

School of  
Spiritual Leadership

Certificate in  
Community Leadership

2026-2027





## Centers for Spiritual Living

### *The Global Vision*

**We envision all people, all beings, and all life as expressions of God.**

We see a world in which each and every person lives in alignment with their highest spiritual principle, emphasizing unity with God and connection with each other; a world in which individually and collectively we are called to a higher state of consciousness and action.

We envision humanity awakening to its spiritual magnificence and discovering the creative power of thought; a world where each and every person discovers their own personal power and ability to create an individual life that works within a world that works for everyone.

We envision a world in which we live and grow as One Global Family that respects and honors the interconnectedness of all life; a world where this kinship with all life prospers and connects through the guidance of spiritual wisdom and experience.

We envision a world where personal responsibility joins with social conscience in every area of the political, corporate, academic, and social sectors, providing sustainable structures to further the emerging global consciousness.

We envision a world where each and every person has enough food, a home and a sense of belonging; a world of peace and harmony, enfranchisement and justice.

We envision a world in which resources are valued, cared for, and grown, and where there is generous and continuous sharing of these resources.

We envision a worldwide culture in which forgiveness (whether for errors, injustices, or debts) is the norm.

We envision a world which has renewed its emphasis on beauty, nature, and love through the resurgence of creativity, art, and aesthetics.

We envision a world that works for everyone and for all of creation.



## Introduction

**Dear Student,**

Welcome to the Certificate in Community Leadership program! You are about to embark on a transformative journey of learning and growth.

The **Certificate in Community Leadership** is a practitioner-focused program offered through the School of Spiritual Leadership. It is intentionally designed to support practitioners who are called to lead with clarity, integrity, and compassion within spiritual communities and in the wider world.

This certificate program includes seven courses that deepen leadership capacity while honoring the unique role practitioners hold. Participants engage in learning that strengthens both personal presence and professional effectiveness, grounding leadership in spiritual principle while responding skillfully to real world dynamics.

Course topics include Spiritual Leadership, Ethics, the Practitioner as Speaker, the Practitioner as Teacher, Advanced Techniques in Spiritual Guidance, Restorative Practices, and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Belonging. Together, these courses offer a cohesive pathway for practitioners to expand their presence, refine their skills, and lead from a space of grounded spiritual awareness.

I am honored and excited that you have chosen the **School of Spiritual Leadership** for your continuing studies. Please know that we are here to support you, so do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need assistance along the way. We affirm that your experience in the program will be fulfilling, meaningful, and aligned with your unique calling. Together, we truly can help create a world that works for all.

Many blessings,

Rev. Ryan Alexander (they/them)

