

STANTON INSTITUTE

FOR THEOLOGY & PRACTICE



CATALOG 2025-2026

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”

Matthew 28:19

WELCOME

To all our students, faculty, and friends,

It is a new year at the Stanton Institute for Theology & Practice. Our mission is clear: facilitate deep engagement with the content of our faith for the sake of Christ's mission in this place.

We are excited to offer an array of courses that invite our students to prayerful discernment, disciplined study, and serious faith. Browse this catalog at your leisure and do not hesitate to express your thoughts to us about any of its content.

Furthermore, we take very seriously our role in the wider mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. We are determined to facilitate the bonds of union and fellowship across our parishes through the training and education of capable deacons and lay leaders to serve therein.

Indeed, we feel that present circumstances demonstrate a profound need for rigorous Christian education. Nevertheless, we believe in the traditional model of the parish. Therefore, our mission is to serve that essential unit of the Church's mission: the parish priest and the congregation.

If you are among our students, we hope that you share in our excitement as well as our sense of purpose.

If you are among our faculty, I am thankful for all your hard work in service of this mission.



Finally, if you are among our friends, I ask your continual prayers. May all that we do be to the glory of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for evermore.

Louis Harris+
Dean

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OUR MISSION



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to equip and sustain lay and ordained leaders, enabling them to carry out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

In this way the Institute assists the Diocese in nurturing and maintaining the sacred traditions of the Church, enabling all Christians to answer the call to ministry, which we receive in Baptism.

The Stanton Institute serves the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas by providing:

- a variety of courses in theology and spirituality designed to meet the needs of all Christians who desire to grow and mature in discipleship
- diploma programs for lay leaders in our parishes with concentrations in Spiritual Direction, Christian Studies, Evangelism, Catechesis and Pastoral Care
- education and preparation for individuals seeking ordination to the Diaconate in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas
- continuing education and seminars for clergy and lay leaders

ADMISSIONS

The Stanton Institute offers classes to those interested in pursuing in-depth Christian theological study. To receive an application for admission, send an email to:

stantoninstitute@edod.org.

Admission requirements include academic history and clergy recommendation.

Deadline to apply for admission is August 25, 2025.

There is no admission fee.



