

## ISP-PTX112 - The Art of Listening in the Midst of Ministry

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A Continuing Education Course in the ISP Summer School, 2018

July 16 - 20 Lecture and Small Group Practice: 2pm - 5pm

Purpose of this course: Communication is arguably the most important skill for humans in any kind of relationship. While speaking is given a great deal of attention and training, listening is often left to the individual to understand its complexities.

**Listening** is the ability to accurately receive and interpret messages in the communication process. We will explore the art of listening to self, to the Divine, in small and large groups during this week. Understanding the importance of and developing the skills of listening to who we are as a person as well as listening to others will enhance our self-care and our relationships, personally and in your ministry. Are you listening as a leader or a student, a partner or a caregiver, a pastor or a friend? Does it make a difference? This course is designed to provide information as well as opportunities to experience and practice several kinds of listening paradigms.

Competence Objectives: Those who receive Continuing Education credit will be expected to:

- Attend and participate in 100% of the classes
- Write a one or two page reflection paper on your experiences of the discussion topic and practical exercises for each day, to be turned into the instructor before the beginning of the next class. An equivalent presentation in the oral tradition can be negotiated with the instructor after the first class meeting.

Format and Informed Consent form:

Each afternoon, we will explore together specific aspects of listening in different situations such as in silence or prayer/meditation, while listening to your partner or family, in a small group or larger class setting with opportunities to practice the listening tools discussed in class that day.

An Informed Consent agreement will be emailed to you and must be signed and given to the instructor the first day of class. The form is to remind you that communication, as we will be exploring and experiencing, may bring up emotional material.

Calendar (subject to change): Suggested readings will be posted on the course Moodle for each class day in pdf format.

Monday, 16 July: Introduction to Listening - a bit of everything for context

Tuesday, 17 July: Listening to yourself and the Divine

Wednesday, 18 July: Listening to another - partner, friend, parishioner

Thursday, 19 July: Listening to groups - families, committees, congregations

Friday, 20 July: Listening in leadership and in support roles

## Selected Bibliography:

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June 4, 2018