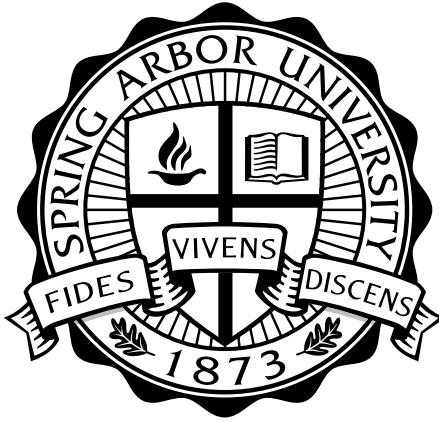


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**SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**MASTER OF ARTS IN  
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND LEADERSHIP**



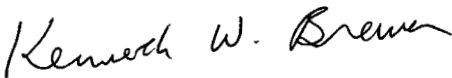
## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Leadership program. We are delighted that you are considering graduate courses in our Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Leadership (MSFL) Program. We have designed a core group of courses that we think will shape your life as well as your mind.

This program was constructed in direct dialogue with Richard Foster, probably the world's most recognizable leader in the spiritual formation movement in the 20th and 21st Centuries. We now proudly partner with Renovaré, the spiritual formation organization that was founded by Richard Foster and continues to be a leading promoter of spiritual formation worldwide.

As the director of the MSFL program, I think we have one of the most unique and rewarding programs in spiritual formation available today. I am convinced that both spiritual growth and meaningful community can take place through online learning and our face-to-face encounters. We look forward to helping you pursue the One who is pursuing you.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth W. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth W. Brewer, Ph. D.

Director, Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Leadership

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Interest in spiritual formation has increased over the last twenty years among evangelical denominations. These denominations have embraced and expanded the concept of discipleship to the broader recognition of the need for ongoing development of individuals who, having accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, now endeavor to “form” themselves in His likeness.

Spring Arbor University’s spiritual formation and leadership program merges the longstanding principles of spiritual formation and growth with an evangelical perspective on discipleship. The program provides instruction for pastors, lay persons and others intent on their own development and fostering the skills to lead others in formation.

The MSFL program follows a hybrid format (partially online, partially in person) and is based on Renovaré’s six streams of faith and practice. Your studies will include retreats, seminars and online coursework. Complete the first two years—31 credits—for the certificate in spiritual formation and leadership. Complete all three years—45 credits—for the master’s degree. The program is delivered through cohort groups of students who progress through the degree requirements sequentially.

It’s a program designed to fit into your life, but will require significant time in your weekly schedule. We say this unapologetically since anything worth doing usually requires prioritizing our time. Time with God is no exception. It is an online degree designed to ensure that you will get to know God, your classmates and have the support of your professors.

The learning outcomes of the program will provide a strong grounding in historical knowledge, in-depth instruction in the practice of spiritual formation, and preparation for leading others in these practices.

### Goals

- Provide a biblical, theological, historical and psychological framework for understanding spiritual formation and leadership development
- Cultivate habits and disciplines that promote godly character and effective leadership
- Develop spiritually mature and emotionally healthy leaders who, in turn, lead others to spiritual maturity and emotional health
- Personally experience God’s transforming grace with the aim to renew the Church, engage the Culture and transform Society

### Objectives

- Develop a life of prayer
- Develop a life of virtue
- Develop a life of spiritual power
- Develop a life of compassion and justice

# MASTER OF ARTS IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION & LEADERSHIP

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- Develop a life of mission and evangelism
- Develop a life of thanksgiving and incarnational love
- Develop a life of servant-leadership

## Values

- Academically respectable
- Practical and experiential at all levels of instruction
- Rooted in the ancient Christian tradition
- Relevant to 21st century cultural context
- Wesleyan in orientation
- Ecumenical in scope: embracing the Six Great Streams of Christian Faith
- Relational – cohorts as fellow travelers in small group spiritual formation

