a fundraising campaign for SFNM at any time, regardless of admission to a CPE program. We appreciate your understanding that pre-selection fundraising will not factor into a candidate’s admission into a program. Admission decisions are based on numerous factors, including thoughtful composition of a particular CPE cohort.

- **Tuition & Stipend**

There is no tuition beyond the \$200 deposit that students will send to SFNM to secure a place in the program to which they are accepted.

Students will receive a stipend of \$1000 upon successful completion of the program.

***Thank you for your interest in CPE at SFNM.***

***Blessings on all you do to create a better world!***