



*Spiritual Formation in
the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
1981-2005*

1981 San Francisco Theological Seminary begins program in Christian Spirituality.

1983 Reunion creates the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

1987 General Assembly commissions “Faith Development and the Reformed Tradition” task force to study faith formation.

1988 Discipleship and Spirituality made part of the Theology and Worship Ministry Unit.

1989 *Growing in the Life of Christian Faith* approved and published by the 201st General Assembly.

Spiritual Director is added as #784 in the list of Authorized Ecclesiastical Occupational Designations.

1990 First gathering of those engaged in spiritual formation ministries takes place in Nazareth KY.

First Spirituality Conference at Montreat Conference Center, Montreat NC.

San Francisco Theological Seminary begins Masters of Divinity concentration in Christian spirituality

1991 203rd General Assembly approves *Hungry Hearts, Hungry Minds: The Quest for a Reformed Discipleship and Spirituality*.

Growing in the Life of Faith reprinted with study guide.

First issue of *Hungryhearts news* published.

Howard Rice’s *Reformed Spirituality: An Introduction for Believers* is one of the year’s top ten religious books.

1993 San Francisco Theological Seminary begins the graduate program in the Art of Spiritual Direction.

1994 Over 150 people gather in Montreat NC for an Advent gathering celebrating ministries of spiritual formation.

Book of Order is amended to make explicit the presbytery’s responsibility to oversee the spiritual growth of candidates in preparation for ministry [G-14.0306(a) (2)].

1995 Marjorie Thompson’s book *Soul Feast* becomes a bestseller for Westminster/John Knox Press.

Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur GA) establishes program in spirituality.

1996 First class of trained spiritual directors graduates from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Association of Theological Schools requires theological institutions to provide opportunities for personal spiritual growth.

1997 First “Journeying Together” conference held, connecting preparation for ministry to spiritual formation.

Resource Team for Spiritual Formation created, its eight volunteer consultants working to identify and support spiritual growth in the church nationwide.

“Project in Congregational Spirituality” receives a two-year Lilly Foundation grant.

The denominational curriculum “Covenant People” includes spiritual practices as a component of all lessons.

San Francisco Theological Seminary receives a Lilly grant for its “Youth Ministry and Spirituality” project.

1998 “Taste and See! A Celebration of Ministries of Spiritual Formation” is held in San Antonio TX.

The “Come Away and Rest Awhile” conference for presbytery moderators is held in Louisville KY.

A work group is created to explore issues of Sabbath keeping.

1999 *Presbyterians Today* begins a regular column on “Spiritual Fitness.”

2000 The 212th General Assembly approves “Invitation to Sabbath: Rediscovering a Gift.”

2001 Retirement of the Resource Team for Spiritual Formation.

Creation of the Spiritual Formation Leadership Network.

Publication of *John Calvin: Writings on Pastoral Piety* in the Classics of Western Spirituality series.

2003 The annual Spiritual Formation Dinner is co-hosted with the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, the first time a General Assembly dinner has been sponsored by two different entities.

First Spanish resources produced.

2004 “*Lord, Teach Us to Pray*” is published.



Produced by The Office of Spiritual Formation, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 2005.