Director, School of Spiritual Leadership

Centers for Spiritual Living



## Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>CENTERS FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING <i>THE GLOBAL VISION</i></b> .....         | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>MISSION, GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES</b> .....                          | <b>6</b>  |
| MISSION .....  | 6         |
| GOAL.....  | 6         |
| LEARNING OUTCOMES .....  | 6         |
| <b>ADMINISTRATION CONTACT INFORMATION</b> .....                            | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>REQUIREMENTS</b> .....  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>ACADEMIC CALENDAR</b> .....   | <b>8</b>  |
| FALL 2026 .....  | 8         |
| WINTER 2027 .....  | 8         |
| SPRING 2027.....   | 8         |
| SUMMER 2027 .....  | 8         |
| COST .....   | 8         |
| <b>COURSE OF STUDY</b> .....   | <b>8</b>  |
| THE FOUNDATIONS OF ETHICAL SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP .....                      | 8         |
| PRACTITIONER AS EDUCATOR .....   | 9         |
| THE ART OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP FOR PRACTITIONERS.....                     | 9         |
| ADVANCED TECHNIQUES IN SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE .....                            | 9         |
| BUILDING WHAT WE BELIEVE: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP .....    | 10        |
| PRACTITIONER AS SPEAKER .....  | 10        |
| RESTORATIVE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP: EMBODIED PEACE FROM THE INSIDE OUT ..... | 10        |
| <b>REGISTRATION POLICIES</b> .....   | <b>11</b> |
| CLASS ATTENDANCE .....   | 11        |
| LATE REGISTRATION POLICY .....   | 11        |
| COURSE WITHDRAWAL AND TUITION REFUND POLICY.....                           | 11        |
| <b>ACADEMIC POLICIES</b> .....   | <b>12</b> |
| COURSE CANCELLATIONS .....   | 12        |
| REQUIRED COMPUTER SKILLS.....  | 12        |
| <b>GRADING POLICIES</b> .....  | <b>12</b> |
| LETTER GRADE POLICY .....  | 12        |
| GRADE SCALE .....  | 12        |
| COMPONENTS OF EVALUATION .....   | 13        |
| INCOMPLETE GRADES .....  | 13        |
| ACADEMIC AND SPIRITUAL INTEGRITY.....                                      | 13        |
| ACADEMIC STANDING .....  | 13        |
| <b>STUDENT RIGHTS POLICIES</b> .....                                       | <b>13</b> |
| INCLUSIVENESS AND NONDISCRIMINATION .....                                  | 13        |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>CONDUCT POLICIES .....</b>                       | <b>14</b> |
| CODE OF CONDUCT .....                               | 14        |
| COURSE CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE .....                  | 14        |
| ACADEMIC INTEGRITY .....                            | 14        |
| STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS .....       | 14        |
| ORIGINAL WORK AND PROPER ATTRIBUTION.....           | 14        |
| PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT.....             | 14        |
| USE OF AI IN COURSEWORK .....                       | 15        |
| COPYRIGHT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY .....           | 15        |
| <b>LIBRARY RESOURCES .....</b>                      | <b>15</b> |
| GOOGLE SCHOLAR.....                                 | 15        |
| GOOGLE BOOKS.....                                   | 15        |
| THE ONLINE BOOKS PAGE .....                         | 15        |
| PROJECT GUTENBERG .....                             | 15        |
| ONLINE LIBRARY OF OA BOOKS (OAPEN).....             | 15        |
| SCIENCE OF MIND ARCHIVES & LIBRARY FOUNDATION ..... | 16        |



## Mission, Goals and Learning Outcomes

### **Mission**

The School of Spiritual Leadership prepares spiritual leaders for service in the global community.

### **Goal**

Our goal is to provide high-quality education that fosters the formation of effective, spiritually grounded leaders. Through our courses, students develop the awareness, principles, and practices essential for ministry, strengthening their leadership, education, business administration, and community care skills. Rooted in the teachings of Ernest Holmes and Science of Mind principles, this transformative journey guides students to embody spiritual truth, lead with heart, serve their communities, and establish thriving ministries through sound interpersonal and business practices.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Graduates of the program will be able to:

- Apply Science of Mind philosophy to contemporary spiritual life.
- Integrate and adapt theories and practices from Education, Leadership, Philosophy, Psychology, and Religion to support spiritual growth in themselves and others.
- Teach and embody spiritual leadership through:
  - Effective business administration and community organization.
  - Vision-building for individuals and communities.
  - Alignment of vision, values, and actions.
  - Spiritual guidance practices.
- Draw from diverse cultural and spiritual traditions to offer a global perspective on contemporary spiritual challenges.
- Demonstrate balanced leadership by using spiritual practice to engage with current community and global issues.

## Administration Contact Information

School of Spiritual Leadership

1090 S Wadsworth Blvd #C

PMB #131

Lakewood Co 80226

Phone: 720-496-1370

Fax: 303-526-0913

Monday-Thursday, 8 am to 5 pm (Mountain Time)

Rev. Ryan Alexander (they/them)

Director, School of Spiritual Leadership

Phone: (720) 279-8991

Email: [ralexander@csl.org](mailto:ralexander@csl.org)

Dar Herfurt (she/her)

Administrative Registrar

Phone: 720-279-8992

Email: [registrar@csl.org](mailto:registrar@csl.org)

Website: [csl.org/ssl](http://csl.org/ssl)



## Requirements

The Certificate in Community Leadership Program is open to Licensed Practitioners of Centers for Spiritual Living (CSL).

