

# THE JOURNEY IONA PILGRIMAGE

AUGUST 8-22, 2011

"LISTEN, SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE"  
ISAIAH 55:3

## APPLICATION PACKET

APPLICATION DUE: JANUARY 14, 2011



## THE JOURNEY ... SETTING OUT

“Iona”

*Is this place really nearer to God?  
Is the wall thin between our whispers  
and his listening? I only know  
the world grows less and less –  
here what matters is conquering the wind,  
coming home dryshod, getting the fire lit.  
I am not sure whether there is no time here  
or more time, whether the light is stronger  
or just easier to see. That is why  
I keep returning, thirsty, to this place  
that is older than my understanding,  
younger than my broken spirit.*

*~ Kenneth Steven, Scottish poet*

Join with other women as we embark on the ancient Christian practice of pilgrimage. We will travel to the Isle of Iona which is a small island off the western coast of Scotland. Iona is a place of extraordinary natural beauty, a place that enriches and expands our understanding of God and creation.

In 563 Saint Columba landed on Iona from Ireland. Together with 12 other monks he founded a Celtic monastery. Since that time pilgrims have continued to come to this island which is often referred to as a “thin place – where only a tissue paper separates the material from the spiritual” as Iona Community founder, George MacLeod, described it. In her book, *Thin Places* Tracy Balzer says, “Iona itself is still known as one of the thin places, because so very much about it draws one’s attention to God.”

The Journey will include an exploration of our rich Christian heritage of pilgrimage, Celtic Christianity, and listening for the call of God on our heart. We will be intentional in the creation of a community of women seeking to understand and celebrate our place in the world. Our experiences with the rich tradition of the spiritual disciplines will frame our time together.

With intention, we will *listen with the ears of our heart* (Benedict) for God’s call on our lives. Our time will include personal and group reflection, study, discernment and recreation. Our hope is that you will experience God in new and deeply meaningful ways.

We welcome your interest in the possibility of joining this Journey. Before you complete the attached application, however, please prayerfully consider your decision. After reading through these pages, you will have an understanding of the vision for this Journey, the application process, our commitment to you, and your commitment to this trip. Your signature on the application indicates that you have read these pages; are committed to pursuing this process; understand the purpose of the Journey and your responsibilities; and that you are aware of and willing to follow general SPU guidelines.

There are a limited number of spaces (12 total) available for this Journey for two reasons: 1) we want the group to be small enough for intimate conversation and connection; 2) the number of beds available to us at the Iona Hostel. Women from the SPU community (faculty, staff and sophomore, junior and senior students) who are eager and ready for this process will be given preference. This will be discerned through your application, interview and recommendations.

If you have any questions about the Journey or the application process, please contact University Ministries at [um@spu.edu](mailto:um@spu.edu) or 206-281-2966.

*Scottish writer, William Sharp, under the pseudonym Fiona Macleod, scribed:  
"To tell the story of Iona is to go back to God, and to end in God."*



## REQUIREMENTS OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Applications must be filled out in their entirety, including submission of three letters of recommendation. Applicants must be women students (current Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors), or women faculty and staff.

**Applications are DUE JANUARY 14, 2011.**

2. Following the application deadline, all applicants will be interviewed. Those accepted as Pilgrimage participants will be notified by email.
3. Your availability during Spring Quarter 2011 may impact your selection for this trip. Participation in the Spring Quarter weekly Iona Circle meetings is required. Participation in a two-night retreat during spring quarter is also required.
4. Participants will be asked to read selected titles in preparation for the journey. We will continue the conversation from these readings and debrief upon our return from Iona.
5. Active participation in the two-night retreat, small group discussions, Iona Circle meetings, assigned readings, debriefing and reflection is a vital part of the experience. Please note that this is required of *all* Pilgrimage participants.
6. Your trip balance must be paid by June 30, 2011.
7. There will be a debriefing time upon our return to Seattle. We hope that all participants will be involved in these follow-up meetings as is possible. If you are a graduating Senior who will be living outside of the Seattle area in September 2011, it is our hope to provide you the support and direction you may need in this time of transition.
8. In a university setting the opportunity for a quality education cannot be compromised. We believe that students struggling in school will make better use of their time focusing on their education. Therefore, a minimum 2.5 GPA is required of all student participants.



