**Unity SpiritGroups FAQs**

What is the purpose of the [Unity SpiritGroups Leader Certification Program](https://www.unityworldwideministries.org/uwsi/spiritual-direction)?

*The Unity SpiritGroups Leader Certification Program is designed to facilitate the expansion of the concept of small group ministry and provide ministries, Unity and non-Unity alike, with the information, documents, training, support, advice, and planning to lead and launch their own groups.*

Who can enroll in the program?

*Anyone who is interested in creating safe spaces that foster spiritual growth for individuals, while naturally growing their ministries, small groups, and organizations. You don’t even need to be associated with a ministry. You only need the desire to learn how to lead and allow the Spirit of God to show you where. The program has no credentialing status in Unity churches or Unity Worldwide Ministries.*

What is the tuition?

*$1500.00*

What do I receive for the tuition and fees of $1500.00?

*This cohort training provides the knowledge and skills a Unity SpiritGroups Certified Program Leader needs to be able to plan, organize, and support the membership and the membership growth for the ministry they serve. Students will learn how to lead a small group ministry, including recruiting and training new hosts, developing, planning, organizing, and executing new groups, supporting and growing established groups, determining and encouraging team dynamics, and keeping groups healthy, training new hosts and leaders within each group, and more. Students will also discern the best course for fostering the alignment of the small group ministry and their ministry. The members of this cohort will examine how to align the Unity SpiritGroups ministry with their individual churches through a discussion of strategy, the mission and vision for the ministry, the history of the ministry, and more.*

 *By the end of the course learners will:*

1. *Identify, reflect upon, and explain the reasons a Unity SpiritGroups is key to the growth and sustainability of a Unity ministry.*
2. *Understand their role as Unity SpiritGroups Certified Program Leader, the role of a new host, the role of each member of a Unity SpiritGroup, and the role of the board and minister who support Unity SpiritGroups within their ministry.*
3. *Discern the best way for them, as Program Leader, to recruit, vet, interview, train, and support new hosts.*
4. *Articulate the importance of the 5 C’s (Communion, Connection, Compassion, Community, Challenge) in the health, growth, maintenance, and power of a Unity SpiritGroup.*
5. *Apply what they have learned to a private SpiritGroup prior to their first launch, that could include, but is not limited to, their board and minister.*
6. *Create an action plan for their first launch to be held at Easter.*

What curriculum is being used for each of the scheduled sessions?  May I see a syllabus before applying?

*The curriculum designed for this program was created by Mendhi Audlin. In February 2022, Mendhi sold her program to Unity Worldwide Ministries. You may request to see a syllabus before applying.*

Does the tuition and fees include manuals, workbooks and/or texts?

*No, and at this time, there are no manuals, workbooks, or texts required. However, should we require them later, the student will be responsible for purchasing them.*

Will the entire program be conducted virtually?

*With the exception of an optional gathering at Unity Convention, yes.*

Are the training sessions pre-recorded or live?

*There are weekly pre-recorded lessons for you to watch and learn from. The cohort will meet every two weeks in a live session, to share wins and challenges, ask questions, receive coaching, and work together as a SpiritGroup.*

How often do the training sessions take place?  Twice weekly, weekly, bi-weekly, Monthly?

*Videos are released weekly. Cohorts meet bi-weekly.*

If a student is unable to attend one of the sessions, is it possible to make it up at a later date?

*SpiritGroups is a cohort-based learning community. Each class will build upon the previous one experientially. Classes for Unity SpiritGroups are not available individually.*

Will students be required to pair up with other classmates outside of the classroom experience in addition to the cohort meeting times?

*Not as part of the class, no. However, you may decide to do this on your own, as you discover that you live close to a classmate and want to partner together, or if you realize that you and another classmate have similar situations and want to work together to resolve them.*

At the completion of the program will a Unity SpiritGroups Certified Program Leader be required to take annual Continuing Education Units?

*No, but it is strongly recommended that all who successfully complete the program attend Weekly Huddles and Monthly Coaching calls.*

Are Unity SpiritGroups Certified Program Leaders considered to have a role in the leadership team in Unity churches and centers as are Ministers, Spiritual Leaders and Licensed Unity Teachers?

*Yes. Essentially, a Unity SpiritGroups Certified Program Leader is a trained membership director, who has the training, resources, and abilities to foster a stronger membership within current members and grow membership with the use of small group ministry.*

Is it possible for someone with a full-time working schedule to be fully engaged in this program?

*Absolutely! Class time will almost always be in the evening or on weekends. That time totals 90-minutes every two weeks. A helpful, but generous estimate for time outside of class, should be no more than three hours weekly.*