## Academic Calendar

### Fall 2026

Registration: August 5 at 9:00 am to August 26, 2026, at 5:00 pm Mountain

Term: September 14 to November 25, 2026

### Winter 2027

Registration: November 4 at 9:00 am to November 30, 2026, at 5:00 pm Mountain

Term: January 4 to March 15, 2027

### Spring 2027

Registration: February 17 at 9:00 am to March 10, 2027, at 5:00 pm Mountain

Term: March 29 to June 7, 2027

### Summer 2027

Registration: May 12 at 9:00 am to June 2, 2027, at 5:00 pm Mountain

Term: June 21 to August 30, 2027

### Cost

Each course costs \$325, and there are seven courses in total. Each course qualifies for Practitioner Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at a rate of 3 CEUs for every 1 hour of class instruction.

## Course of Study

All seven courses are required, along with a final cumulative project, to earn the Certificate in Community Leadership. Individual courses may be taken separately, or you may complete the full series; however, all seven courses and the final project must be completed to receive the certificate.

### The Foundations of Ethical Spiritual Leadership

#### Instructor – Rev. Ryan Alexander

This course explores ethical leadership as a lived spiritual practice within the unique role of a Practitioner. Grounded in the Science of Mind philosophy and guided by the CSL Code of Ethics, this course examines integrity, accountability, and conscious decision-making in the context of spiritual care, client relationships, and community leadership. Through reflection, case studies, dialogue, and practical application, participants will have the opportunity to clarify personal values, strengthen ethical awareness, and apply decision-making frameworks to real-world community leadership scenarios. Participants will deepen awareness through spiritual practice and demonstrate alignment

with the CSL Code of Ethics as an expression of values-based leadership in service to individuals and the community.

## **Practitioner As Educator**

### **Instructor – Rev. Lezli Goodwin**

This course is designed to equip practitioners with the skills and spiritual grounding to effectively teach adult spiritual education rooted in New Thought principles. Students explore key learning theories, including Adult Learning, Transformative Learning, and Whole Brain Learning, while developing practical facilitation skills such as spiritual preparation, inclusive classroom management, opening and closing classes with intention, and working with diverse learning styles. The course emphasizes using and adapting accredited CSL curriculum, creating meaningful experientials, and fostering learning environments grounded in love, acceptance, and unconditional positive regard that support deep understanding, embodiment, and transformation.

## **The Art of Spiritual Leadership for Practitioners**

### **Instructor – Rev. Abigail Schairer**

This course supports Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioners in cultivating grounded, values-based leadership rooted in Science of Mind principles. Emphasis is placed on the inner qualities and spiritual practices that support effective practitioner leadership, as well as the practical skills needed to lead within spiritual communities. Students explore conscious leadership, ethical presence, relational awareness, and communication skills that strengthen trust, collaboration, and coherence within community life. The course integrates spiritual principles with real-world application, supporting practitioners in leading with clarity, compassion, and integrity.

## **Advanced Techniques in Spiritual Guidance**

### **Instructor - Louise Tallen, PhD.,RScP**

This course serves to strengthen the ethical, professional, and spiritual foundations of Practitioner practice. Participants explore intake procedures, client agreements, confidentiality, reporting requirements, and the distinction between spiritual guidance and psychotherapy while learning to create clear, aligned practice environments. The course deepens skills in conscious presence and deep listening, emphasizing treatment for what the client requests. Through progressively structured mini sessions, students build confidence in rapport, silence, non-leading dialogue, and full sessions that include Spiritual Mind Treatment, receiving real-time feedback and side coaching throughout. The training concludes with integration, skills review, and visioning for a grounded and effective Practitioner practice.