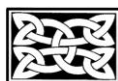
## INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROCESS

1. Acceptance on the Pilgrimage is not guaranteed for anyone: student, staff or faculty. University Ministries and the Center for Worship staff will take into consideration the number of applicants, the focus of the trip, the unique life story of each applicant and how they will mutually benefit from this experience.
2. There will be an interview process for all applicants the week of January 17-20, 2011.
3. Once a decision has been reached, you will receive an email on January 21, 2011 informing you of your status. If you are selected as a participant there will be attached to that email a *Statement of Acceptance* that you must sign and return, along with the \$500.00 deposit, to University Ministries and the Center for Worship no later than **January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**.

**By signing this letter of acceptance, you will become financially responsible for any charges to your Iona account, even in the event that you are not able to participate on the Pilgrimage.**

## TIMELINE

- January 14: Application due
- January 17-20: Interviews
- January 21: Selection email sent
- January 24: Statement of Acceptance and Deposit due



## OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

1. Regular prayer support from University Ministry and the Center for Worship staff
2. Materials available to check out regarding vocation and calling, spiritual discernment, personal growth and Celtic Christianity
3. Meeting, if needed, with Pilgrimage leadership to think through personal preparation
4. Referral to a spiritual director for further pursuit of questions regarding discernment and vocation;
5. Participant group meetings to cover expectations, hopes, desires and logistic details;
6. Travel information and guided Pilgrimage;
7. Facilitation of meeting times on Iona.



## FINANCIAL POLICY

As a member of the Iona Pilgrimage, it will be your responsibility to cover the entire cost for this trip. The (estimated) \$3,200 program fee will include:

- Two-night retreat during Spring Quarter (Friday evening – Sunday afternoon) - date TBD
- Texts, resource materials and supplies
- Air/ground transportation
- Room and board while on Iona
- Lodging in Oban and Glasgow
- International medical and emergency evacuation insurance

*You are expected to pay 100% of the total program fee **prior to departure on August 8, 2011.***

Please keep in mind there will be some costs involved that are not figured into the program fee amount. The costs of passports, personal items, spending money, meals en route, travel insurance, and travel apart from the trip's itinerary will be your own responsibility.

You are more than welcome to make additional travel plans. However, you must be in touch with us upon acceptance to guarantee that we can work with a different travel itinerary.



## PAYMENT DETAILS:

- 1) The total Pilgrimage cost is estimated at \$3200.00.
- 2) A \$500 deposit is due when you submit the "Statement of Acceptance" on January 24, 2011.
- 3) Half of the balance is due April 1, 2011.
- 4) The remaining balance is due August 5, 2011. If the balance is not received by this date, you will not be able to attend the Iona Pilgrimage.
- 5) In the event that you do not participate on the Pilgrimage, you will remain financially responsible for any expenses we have incurred on your behalf to date of withdrawal (including non-refundable lodging and airfare expenses).



Pilgrims leaving the holy island of Iona are sent on their way with the following blessing:

*May God, who is present in sunrise and nightfall,  
and in the crossing of the sea,  
guide your feet as you go.*

*May God, who is with you when you sit  
and when you stand,  
encompass you with love  
and lead you by the hand.*

*May God, who knows your path  
and the places where you rest,  
be with you in your waiting,  
be your good news for sharing,  
and lead you in the way that is everlasting.  
(from the Iona Abbey Worship Book)*

