



CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

THE CPE CENTER

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

SFNM is cutting edge ministry with a long history. Since 1964, SFNM has been offering care to the nighttime people of San Francisco, with ordained clergy walking the streets while volunteer phone counselors ministered to people in crisis. Today, SFNM is a religious non-profit providing the social services of multi-faith spiritual care and community, particularly to people on the margins.

Mission: Night Ministry increases access to spiritual care and multifaith community – at night, on the phones, and on the streets – in a manner that is nonproselytizing and nonjudgmental.

Vision: We envision a world in which everyone can connect to their inherent sacredness and express their unique humanity in spiritual companionship and community.

SFNM is an orchestra with five sections: **Night Ministry** (nightly walks by night ministers); **Care Line** (spiritual care and crisis intervention by phone); **Community Programs** (Open Cathedrals, Tuesday Gathering, Buddhist Meditation Group, Open Shabbat, LGBTQ+ Sacred Space); **Clinical Pastoral Education** (cultivation of emerging leaders); and **Operations** (ministry of awareness, administration, and development that binds our community and supports our services).

- **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). The CPE program works with the regular night ministry programs to offer spiritual care services and spiritual community to people on the streets at night in San Francisco, on the phones on our Care Line, and in our community programs. Clinical hours are also obtained in “ministry of awareness” projects (see below).

Students in a distance learning or “virtual” CPE program – or who make arrangements with their supervisor due to the pandemic – can use the telephone Care Line will be as their primary setting, supplemented by the ministry of awareness clinical hours. There may also be some virtual community program opportunities. For example, the Tuesday Gathering has been meeting virtually since the outset of the pandemic. Regardless, students participating in a virtual program, but who in the Bay Area, may also choose to do night walks or in-person community programs as clinical hours.

- **Ministry of Awareness: 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. 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 in our ministry of awareness – which is sacred communication through all mediums that connect our supporters, donors, partner organizations, and relatively privileged residents of San Francisco with the folks we serve. For example, students set a fundraising goal to raise support for SFNM in a peer-to-peer campaign. *All students participate in CPE regardless of reaching their goal.*

THE CPE PROGRAM

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

SFNM is now accepting applications for at least two programs, including Extended CPE Spring 2021 and Intensive CPE Summer 2021. SFNM typically runs the Spring program with a Buddhist focus, though it is open to everyone. *All students are encouraged to apply to any CPE program of interest.*

(1) Extended Virtual CPE Spring 2021: An “extended” CPE unit that will be conducted virtually. The timing of the extended unit(s) will depend upon when the cohort is filled. Tentatively, the program will run from January 11 – May 21. We may run more than one extended unit depending on interest. At least one extended unit will focus on Buddhist themes and practices.

(2) Intensive CPE Summer 2021: A full-time, 40 hours/week, CPE unit, June 7 – August 20.

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 Level I/II 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.

- **Care Line as a Site Placement for CPE hours at another CPE Center.**

SFNM operates a telephone Care Line providing spiritual care to people all over the world between the hours of 8 PM – 4 AM (Pacific). The Care Line is largely staffed by trained volunteers who work from home. CPE students at SFNM participate on the Care Line and act as shift supervisors.

SFNM accepts CPE students from others centers who want to participate on the Care Line in order to obtain clinical hours. All such students and their CPE educators sign an SFNM Clinical Placement Agreement. Please contact us if you are interested!

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 settings of SFNM, and 100 hours of education in seminars and individual and group supervision.

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

CPE students gain clinical hours in four areas: Night Ministry, 9:45 PM – 2:15 AM walking the streets and visiting bars, coffee shops, transit stations, etc.; Care Line, working as a Care Line Counselor (CLC) or shift supervisor (see below); Community Programs (see below); and Ministry of Awareness (community relations, social justice work, peer-to-peer fundraising, social media).

With respect to the Care Line, there are three nightly shifts to be staffed, all in Pacific time (PST), counting as five (5) clinical hours each: (1) 7:30 PM – 10:30 PM, (2) 9:30 PM – 2:30 AM, and (3) 11:30 PM – 4:30 AM. Students generally have some flexibility when signing up for the Care Line shifts in terms of the days and shift period; however, students only sign up after regular volunteers sign up for their shifts. Students must first sign up for any vacant shifts before adding themselves to covered shifts. A certain amount of shifts per month must be the “third shift,” 11:30 PM – 4:30 AM (Pacific) – as directed by the supervisor (typically, at least 3 third shifts per month).

With respect to Community Programs, 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. Monday Meditation Group is held 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Tuesday Night Gathering is held from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Sacred Space and Open Shabbat are held intermittently. During the pandemic, the main community program operating is the Tuesday Gathering virtually. We are opening our Open Cathedrals, following governmental safety protocols for outdoor religious services. Check in for updates.

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

The CPE student will accompany one of the 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. Students may eventually minister alone.

When the CPE student is working as a Care Line Counselor on the Care Line, the student will be paired with an experienced Care Line Counselor. When it is determined that CPE student is sufficiently acclimated, students will be trained as shift supervisors who debrief the volunteers, create community, and train incoming volunteers.

When working in the Community Programs, CPE students follow the direction of the program manager and ministers. CPE students may offer worship or meditation or like spiritual services depending on the program.

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

Extended Unit (Spring 2021)

This is one or more part-time “extended” programs over approximately 20-22 weeks each. ***The scheduled Spring 2021 unit will be conducted entirely virtually, meaning that students can participate from anywhere in the world.*** Every effort is made to accommodate the daytime schedules of students. The several weeks of the extended program involves 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 2021)

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 two weeks 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 likely will supervise both CPE unit. There may be another ACPE Certified Educator or Certified Educator Candidate who is affiliated with SFNM who will serve as the educator. Students should contact us for information about the particular supervisor.

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).

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.

- * Students will learn to offer spiritual care by telephone, and in community and one-on-one settings.

- * 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 Winter/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**

Use [this ACPE CPE Application](#). This application is on the ACPE website (acpe.edu) and also located at www.sfnightministry.org/cpe.

Send completed application and submit processing fee of **\$35**.

Both may be submitted online, with the application emailed to CPE Director Trent Thornley at cpe@sfnightministry.org and the \$35 paid by donation by clicking the “Payment” button on www.sfnightministry.org/cpe.

Alternatively, you mail either or both the application and fee, with check payable to “San Francisco Night Ministry” to this address:

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 Thornley at cpe@sfnightministry.org.

- **Application Deadline**

Students are accepted into a rolling admissions process until each program is filled. We also file applications for future programs. Once a program is filled, SFNM may select alternates.

- **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 **\$400** 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. Tuition may be [paid by donation to SFNM on this webpage](#). Contact cpe@sfnightministry.org with any questions.

- **Fundraising Goal**

Accepted students will set a goal to raise \$3000 from at least 10 distinct donors in a peer-to-peer fundraising campaign supporting the SFNM and its mission. Peer-to-peer fundraising (P2P) involves a personalized campaign designed by the students through [Give Lively](#) (Click “I Want to Fundraise For This”). You may also navigate to this page by clicking “P2P” in the menu of www.sfnightministry.org. Setting up the campaign is relatively easy with the Give Lively tool.

SFNM will support students as needed. Students commit to using their best efforts to achieve the goal, and 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 deposit that students send to SFNM to secure a place in the program to which they are accepted.

Students will receive a stipend of **\$1,000** upon successful completion of the program.

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

... and blessings on all you do to create a better world!