

## **Supervision - safeguarding the quality of what we offer as EG Spiritual Directors**

Supervised practice is a key requirement for membership of the Epiphany Group.

Supervision is a means of confirming the individual's commitment to the spiritual direction profession and to their own professional growth, perhaps most importantly during "fallow years".

It is a place to explore their own way of following their vocation. Therefore particularly relevant for those "pondering the future of their ministry"

It is a place to discover and follow up ideas for finding directees and receive support through that search.

It is a place to attend to continuing professional development and reading material.

It is a place to remain rooted in the identity of a spiritual director, (as different from a directee), and to keep abreast of what is happening in the field of Ignatian spirituality.

The task of a supervisor needs to be differentiated, from the task of a director, notwithstanding overlaps.

There are fundamental differences in the task, of which it is important to be mindful, especially if we are practising in both roles. Supervision is uniquely concerned with our professional journey while spiritual direction is primarily about our journey in faith.

It is also professionally and ethically best practice for one practitioner not to be in both roles with the same person. Recognizing that this arrangement does exist within the EG - the scarcity of supervisors having been a factor - best practice requires individual discernment and reflection in such cases.

Adhering to boundaries is vital for ethical and professional practice in relation to the use of social media. Spiritual directors or supervisors should refrain from being 'friends' with directees or supervisees on Facebook, and similar sites.

Without the discipline and support of supervision it would be easy to drift, as it can prove to be hard to motivate oneself

It goes without saying that we wish to avoid any variation of policy that might encourage members to see the EG as a fellowship group to which to belong, primarily for the purpose of spiritual nourishment. This applies even on a temporary basis, in our view.

A commitment to supervision acts to keep the focus on the member's working life and purpose.

While this document may seem rigorous in tone, its principles point to the value of the ministry offered by members of the Epiphany Group in today's world. In light of a growing membership, the Epiphany Group is committed to supporting all that safeguards best practice. Supervision is key to ensuring that the ministry we practice and the training we offer continues to be live, ethical and fruitful.

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