## **Building What We Believe: Social Justice and Spiritual Leadership**

### **Instructor – Rev. Kris Alexander**

This course invites Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioners into a courageous and practical exploration of B-JEDI (belonging, justice, equity, diversity, inclusion) through a spiritual lens. Participants will explore the social structures that shape lived experience, how implicit bias influences leadership, and the ways in which power and privilege create unconscious hierarchy within spiritual organizations. Through reflection, dialogue, and applied leadership practices, Practitioners will develop the awareness, language, and skills necessary to foster equitable systems, interrupt harm, and cultivate authentic belonging in congregational life and the broader world. Grounded in the teachings of Ernest Holmes and the Global Vision of Centers for Spiritual Living, students will examine how spiritual principles call leaders into active participation in our world, creating communities where every person is valued, respected, and empowered. This course emphasizes embodied leadership, spiritual maturity, and practical application within CSL communities.

### **Practitioner As Speaker**

#### **Instructor – Rev. Dr. Andriette Earl**

Practitioner as Speaker prepares Centers for Spiritual Living Practitioners to communicate spiritual ideas with clarity, confidence, and authenticity in community settings. Designed for practitioners who speak during services, classes, or special events, this course focuses on developing effective spiritual messages grounded in Science of Mind principles. Students explore content development, storytelling, audience awareness, and presentation skills that enhance sermons, talks, and teachings. Emphasis is placed on speaking as spiritual practice, allowing practitioners to express truth with presence, integrity, and inspiration.

## **Restorative Spiritual Leadership: Embodied Peace from the Inside Out**

### **Instructor – Rev. Cindy Grimes**

This course is an immersive training for leaders who seek to live peace as a daily practice, not just a spiritual ideal. Grounded in Restorative Practices, Nonviolent Communication, Social-Emotional Leadership development, trauma-informed care, and New Thought principles, this course builds the inner capacity and relational skills necessary to cultivate resilience, connection, and accountability in spiritual communities. Participants will grow their capacity to maintain their own center of peace, especially during moments of conflict, challenge, or harm. They will develop skills for facilitating difficult conversations and circles that strengthen trust, belonging, and a sense of shared responsibility. Rather than avoiding or inadvertently escalating difficult situations, leaders are trained to move toward challenges with curiosity, compassion, and clarity, transforming conflict into opportunities for healing and growth. Through experiential learning, real-world scenarios, reflection, and dialogue, participants will gain practical tools for restorative communication, circle facilitation, and values-based accountability. This training serves as a foundational pathway for New Thought communities to be recognized as peacebuilders in a world that feels increasingly fragmented and divided.

# Registration Policies

## Class Attendance

Students must attend all sessions to receive credit, unless otherwise arranged with the course instructor.

## Late Registration Policy

The registration period for all courses is open for **three (3) weeks**. After the initial registration period closes, there will be a **one-week late registration window**. During this time, students may still register; however, a **\$50 late registration fee** will be applied. After the late registration period ends, **registration is officially closed**, and no additional enrollments will be accepted.

## Course Withdrawal and Tuition Refund Policy

A student may withdraw from courses or the program at any time. It is the student’s personal responsibility to promptly notify the Instructor and the Administrative Registrar of their decision to withdraw from a course.

To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit a Withdrawal Request form to the Administrative Registrar.

A student who withdraws within five (5) days following the close of the applicable registration period is eligible to receive a full (100%) refund of tuition for the course.

For withdrawals submitted after this five-day period, but before the end of the academic term, tuition refunds will be issued according to the percentage of the course completed, as outlined below:

| Percentage of Course Completed | Tuition Refunded to Student | Tuition Retained by SSL |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Up to 10%                      | 90%                         | 10%                     |
| 20%–30%                        | 75%                         | 25%                     |
| 40%–50%                        | 50%                         | 50%                     |
| 60%–100%                       | 0%                          | 100%                    |

All approved refunds will be processed within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the Withdrawal Request form.

**Example:** A course consisting of six (6) lessons in which a student completes one (1) lesson reflects approximately 10% course completion. For a course with \$325 tuition, the refund would be calculated as follows:  $\$325 \times 90\% = \$292.50$  refunded.

Under exceptional circumstances, a full refund of tuition may be granted. Students must provide the reason(s) for withdrawal on the Withdrawal Request form. Final determination of refund eligibility rests with the Administrative Registrar.



