



Greetings, and welcome to our community! We are thrilled that you will join with us in pursuit of God’s calling for your life. The Office of Spiritual Formation is here to serve, support, equip, and encourage you as you learn, grow, and discern your vocation as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

At Truett, we not only seek to teach you the Scriptures, theology, the practice of ministry, and the history of the church. It is also our goal to help you grow and mature as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Our effort to educate, equip, and instruct you in this area is called **spiritual formation**. Dallas Willard wrote, “Spiritual formation for the Christ-follower refers to the Spirit-driven process of forming the inner world of the human self in such a way that it becomes like the inner being of Christ himself.”

Spiritual formation is a crucial aspect of the preparation for life, ministry, and vocation you will receive at Truett Seminary. We want you to grow strong in your inmost being, learning to love God with heart, mind, soul, and strength—everything that you are—in order that you might faithfully love your neighbor as yourself.

In Luke 6:40, Jesus told his disciples, “The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.” We want you to grow to be like Jesus, the Master Teacher, and to do so alongside others who are seeking to learn from him in order to do everything he commanded us (Matthew 28:18-20). We want Christ to be “fully formed” in you (Galatians 4:19). Whatever your vocation, we have a firm conviction that the church will be stronger if we all seek to grow in the likeness of Jesus, obey his teachings, and bless others as a result of our life in him.

How do we do this at Truett? The spiritual formation program facilitates growth in Christlikeness through four semesters of Spiritual Formation coursework. These courses are taken in succession: PRTH 7101, PRTH 7102, PRTH 7103, and PRTH 7004, and are titled Spiritual Formation I, II, III, and IV.

In the first semester course, you will prayerfully consider your story, God’s story, and your vocation as a follower of Christ. In semester two, we will explore and practice several spiritual practices, or disciplines, like fasting, service, and celebration. In semester three, you’ll form a personal covenant, or rule of life, and learn discernment through a practice called group spiritual direction. In the fourth semester, you will participate in a retreat alongside your peers and under the guidance of mentors and

your instructors.

At the outset of these courses, each class is organized into smaller subsets called Covenant Groups. In your covenant group, you will practice Christian community alongside fellow students, mentors, and instructors. You will be challenged intellectually to think carefully about the spiritual life and to form a theology of discipleship. You will discuss assigned readings. In your covenant group, you will reflect upon and clarify how you pursue God now, and how you will do so in the future. Ideally, you will remain with the same group over your four semesters of Spiritual Formation coursework.

In order to assist us in connecting you with other students in your spiritual formation courses, please complete the [Covenant Group Placement Questionnaire](#). We will use this information in making assignments to **covenant groups for PRTH 7101**. (*You will use your **Bear ID*** to login to the questionnaire, so if you haven't activated it yet you will need to do that first.*)

Spiritual Formation coursework is required as part of the Truett curriculum. Why? Spiritual formation is a pillar of your educational experience at Truett. If you have not already done so, please be sure to include PRTH 7101 in your schedule when registering for classes. Registration instructions can be found [here](#) should you need them.

You'll notice that there are two sections of PRTH 7101. There is a Monday section, and a Thursday section. The Monday section is designed for commuter students and is traditionally comprised of those who are taking classes one day per week. The Thursday section is for residential students. The majority of our incoming students should register for the Thursday section. If you have questions about which section to register for, please contact us.

Spiritual Formation is adjusting in response to COVID-19. These past few months have been challenging for all of us. It is our intention to return to in-person instruction this fall, connecting in the classroom and in Covenant Groups. We are also discerning ways to accomplish our program goals using available online tools. If you have questions about our approach for this fall, please contact our office. We are happy to help you.

Lastly, the Office of Spiritual Formation is here to serve you. We are here to encourage you, provide spiritual direction, pray for you, and support you as you follow Jesus.

Dr. Angela Reed serves as Director of Spiritual Formation. Rev. Ben Simpson is Assistant Director of Spiritual Formation. Please stop by our office in 208 and get

acquainted. Set up a Zoom chat with us. Reach out. We not only serve students by coordinating the Spiritual Formation program. We also meet with students for pastoral care, spiritual direction, and to build spiritual friendships.

We're glad you are here. If you would like to set an appointment or learn more about the Spiritual Formation program, send an email or call: 254.710.6280.

May God bless you as you continue your journey. Once again, welcome to Truett!

Sincerely,

The Office of Spiritual Formation

Truett_SpiritualForm@baylor.edu

254.710.6280

** For logging into some systems you will use your **Baylor ID**, which is the 9-digit number. Other systems, including the covenant group placement questionnaire, will ask for your **Bear ID**, which is typically formatted as **FirstName_LastName**. Instructions for activating your Bear ID are available [here](#).*