



## The RENOVARÉ International Institute for Christian Spiritual Formation

A TWO-YEAR EXPERIENCE OF BECOMING LIKE JESUS

### What is RENOVARÉ?

RENOVARÉ is a nonprofit ministry devoted to advocating, fueling, and modeling authentic discipleship to Jesus Christ, so that churches and individuals might be renewed through deeper experience and understanding of Christ-like life. Founded by spiritual formation author Richard J. Foster, RENOVARÉ is Christian in commitment, international in scope, and ecumenical in breadth.

RENOVARÉ presents a balanced vision for Christian spirituality, and offers practical ways for people to find spiritual renewal:

- International, national, and local conferences for Spiritual Renewal
- Extensive resources for learning about the devotional life
- Models for formation in community
- Assistance in grassroots spiritual formation efforts
- Opportunities for in-depth, focused spiritual training

### What is the RENOVARÉ Institute?

Richard J. Foster first drew up a proposal for a spiritual formation academy/institute in 1991. At that time there were very few models for academies of this nature. Since that time, there has been an explosion of interest in spiritual formation with the majority of seminaries offering “something” related to spiritual formation. However, even with the burgeoning interest, it is rare to find academic or seminary offerings that maintain what RENOVARÉ champions—high Christology, balanced vision, practical strategies, a breadth of historical and ecumenical engagement, and a superior quality in ideas and written materials.

#### VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

According to Dallas Willard, at present “the spiritual formation field lacks intellectual rigor and testable information needed to put the gospel and spiritual life in Christ on the cognitive map for the multitudes of people who are hungry for something real.” With this challenge in mind, the mission of the RENOVARÉ Institute for Christian Spiritual Formation (RENOVARÉ Institute) is to make disciples of Jesus, immersing them into Trinitarian LIFE in the kingdom of God, and teaching them actually to do what Jesus says is best. The RENOVARÉ Institute will be built around the following foundational concepts:

1. Commitment to the highest possible Christology
2. Commitment to the development of a substantial Christian theology of spirituality
3. Ecumenical dialogue
4. International presence and influence
5. The “with-God life” as fundamental content
6. A balanced vision of the six “streams” of Christian spirituality
7. The spiritual disciplines as the means of grace for our training in the spiritual life

“...The spiritual formation field lacks intellectual rigor and testable information needed to put the gospel and spiritual life in Christ on the cognitive map for the multitudes of people who are hungry for something real.”

— *Dallas Willard*



RENOVARÉ



## Who should apply?

The ideal individuals to benefit from the offerings of the RENOVARÉ Institute are the cross section of people within various local congregations who are profoundly dedicated to Christian spiritual formation. These are well educated and natural leaders among both laity and clergy who may have become frustrated with church but cannot abandon it. These are highly motivated individuals who are looking for something not fully provided by either seminary education or local church life. Their common desire is to know and live the “with-God life.” Their common strength is the ability and the platform to influence others in living well.

## What will the RENOVARÉ Institute provide?

1. The Christian spiritual formation movement is at a crucial juncture. Solid leadership is needed to help move this interest away from mere faddishness and into substantial gains in spiritual growth and maturity. The RENOVARÉ Institute is positioned to impact this movement significantly in a substantial way.
2. The RENOVARÉ Institute offers a systematic way to articulate and develop—both in writing and teaching content—critical ideas of Richard J. Foster, Dallas Willard, and others associated with RENOVARÉ.
3. In addition to providing a more intensive environment for soaking in these core concepts, the Institute will be a place for new idea development as well. That is, the Institute will add intellectual rigor and testable information to the Christian spiritual formation field.
4. The RENOVARÉ Institute will offer intense training to a number of committed individuals who will be able to pass this training on to others.
5. The Institute will continue to use and be instrumental in the development of quality ideas and materials.
6. The Institute will help develop a second generation of RENOVARÉ teachers.
7. The Institute will be instrumental in growing a network of supporters.
8. The Institute will develop and strengthen relationships between RENOVARÉ and a network of seminaries and graduate programs.

## Who will teach in the RENOVARÉ Institute?

For year one (sessions one and two) the primary teacher will be Dallas Willard with assistance from Keith Matthews and Jan Johnson. Other senior teaching fellows will be drawn from individuals such as Todd Hunter, John Ortberg, and Trevor Hudson.

For sessions three and four, primary teachers will include Chris Webb and James Bryan Smith. Other senior teaching fellows may include Gayle Beebe, Glandion Carney, Kai Nilsen, Emilie Griffin, Mindy Caliguire, Ruth Haley Barton, Siang Yang Tan, and Eduardo Rosa Pedreira.

## Curriculum

The RENOVARÉ Institute offers two-year academies for “soaking” in the twelve critical concepts of RENOVARÉ Christian spiritual formation. These critical concepts are based on the classic writings of both Dallas Willard and Richard J. Foster. These components roughly follow the VIM model with more emphasis on *Vision* and *Intention* during year one and more focus on *Means* during year two.

Over the course of two years, students will *read* more than 24 books and dozens of articles, *participate* in a variety of spiritual formation activities, *develop* a spiritual community with a small group of co-learners, and *experience* 28 days of teaching and formational activities built around key RENOVARÉ concepts such as the following:

1. *It is actually possible to become like Jesus*
2. *Living in the kingdom of God: What is the gospel of Christ?*
3. *The total human system—all of which is to love God*
4. *Learning how to hear God*
5. *Spiritual disciplines: concept and history*
6. *Salvation is a life*
7. *Celebrating each of the Streams of Living Water*
8. *Importance of classical devotional literature*
9. *Scripture and 15 ways of being “with God”*
10. *Being with God in prayer*
11. *Living as an Apprentice to Jesus*
12. *Formation in the roles of our life*

## Important Dates

While you can be a student of the RENOVARÉ Institute and live anywhere in the world, students will gather four times over the course of the two-year program in either Denver, Colorado, or Atlanta, Georgia.

SESSION	DENVER	ATLANTA
One	Oct. 11-17, 2010	Oct. 10-16, 2011
Two	Mar. 14-20, 2011	Mar. 12-18, 2012
Three	Jan. 9-15, 2012	Jan. 7-13, 2013
Four	May 21-27, 2012	May 20-26, 2013

## What will it cost?

The cost for **each year** of the two-year academy—exclusive of transportation, books, and supplies—is \$3,800. A significant percentage of this figure is for lodging and meals.

## Deadlines

**Early Application Deadline: 3/1/2010 (Denver) & 3/1/2011 (Atlanta)**

If applying for the Denver cohort please try to have all your materials in by March 1, 2010. It is anticipated that there will be far more applicants than available space. It is likely we will close the application process prior to the final application deadline.

**Final Application Deadline: 6/1/2010 (Denver) & 6/1/2011 (Atlanta)**

This date is applicable only if space is still available.

**Payment Date for Year One: 7/1/2010 (Denver) & 7/1/2011 (Atlanta)**

For more information, contact Pam Stewart at 706-498-7595 or e-mail: [pam@renovare.us](mailto:pam@renovare.us)