STANTON COMMUNITY KEY INFORMATION

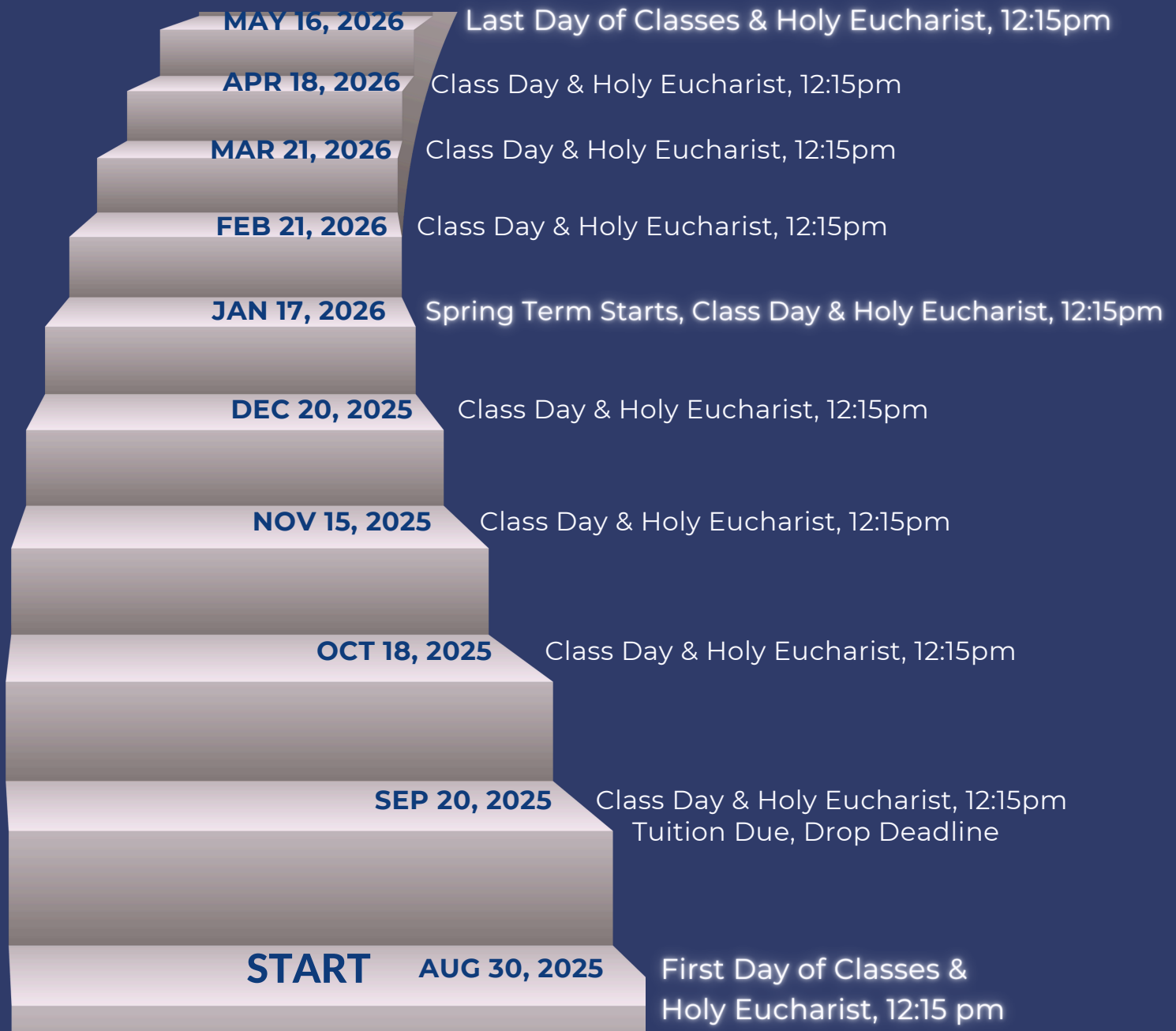


RULE OF LIFE

All students are urged to adopt a personal Rule of Life as part of their spiritual development. The following is suggested as a model for Stanton Institute students.

- Daily Prayer
- Daily reading and reflection upon the Scriptures
- Weekly attendance at worship in your home parish
- Attendance at The Stanton Institute Eucharists
- Seeking the counsel of a spiritual director or advisor
- Annual spiritual retreat

STANTON INSTITUTE 2025-2026 CLASS DATES



LAY LEADER DIPLOMAS

The Stanton Institute offers three lay diploma programs:

- Diploma in Spiritual Direction (three year program)
- Diploma in Christian Studies (two year program)
- Diploma in Christian Ministry- (three year program)
 - Concentration in Evangelism
 - Concentration in Catechesis
 - Concentration in Pastoral Care

Each program includes foundational courses designed to deepen the individual's understanding of Scripture and specialized coursework to equip lay leaders for a particular area of ministry.

These programs meet the educational requirements for licensing by the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas in particular areas of ministry.

The licensing of Lay Ministers will be in accordance with Canon I I I. 4.1(a) of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church. Completion of a Diploma does not guarantee licensing.

LAY LEADER DIPLOMAS

REQUIRED COURSES

CORE CLASSES - All students are required to take:

- Life in Christ
- Introduction to Christian Ministry and the Book of Common Prayer
- Old Testament

COURSES REQUIRED TO COMPLETE EACH DIPLOMA:

DIPLOMA IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

- New Testament
- Intro to Spiritual Direction as a Vocation
- Spiritual Direction Practicum

DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES

- New Testament
- Church History
- Introduction to Christian Theology

DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY - EVANGELISM

- New Testament
- Evangelism
- Introduction to Christian Theology
- Homiletics

DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY - CATECHESIS

- New Testament
- Church History
- Introduction to Christian Theology
- Homiletics
- Ethics
- Evangelism

DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY - PASTORAL CARE

- New Testament
- Church History
- Introduction to Christian Theology
- Pastoral Ministry
- Evangelism

DIACONAL FORMATION

REQUIREMENTS

DIACONAL FORMATION PROGRAM GOALS

- Meet the canonical requirements for the education and formation of those seeking ordination to the Diaconate
- Adhere to the guideline of the North American Association for the Diaconate to provide a complete formation and education program in a three-year time frame
- Structure the program so that new students can enter the program each August

