**Why Charge a Fee for Spiritual Direction?**

Charging a fee for spiritual direction brings clarity to the relationship. When you come to my office, or see me via videoconference or have a phone session with me and pay a fee, we know that the time is about attending to you. Our conversation is about your own spiritual journey and growth.

When we pay for something, it signifies value and worth. When clients pay for sessions, they tend to stay attentive and engaged.

It takes more than an hour to offer an hour of spiritual direction. I schedule free time before and after each session so that I can reflect, pray, and be more engaged with my clients. I deal with scheduling conflicts, read, study, attend retreats, trainings, and meet with my own spiritual director, to continue my education and formation.

Charging a fee helps me earn a living and pays for office space, advertising, trainings, internet and telephone expenses. It helps me to sustain my practice without feeling resentful. I hope to offer spiritual direction for many years to come, so I need to ensure I am not being drained emotionally, spiritually and financially.

Thank you.

Janet C. Schiering, M.Div., M.A.

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