## Academic Policies

### Course Cancellations

The School of Spiritual Leadership reserves the right to cancel courses if student enrollment is insufficient.

### Required Computer skills

Having basic computer literacy and the skills to communicate with others on the Internet are required of all entering students. All students must have regular access to e-mail and have a dedicated e-mail address to fully participate in their program of study. Chrome is the recommended web browser. All courses utilize the news forums. All courses also regularly utilize e-mail with the faculty and other students throughout the academic year.

## Grading Policies

### Letter Grade Policy

The School of Spiritual Leadership is committed to fostering both academic excellence and spiritual growth. Assessment is intended to support meaningful learning, encourage thoughtful engagement, and uphold the standards of ministerial and spiritual leadership preparation. Letter grades reflect a student's demonstrated understanding of course material, completion of assignments, participation in the learning community, and integration of spiritual principles into practice.

### Grade Scale

Grades are assigned according to the following scale:

- **A (90 to 100%)**  
Exceptional work that demonstrates deep understanding, thoughtful integration of course concepts, strong critical reflection, and consistent excellence in assignments, participation, and application of principles.
- **B (80 to 89%)**  
Strong work that demonstrates solid understanding of course material, meaningful engagement, and competent completion of assignments with clear application of learning.
- **C (70 to 79%)**  
Satisfactory work that meets course expectations, demonstrates basic understanding of material, and completes required assignments at an acceptable level.
- **D (60 to 69%)**  
Minimal passing work that demonstrates limited understanding of course concepts and inconsistent completion or quality of assignments.
- **F (Below 60%)**  
Work that does not meet minimum course standards due to incomplete assignments, insufficient participation, or lack of demonstrated competency.

## Components of Evaluation

Grades may be determined through a combination of:

- Written assignments and reflection papers
- Participation in class dialogue and community learning
- Demonstration of spiritual practice and principle integration
- Presentations, projects, or practicum experiences
- Attendance and engagement in required course activities
- Final integrative assignments or assessments

## Incomplete Grades

An **Incomplete (I)** may be granted in exceptional circumstances when a student has completed a substantial portion of coursework but is unable to finish the remaining requirements within the course timeline due to unforeseen circumstances. Completion deadlines will be determined in writing between the student and instructor.

## Academic and Spiritual Integrity

Students are expected to complete all coursework with honesty, originality, and integrity, while embodying the ethical and spiritual values of leadership, accountability, compassion, and respect for the learning community.

## Academic Standing

A grade of **C or higher** is considered passing for each course. To be eligible to receive the program certificate, students must successfully complete and pass **all seven courses** and **the final cumulative project**.

## Student Rights Policies

### Inclusiveness and Nondiscrimination

The School of Spiritual Leadership practices inclusiveness among students, faculty, staff, and administrators. The School does not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, or veteran status in admission, access to, or treatment in, its educational programs and activities. The School provides equal opportunity to all students. All students shall have the same fundamental rights to equal respect, due process, and fairness in academic assessments, which are based solely on factors demonstrably related to performance and expectations of, students. All students share equally the obligations to exercise basic standards of fairness, equity, and inquiry that should always guide education. Sexual discrimination will not be tolerated, and all such situations should be reported promptly to the School of Spiritual Leadership Director, Rev. Ryan Alexander, [ralexander@csl.org](mailto:ralexander@csl.org).

## Conduct Policies

### Code of Conduct

We are dedicated to the teaching and practice of the spiritual principles found within the New Thought metaphysical tradition. As such, faculty, staff, and students are expected to behave in a manner reflective of these spiritual principles in their individual behavior and in their relationships with others.

### Course Conduct and Etiquette

In order to ensure that courses provide a safe and positive learning environment, students and faculty are expected to be respectful of each other. Any of the following may be grounds for a formal warning and possible dismissal.

- Failure to maintain a respectful attitude in courses and communications.
- Engaging in conduct that is deemed disruptive to the learning of others.
- Making defamatory statements that deliberately misrepresent others.