REQUIRED COURSES - DIACONAL FORMATION

- Life in Christ
- Intro to Christian Ministry and the Book of Common Prayer
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Introduction to Christian Theology
- Church History
- Homiletics
- Ethics
- Evangelism
- History, Role & Meaning of the Diaconate
- Sacramental Liturgy for Deacons
- Pastoral Ministry

2025-2026 CLASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING 9 am-Noon

- Church History - The Rev. Christopher Stephen
- Evangelism - The Rev. Canon Carrie Headington (Spring Only)
- Life in Christ - The Rev. Kate E. Smith
- Introduction to Christian Ministry and the BCP - The Rev. Paul A. Nesta
- Sacramental Liturgy for Deacons - The Rev. Mark Hall

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 1 pm-4 pm

- Ethics - The Rev. Cn. Dr. Victor Austin (Spring Only)
- Homiletics - The Rev. Paul A. Nesta (Spring Only)
- Introduction to Spiritual Direction as a Vocation - The Rev. Kate E. Smith
- New Testament - The Rt. Rev. James M. Stanton
- Pastoral Ministry - TO BE ANNOUNCED
- History, Role & Meaning of the Diaconate - The Rev. Mark Hall

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 1 pm-4:15 pm

- Introduction to Christian Theology - The Rev. Dr. Andrew Grosso

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 4 pm-7 pm

- Old Testament - The Rt. Rev. James M. Stanton

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION PRACTICUM - CLASS TIME TBD* - The Rev. Kate E. Smith

*First class is Saturday, August 23 at 10:00am-12:00pm. Class will decide their scheduled times for the rest of the year together at the first session.

FACULTY & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



THE REV. CHRISTOPHER STEPHEN

The Rev. Christopher Stephen was born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan. He was ordained into the priesthood

in 2007 in the Church of Pakistan, Diocese of Karachi. He served at the faculty of St. Thomas Theological College, Karachi, Pakistan, from 2005 to 2013. He is married to Mahvish, and they have two boys, Ethan, 14, and Eliah, 5.

*M. Div., Gujranwala Theological Seminary, Pakistan
STM, Dallas Theological Seminary*



THE REV. CANON VICTOR LEE AUSTIN, PhD

Canon Austin is Theologian-in-Residence for the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. His books include *Up with Authority: Why*

We Need Authority to Flourish as Human Beings; Christian Ethics: A Guide for the Perplexed; and Losing Susan: Brain Disease, the Priest's Wife, and the God Who Gives and Takes Away. He is particularly interested in the intersection of theology and everyday life.

*Ph. D., Fordham University, Bronx, NY
M. Div., General Theological Seminary, New York, NY
M. A., U. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
B. A., St. John's College, Santa Fe, New Mexico*

CHURCH HISTORY

An exploration of Christian thought from the institution of the Church through the Reformation to the contemporary schools. The course will emphasize Anglican history and theology in the second semester.

ETHICS (Spring Only)

An examination of the classic tradition of Christian moral theology in which the student assesses and evaluates a wide variety of moral questions in contemporary life. The course looks critically at the interaction between our faith and our actions. The perspective is that of the Anglican tradition.

FACULTY & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



THE REV. CANON CARRIE HEADINGTON

Carrie Headington is the Canon Evangelist for the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, equipping congregations to live out their

call to share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed. Canon Headington speaks nationally and internationally as an evangelist and apologist and is founder of the Good News Initiative. She is also an adjunct professor for evangelism at Fuller Theological Seminary.

*Diploma in Theology, Evangelism, and Apologetics,
University of Oxford, Oxford, England
M. A., Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
B. A., Yale University, New Haven, CT*

EVANGELISM (Spring Only)

This course will explore the nature of the Christian Gospel, how it has spread over time, and the mission of the church. Practical ways to share the good news in our every day lives and as a parish in today's contemporary culture will also be discussed.

FACULTY & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



THE REV. PAUL A. NESTA

Fr. Nesta is the Rector of St. David of Wales Episcopal Church in Denton, where he has served since 2018. During

his time at St. David's, the congregation raised over \$4.1 million and is constructing a new church building (estimated to be \$6.5 million). Prior to coming to St. David's, he served as Rector of St. Paul's La Porte, IN, and Curate at St. Luke's Denison, TX.