## Program Features

- Online and face-to-face learning
- Each course emphasizes and practices experiential learning
- Cohort group model for community and small group formation
- 15 courses x 3 credits = 45 credits for the master's degree
  - 10 core courses
  - 3 seminars
  - 2 special topics courses
- 10 courses x 3 credits = 30 credits for the certificate
  - 8 core courses
  - 1 seminar
  - 1 special topics course
- One personal weekend retreat per semester
- Two 5-day personal summer retreats after the first and second year
- First and second year students will begin a two year mentoring relationship (meeting monthly) with a spiritual director
- Third year students will mentor a person in spiritual direction on a monthly basis

## ADMISSIONS

Please see [www.arbor.edu](http://www.arbor.edu) for more information. Application materials that are not provided online or by e-mail may be sent to:

Graduate Admissions/Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation  
Spring Arbor University  
106 E. Main Street  
Spring Arbor, MI 49283

- Submit the Application for Admission and the application fee of \$40.

- Submit official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate coursework. Official transcripts must be mailed directly from the institution to Spring Arbor University. A completed bachelor's degree is required with at least a 2.75 GPA (4.0 scale).
- Submit the Autobiographical Question form (available online).
- Submit three recommendations. A completed and signed reference from each of the following areas is required (recommendation forms are available online).
  1. Academic
  2. Pastor or Christian leader
  3. Employer or other work reference
- Two years experience in ministry, either professionally or as a volunteer
- Complete the computer literacy test. This online literacy test assesses your current computer skills as well as the hardware and software configurations necessary for our online program.

## International Students

There are additional admission requirements for international students. (See *International Students*)

## POLICIES

(See *Basic Graduation Information and Academic Policies*)

## CURRICULUM

### Core

#### **SFL 601 Introduction to Christian Spirituality (3)**

This course is a biblical and theological introduction to Christian spiritual formation. Students will examine the goal and nature of spiritual formation, as well as the process of holistic spiritual transformation.

#### **SFL 602 Disciplines of the Spirit (3)**

This course is an exploration into the nature, dynamics and exercise of classic spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are a significant means by which we connect to God. Emphasis will be upon the practice

of various spiritual disciplines such as solitude and silence, listening and guidance, prayer and intercession, study and meditation, repentance and confession, fasting and worship, fellowship and simplicity, service and witness.

#### **SFL 603 Biblical Foundations for Christian Spirituality & Leadership (3)**

This course will explore the dynamics and power of Scripture in spiritual formation, personal transformation, and leadership. A key aspect of this course will be the understanding and development of biblical hermeneutical principles and practices that focus not only on the biblical text's content but also on its potential effect(s) as part

of the church's Scripture. In addition to learning about life with God from Scripture, the student will gain competence in listening to the Spirit in/of the text, move from informational reading to trans/formational reading, discover and practice classic and contemporary methods of contemplative reading of Scripture, and learn to engage Scripture in ways that grasp and change one's being and doing.

### **SFL 604 History, Traditions and Leaders in Christian Spirituality (3)**

This course is a historical exploration of the nature and development of spiritual formation within the various Christian traditions and leaders from the early church to the contemporary context. Students will be introduced to the Six Great Streams of the Christian tradition: contemplative, holiness, charismatic, social justice, evangelical and the incarnational.

### **SFL 606 Spiritual Directing, Mentoring and Spiritual Leadership I (3)**

This course will explore the art, meaning, place, models, dynamics and practice of the ministry of spiritual direction. Participants will experience being mentored by a spiritual director and receive feedback on their own spiritual development. A reflective journal of spiritual direction will be required.

### **SFL 608 Spiritual Directing, Mentoring and Spiritual Leadership II (3)**

This course will continue to explore the art, meaning, place, models, dynamics and practice of the ministry of spiritual direction. Participants will experience being mentored by a

spiritual director and receive feedback on their own spiritual development. A reflective journal of spiritual direction will be required.