**APPLICATION FOR IONA PILGRIMAGE**  
**DUE: JANUARY 14, 2011**



**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ SPU ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Mailstop/Address \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Major/Minor \_\_\_\_\_ Class Standing (as of Spring 2011) \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_single \_\_\_married \_\_\_divorced \_\_\_widowed      Number of children \_\_\_

Do you attend church regularly?  yes  no

Name of church \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have medical/accident insurance?  yes  no

In case of emergency, contact person (parent, spouse, etc.)	
Name _____	Phone _____
Address _____	
Relationship to you: _____	

*Please respond to the following questions, answering each one honestly and thoroughly to the best of your ability. Use separate sheets of paper as necessary.*



## **FAITH JOURNEY**

1. Where have you seen God working in your life?
2. How do you experience God?
3. What is your understanding of and belief about The Trinity?
4. What is your understanding of God's movement in your story?
5. How has God journeyed with you in recent years to form who you are now?
6. How has your faith journey informed the paths you are traveling?
7. How are your beliefs made tangible in the world? (What are some examples of your faithworks?)



## **THE IONA JOURNEY**

1. What piques your interest about this Journey? (What draws you to apply?)
2. What do you hope to glean from this Pilgrimage?
3. Describe the call of your heart.
4. What is the answer that you seek through this experience? How do you see that playing out in the future?
5. Do you see a relationship between this Pilgrimage and the rest of your time at SPU and/or your calling? Please describe.



## **WHAT GIFTS DO YOU BRING?**

Please check the areas in which you have experience and would be willing to share with the group.

- |   |                                      |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small group facilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking     | <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible study facilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts/Crafts        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical instrument |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship leading          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |   |





## SELF-AWARENESS

Self Awareness: Please indicate how well each of the following describes you:

1= *Not at All*    2= *Slightly*    3 = *Fairly Well*    4= *Extremely Well*    5= *Exactly*

- 1 2 3 4 5 Listen to others before speaking
- 1 2 3 4 5 Demonstrate tolerance toward others
- 1 2 3 4 5 Enjoy encountering a diversity of people
- 1 2 3 4 5 Demonstrate self-awareness, and self-respect
- 1 2 3 4 5 Demonstrate flexibility and openness towards others
- 1 2 3 4 5 Deal well with stress of new situations and changes
- 1 2 3 4 5 Awareness of how you affect others
- 1 2 3 4 5 Able to perceive how others are feeling
- 1 2 3 4 5 Approach unfamiliar situations with positive attitude
- 1 2 3 4 5 Able to accomplish what I set out to do
- 1 2 3 4 5 Consider the impact of my actions before acting
- 1 2 3 4 5 Ability to laugh at myself



## COMMITMENT TO JOURNEY

1. I understand that as a participant, I will be required to participate in Iona Circle meetings and a two-night retreat during spring quarter, and to complete the readings before, during and upon our return home from the Pilgrimage.  
Initial here \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. I understand that, as a participant, I represent Seattle Pacific University and am accountable to University Ministries and the Center for Worship. This means I am expected to uphold SPU community lifestyle expectations as outlined in the Student Handbook.  
Initial here \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that as a participant, I am responsible to pay my costs in full prior to departure. \_\_\_\_ (initial)

I understand that members of University Ministries and the Center for Worship staff will review my completed application and reference forms. \_\_\_\_ (initial)

I hereby give permission for mutual exchange of information between the Office of University Ministries and the Center for Worship and all staff/faculty of Seattle Pacific University (including Counseling Center and Health center, within the limits of confidentiality) for the purpose of determining my ability to travel with the Iona Pilgrimage.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read all of the information concerning the Iona Pilgrimage contained in this application packet, and indicate my desire to participate.

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit **with your application** three letters of recommendation from 1) a church leader or Spiritual Director; 2) professor or work supervisor; and 3) a colleague or peer. Note: there is no standard form for these letters.

Name and phone number of church leader, Spiritual Director, etc.:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and phone number of professor or work supervisor:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and phone number of colleague or peer:  
\_\_\_\_\_