D. Min., (Cand.) Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC

*M. Div., Nashotah House Theological Seminary,
Nashotah, WI*

B. A., Maranatha Baptist University, Watertown, WI

HOMILETICS (Spring Only)

A study of liturgical preaching and homiletic skills. Instruction includes a reflection on the pastoral and liturgical place of the sermon. In addition to classroom homiletical exercises and critiques, students may preach during Stanton Institute services (to be confirmed during the semester).

INTRO TO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY & THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

This course assists the student in discerning a call to both lay and ordained ministry. It will include instruction in the nature and function of various ministry orders. In the second semester, students will develop working knowledge of the Book of Common Prayer.

FACULTY & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



THE RT. REV.
JAMES M. STANTON

Consecrated the sixth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas on March 6, 1993, Bishop Stanton's episcopacy

was well-known for his strong advocacy of biblical authority and his success in strengthening mission and evangelism ministries throughout the diocese. The Stanton Institute is honored to once again have the namesake of the school on faculty; a scholar whose life and ministry has reasserted traditional values of Christian faith, order, and morality.

D. D., Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, CA

D. D., Nashotah House Theological Seminary, Nashotah, WI

D. D., University of the South, Sewanee, TN

D. Min., Southern California School of Theology, Claremont, CA

C.A.S., Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, CA

NEW TESTAMENT

An exploration of the content, composition and theological emphases of the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, as well as the Gospel of John. Attention is given to major interpretive approaches and their presuppositions. Also highlighted are the Book of Acts, the letters of Paul, the Pastoral Epistles, Hebrews, and the Book of Revelation, emphasizing their historical context, structure and theological content.

OLD TESTAMENT

An in-depth exploration of the history, faith, and literature of the people of Israel, from the origins of Israel's oral tradition to the time of the Divided Kingdom. The course is also an exploration of the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Scriptures, Wisdom Literature, apocalyptic materials, and the Psalms. Classes focus on Old Testament theology and its application to the Christian faith.

FACULTY & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



THE REV.
ANDREW GROSSO, PhD

The Reverend Andrew Grosso is the Senior Associate for Worship & Discipleship at Saint Michael and All Angels Church in Dallas. He has also served congregation in South Carolina and Kansas, and was the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Nashotah House Theological Seminary. He received his PhD in Religious Studies from Marquette University, an MDiv from the School of Theology at the University of the South, an MA from Wheaton College, and a BA from Calvin College. His primary scholarly interests are in the areas of philosophical and systematic theology.

*Ph. D., Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI
M. Div., University of the South, Sewanee, TN
M. A., Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL
B. A., Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI*

FACULTY TO BE
ANNOUNCED for
PASTORAL MINISTRY

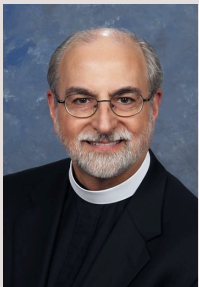
INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

This course provides a survey of the purpose, content, and methods of the theological enterprise, and includes an examination of the distinct topics included in theological studies and the relationships between them. The course also includes an overview of the history of the theological tradition, and examines the place of theological reflection in the life and mission of the church.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

An introduction to the Church's ministry of pastoral care, including active listening, responding to grief and loss, family systems, pastoral care in various contexts, the use of the Pastoral Offices in the Book of Common Prayer, and lay pastoral ministry.

FACULTY & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



THE REV. MARK HALL

The Rev. Mark Hall is Deacon for Pastoral Care at St. Matthew's Cathedral. He was ordained in 2014 and has served at the Cathedral since that time. He has been a guest instructor in

Diaconal Formation at Stanton Institute for many years and is actively involved in the diaconal discernment process in the Diocese, including serving as a member of the Commission on Ministry. In addition to coordinating pastoral care ministries at the Cathedral, Deacon Hall oversees the Cathedral's extensive Food Pantry Ministry, has assisted in Diocesan initiatives to partner with churches and ministries serving South Dallas, and is a member of the Diocese's Racial Reconciliation Task Force.

*Diploma in Diaconal Ministry, The Stanton Institute
J.D., Georgetown University Law Center
B.A., Drake University*

HISTORY, ROLE AND MEANING OF THE DIACONATE

A study of the history and theology of the diaconate, its traditional purposes, and contemporary applications.

SACRAMENTAL LITURGY FOR DEACONS

This course covers the theological and practical role of the deacon in the liturgy.