### **SFL 611 Christian Spirituality in Everyday Life (3)**

This course assists students in broadening their understanding of spirituality within the Christian tradition and how to connect this understanding to all aspects of their lives. The course goal is intellectual and existential: students are introduced to a wide variety of literature focused on the sacred actions of God within the ordinary rhythms of everyday life; at the same time, students through a variety of learning experiences are also encouraged to grow spiritually through their own choices of prayer, worship, and discipline.

### **SFL 613 Healing and Wholeness in Christian Spirituality (3)**

This course investigates the biblical, theological and historical foundations of divine healing as an aspect of God's restoration of creation to wholeness. Various approaches, models and formats of healing ministry will be explored that touch the whole person: mind, body, will, emotions, spirit and social relationships. Personal experience in inner healing prayer and practical experience in praying for the sick are a vital part of this course.

### **SFL 614 Christian Spirituality and Leadership (3)**

This course is an introduction to the style, skills, principles, growth and development of leadership, including organizational theory, ethics, conflict management, vision casting and

personal concerns for integrity and spiritual health from the perspective of Christian spirituality.

### **SFL 680 Christian Spirituality Synthesis and Integration (3)**

This is the capstone course in which the student synthesizes and integrates all of the learning from the core courses into one's life and ministry. The course assists students in synthesizing, articulating, and integrating their own spirituality as followers of Jesus Christ. The approach is interdisciplinary and includes reflection on ministry experience (both within the church and in lay settings), spiritual practice and history, as well as theological background. Students assume leadership roles within the class through facilitating group process, leading prayer and presenting a synthesis of their spiritual journey, learning and sense of mission.

### ***Special Topics***

#### **SFL 670 Special Topics (3)**

These courses will explore Christian spirituality. Titles may vary each semester.

### ***Seminars and Retreats***

#### **SFL 671, 672, 673 Intensive Seminars and Retreat (3)**

These seminars are designed to give the student face-to-face access to nationally known persons and SAU faculty in the area of spiritual formation and leadership. Representatives of each of the Six Great Streams of the Christian tradition will be sought over a three year cycle. The intensive seminars will consist

of a mixture of lecture, small group discussion, person examination and reflection, various spiritual exercises, practical experiences in spiritual formation, as well as reading and writing assignments.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Rod Stewart, M.B.A.**

*Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies*

**Garnet Hauger, Ph.D.**

*Dean, School of Arts and Sciences*

**Kenneth W. Brewer, Ph.D.**

*Director, Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Leadership*

## FACULTY

**Kenneth W. Brewer**

*Assistant Professor of Religion*  
B.A. Spring Arbor University  
M.Div. Asbury Theological Seminary  
Th. M. Princeton Theological Seminary  
M. Phil. Drew University  
Ph. D. Drew University

**Mary Albert Darling**

*Associate Professor of Communication*  
B.A., Spring Arbor University  
M.A., Western Michigan University

**Robert Moore-Jumonville**

*Professor of Religion*  
B.A. Seattle Pacific University  
M. Div., Princeton Theological Seminary  
Ph. D. University of Iowa

**Reed Sheard**

*Vice President for Technology Services and Chief Information Officer*  
B.A., University of Sioux Falls  
M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary  
PMC, School of Theology and Ministry, Seattle University  
Ed.D., Seattle University

**Richard Thompson**

*Professor of New Testament Studies*  
Northwest Nazarene Theological Seminary  
B.A. Olivet Nazarene University  
M. Div. Nazarene Theological Seminary  
Ph. D. Southern Methodist University

### *January Seminar Faculty*

**Richard J. Foster (January 2007)**

*Distinguished University Professor of Spiritual Formation*  
B.A. George Fox College  
D. Th. P. Fuller Theological Seminary

**Dallas Willard (January 2008)**

*Professor of Philosophy, University of Southern California*  
B.A., William Jewell College  
B.A., Baylor University  
Ph. D., University of Wisconsin

**Tony Campolo (January 2009)**

*Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Eastern University*  
B.A., Eastern University  
Ph.D., Temple University