### Academic Integrity

The School of Spiritual Leadership upholds integrity, authenticity, and the sacred responsibility of personal growth. Academic honesty reflects our spiritual commitment to truth and respect for the contributions of others. As a learning community, we are committed to the highest standards of academic integrity, grounded in honesty, accountability, and reverence for the learning process.

### Student Responsibility and Expectations

Student status is based on acknowledgment of, and compliance with, both the spirit and letter of the School's standards and policies. Students who violate these standards, particularly through actions such as personal or financial irresponsibility, plagiarism, dishonesty, or other breaches of integrity, will be subject to review and possible remedial action. Dismissal from the School may result.

### Original Work and Proper Attribution

All work submitted must represent the student's own original effort. When using outside sources, whether human or digital, students are expected to clearly identify and credit these sources, indicating the extent to which they have informed the work. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. The use of internet content without proper citation is also considered plagiarism.

### Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism, the act of presenting someone else's words, ideas, or creative work as one's own, is a serious violation of both academic and spiritual integrity. This includes:

- Quoting or paraphrasing without citation
- Submitting work copied from others
- Using AI-generated content without acknowledgment or instructor approval

Falsification of documents and other dishonest behaviors will result in appropriate consequences, which may include partial or full loss of credit, suspension, or expulsion from the program.

### **Use of AI in Coursework**

AI tools can support creativity and learning when used ethically and with discernment. However, relying on AI without proper understanding, attribution, or instructor permission undermines academic integrity and personal development. Students may only use AI tools when explicitly permitted by their instructor and must clearly acknowledge its use in submitted work.

### **Copyright and Intellectual Property**

Misusing copyrighted materials in coursework, or using institutional materials (such as website content, course documents, or publications) without permission, constitutes copyright infringement and is subject to disciplinary action.

## **Library Resources**

The Student Lounge on the LMS (Section VII) lists numerous open access sources for journals and books, in addition to those below:

### **[Google Scholar](#)**

Provides a search of scholarly literature across many disciplines and sources, including theses, books, abstracts and articles. <http://scholar.google.com/>

### **[Google Books](#)**

Google Books is a service that searches the full text of books and magazines that Google has scanned, converted to text using optical character recognition, and stored in its digital database. It includes large selections of works that pertain to the subjects in consciousness studies. <https://books.google.com/>

### **[The Online Books Page](#)**

A website that facilitates access to books that are freely readable over the Internet.  
<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/>

### **[Project Gutenberg](#)**

This library of 70,000 free ebooks focused on titles in the public domain (generally published in 1929 or before). <https://www.gutenberg.org/>

### **[Online Library of OA Books \(OAPEN\)](#)**

This library focused on scholarly OA ebooks and also has a browse by subject function.  
<https://oapen.org/>



## **Science of Mind Archives & Library Foundation**

The archives and library recently moved to Unity Village in Lee's Summit, Missouri, where they occupy a designated space within Unity's headquarters. This facility is secure and climate-appropriate to ensure our precious documents and artifacts are preserved.

Archived items include photographs, poetry, class and lecture tapes and transcripts, radio talks, class curricula, manuscripts, letters, and videos as well as all of Holmes' published books. Other items preserved in the Archives are a complete run of Science of Mind and Creative Thought magazines, rare books by early New Thought writers, and meeting minutes of the Religious Science organizations from their inception.

The Archives library has approximately 12,000 volumes of new and rare books by metaphysical authors, great theologians, and popular self-help authors. It is one of the largest collections of metaphysical books in the United States. We are constantly adding materials today...for the history of tomorrow.

The website is an invaluable resource for students, researchers, historians and spiritual seekers around the world. It contains hundreds of published and unpublished writings of Dr. Ernest Holmes and key leaders of the New Thought Movement. It offers books, pamphlets and magazines as well as collections of other New Thought writings. Audio recordings of master teachers of our movement as well as videos of Wise Sages are also available.

The Archives is dedicated to presenting a complete library of Science of Mind in digital, searchable format. Check back frequently to see what is new at the Archives! <http://scienceofmindarchives.com/>