Prerequisites: History, Role and Meaning of the Diaconate, approval of class instructor.

FACULTY & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



THE REV. KATE E. SMITH

Mother Kate is an Associate Priest at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Prosper. During her time at Saint Paul's, Rev. Kate has been involved with one on

one spiritual direction for church members, as well as being involved in pastoral care, women's ministry, small group ministry and youth ministry. Prior to coming to St. Paul's, Rev. Kate was the Fellows Director at Church of the Incarnation, and also served in pastoral and in High School and young adult religious education in Toronto, Canada. Rev. Kate is also currently a Spiritual Director for postulants in the discernment process for Holy Orders in EDOD.

Certificate for Anglican Studies, University of Toronto, Wycliffe College, Toronto, CAN

Master's of Theological Studies and Development, University of Toronto, Wycliffe College, Toronto, CAN
Certificate in Spiritual Direction, University of Toronto, St. Michael's College, Toronto, CAN
Bachelor's of Education, University of Toronto, OISE, Toronto, CAN

B.A., University of Toronto, Victoria College, Toronto, CAN

SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY: LIFE IN CHRIST

An introduction to the basic elements of Christian spirituality, emphasizing the nature of the spirituality of Christian Scripture, and an analysis of Christian experience in light of Biblical revelation and Christian tradition. The course explores the spirituality of the Book of Common Prayer and a variety of spiritual practices by application to the student's pilgrimage.

INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AS A VOCATION

An introduction to the basic elements of Anglican Spiritual Direction, elements of spiritual formation and the craft of supporting others as they mature in their Christian life. The course will include lectures, sharing on the readings, and reflections on readings and practices. Success is dependent on active participation, reading and writing. **Prerequisite:** Life in Christ

FACULTY & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



THE REV. KATE E. SMITH

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Certificate in Spiritual Direction, University of Toronto, St. Michael's College, Toronto, CAN

Bachelor's of Education, University of Toronto, OISE, Toronto, CAN

B.A., University of Toronto, Victoria College, Toronto, CAN

FIRST CLASS FOR SPIRITUAL DIRECTION PRACTICUM IS SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 AT 10:00AM - 12:00PM. GROUP WILL DECIDE MEETING DATES FOR REST OF YEAR AT THAT TIME.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION PRACTICUM

In year three of the Spiritual Direction program, the student will meet monthly with a peer group for supervision and teaching as the student begins to direct at least two people throughout the year. This two hour session will include review and discussion on ongoing direction as well as continued teaching and instruction in the art of spiritual direction.

Students will work with seasoned directors and will continue their own direction as a part of their commitment to transformation. Students will determine their own study path and will be expected to share monthly with the group new insights and practices.

Prerequisites: Life in Christ and Intro to Spiritual Direction as a Vocation.

REGISTRATION

Registration is open for the 2025-2026 academic year and continues through August 29, 2025 . A \$35 non-refundable registration fee is due with tuition. Confirmations for registration and tuition will be sent to students. Payment is due by the second class session, September 20, 2025. If a payment plan is needed, please contact Erica Lasenyik directly at elasenyik@edod.org, or via voice/text at 407-494-9065 to discuss options.

After August 29, 2025, and by the second class session (September 20, 2025) students may complete late registration or add additional classes. A confirmation for registration and tuition will be sent to the student. A \$35 non-refundable registration fee is due with tuition. Registration fee and tuition are due by the second class session, September 20, 2025. Students are responsible for coordinating make up classwork from the August session directly with their instructors.

If a registration link is needed, please contact Erica Lasenyik at elasenyik@edod.org.

CREDIT/AUDIT

Students who are pursuing a diploma, certification, or ordination must take the required courses for credit. Students taking courses for credit must fulfill all requirements for attendance, class participation, study, and any course requirements such as research papers, exams, or field projects and will receive a letter grade for each course.

Students who choose to audit a class must complete the requirements for attendance, reading and class participation. No written assignments are required, and completed courses will be listed as " audit" on the student's transcript.

ATTENDANCE

Students may not miss more than two class sessions in a year-long class, or one class session in a half-year-long class. If a student misses more than the allowable absences, the course instructor and Dean of the Stanton Institute will review the student's eligibility to continue the course and apply a proscribed academic plan for completion if eligibility to continue is granted.

TUITION

Full- year course: \$400 (credit)/\$300 (audit)

Half- year course: \$200 (credit)/\$150 (audit)

Tuition and fees are payable via electronic payment link or check made payable to The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas and mailed to: The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, PO Box 224411, Dallas, TX 75222-4411. Payments made by check MUST have the Memo Line filled in with "Stanton Tuition"

Students must pay tuition in full by the September class session, along with the requisite non-refundable registration fee. Grades/diplomas will not be issued to students who have not met their financial obligation. Students experiencing financial need should contact the Director at elasenyik@edod.org, or stantoninstitute@edod.org.

DROPPING A COURSE

Students may drop a course through the end of the second class session with no academic penalty. The course will not be entered on the student's transcript. Course tuition will be refunded if dropped by September 20, 2025.

WITHDRAWAL

Students wishing to withdraw from The Stanton Institute after the second class session will receive a grade of " W." No tuition refund will be given. Students paying in installments must fulfill their full financial obligation to The Stanton Institute.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Some courses may be taken as an Independent Study. Permission must be given by the Dean and the instructor teaching the course. Reasons for taking a course as an Independent Study will be considered on an individual basis.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments that are turned in after the assigned date will receive a grade that is one letter grade lower than the earned grade for each month they are late. This policy will apply unless the student has made arrangements with the instructor for an extension due to illness or emergency.

GRADING POLICIES

The following grades are used for class assignments:

- A - Outstanding
- B - Very Good
- C - Acceptable or average
- D - Below-average work
- F - Failure to do minimal work

The following grades are used on the official grade report or transcript:

- A - Outstanding or exceptional work
- B - Very good or commendable work
- C - Acceptable or average work
- D - Below- average work; no credit given
- F - Failure to do minimal work; no credit given
- Au - Audit; no grade assigned
- Inc - Incomplete grade (see policies)
- W - Withdrawn from course

APPEAL PROCESS FOR A COURSE GRADE

The student who wishes to appeal a course grade should schedule a conference with the instructor to discuss the grade. If the student wishes to appeal a course grade further, an appointment should be made with the Dean.

INCOMPLETE

Students may apply for a course grade of incomplete prior to the final class session by obtaining an Incomplete Grade Contract from the Director. Contracts must be approved by the course instructor and signed by the student, instructor, and Dean. Once an Incomplete Grade Contract is signed, all work must be turned in by the date indicated on the contract. If all work is not received, a grade of "F" will be entered on the student's transcript. Special circumstances which warrant an exception to this policy will be determined only through consultation with the Dean.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is defined as intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic setting. Plagiarism will not be tolerated at The Stanton Institute and may be grounds for failing the course or dismissal from the school as determined by the Dean and course instructor. All students are required to sign a copy of The Stanton Institute Policy on Plagiarism prior to the first class session indicating their understanding and acceptance of the policy.

TRANSFER OF CREDITS

Credit for equivalent coursework from another institution may be given upon the receipt of an official transcript and with the approval of the Dean and appropriate instructor. Students should submit the course outline for the courses they would like to have considered for transfer credit in addition to the official transcript.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

All new students taking classes for credit may schedule an admissions appointment with The Stanton Institute Dean before registering for classes. It is also recommended that each returning student check in with the Director before registering for classes to make sure they are meeting the requirements for their program of study.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students are responsible for meeting the requirements for a particular program as set forth in The Stanton Institute catalog at the time of their entrance to the school. Students who do not successfully complete any courses during a given academic year are considered "withdrawn" and become subject to the requirements of the catalog for the year of their re-entry.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDINATION

In all cases, admission to The Stanton Institute is separate from admission to the application process for ordination. Information regarding the application and discernment process for ordination is available from the Diocesan office, and it is the student's responsibility to obtain this information. Receiving a Licentiate in Diaconal Ministry or a Diploma in Christian Ministry from The Stanton Institute does not in any way guarantee eligibility for ordination. Students seeking ordination are responsible for communicating with the Diocesan office regarding any changes in the requirements for ordination, which may not correspond with the program requirements set forth in the catalog.

STANTON INSTITUTE

Educating and uplifting ministry
in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas
for more than 60 Years

Administration

The Rev. Louis Harris, Dean
Erica M. Lasenyik, Director

Contact Us

stantoninstitute@edod.org
407-494-9065 direct