



## **Synod Lay Ministry Education Possibilities**

According to the Eastern North Dakota Synod Guidelines for Synod Authorized Ministry,\* to complete preparation for to be a Synod Lay Minister or Synod Authorized Minister, one must complete a Program of Preparation: “The synod defines the program of preparation for synod-authorized ministry consistent with this policy and with any guidelines developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, in consultation with an ELCA seminary. The program of preparation can be accomplished in a variety of ways including educational programs that utilize current rostered ministers within the synod, ELCA seminaries and continuing education centers, Region 3 LED by Faith, and other appropriate resources. Such programs shall prepare individuals to have knowledge and abilities in the following areas:

- 1. Bible;**
- 2. Lutheran theology, the Lutheran Confessions, and the Confession of Faith and polity of the ELCA;**
- 3. Worship;**
- 4. Spiritual discernment and faith development;**
- 5. Leadership expectations and identity;**
- 6. Contextual understanding; and**
- 7. Pastoral skills including preaching, catechetics, worship leadership, visitation, pastoral care, and outreach.”**

There are a variety of ways in which an applicant can earn this education. You are invited to decide in consultation with Synod Staff which one of these options best fits your goals and time commitments. (See reverse for options.)

**Training on Synod Authorized Ministry:** This follows completion of the SLM requirements and will involve two-parts: 1) meeting with Deacon Laura Carson for a 30-minute conversation about the authorization process and agreements, and 2) a meeting with a local pastor (Synod Staff connects you with someone) for Holy Communion training.

**Boundaries Training:** The other requirement to be a SLM is to complete Boundaries Training every three years. There will be options offered virtually and/or in-person throughout a year.

**Anti-Racism Training:** While not a requirement to be a SLM, it is highly encouraged that anyone working in a congregation attends anti-racism training.



## **Led By Faith: offered by ELCA Region 3 Synods**

This is a two-year long, educational program offered in-person and online. Classes meet three times per year over a weekend, with six categories of study completed over the two years. The cost of each class ranges between \$200-500 depending on in-person or virtual attendance. You can begin this option anytime during the cycle. Synod Staff needs to initially register you for this option.

More info can be found: [region3ledbyfaith.wixstudio.com/led-by-faith](http://region3ledbyfaith.wixstudio.com/led-by-faith)

## **faith+lead The School for Lay Ministry: offered by Faith+Lead and Luther Seminary**

This is a one-year long, cohort style, educational program offered online. Classes meet virtually once per month, from 9am-noon, with individual work to be completed in-between. Cost for the year: \$600. Currently, new cohorts begin three times a year in May, October, and January, and there may be a waitlist to begin. An additional Faith+Lead course "Lutheranism: Bound and Free" will need to supplement this option.

More info can be found: [faithlead.org/learning-community/school-for-lay-ministry-learning-community](http://faithlead.org/learning-community/school-for-lay-ministry-learning-community)



## **Graduate Certificate Programs: offered by Luther Seminary (St. Paul, MN)**

Graduate certificate programs are comprised of six graduate courses and can be completed in one-two years through a mix of three-day intensives and online learning. Students may be eligible for 100% full-tuition support through the Jubilee Scholarship. You will take classes in a structured learning community alongside a cohort of other emerging leaders. There is a seminary application process, and Synod Staff will need to help you choose which courses will meet the SLM educational requirements. If you feel called to continue your education to pursue Candidacy, these courses can count toward that degree.

More info can be found: [luthersem.edu/academics/degrees-and-programs/graduate-certificates](http://luthersem.edu/academics/degrees-and-programs/graduate-certificates)



## **Graduate Certificate Programs: offered by Wartburg Seminary (Dubuque, IA)**

These certificates are earned by the completion of eight courses over one-three years, taught in a combination of online and on campus intensive courses. The cost for each of the eight courses is: \$792. There is a seminary application process, and Synod Staff will need to help you choose which courses will meet the SLM educational requirements. If you feel called to continue your education to pursue Candidacy, these courses can count toward that degree.

More info can be found: [wartburgseminary.edu/admissions-and-aid/scholarship-and-grants](http://wartburgseminary.edu/admissions-and-aid/scholarship-and-grants)



## **Local Area Cohorts: offered by the EaND Synod**

These cohorts are selectively offered when there is a large, concentrated interested in lay ministry education. Cohorts are integrated into other vital ministry strategies and organized in collaboration with our synod's Director of Evangelical Mission. Cohorts will meet over a one-two year period to study each of the areas with regional experts leading the sessions.

Contact for more info: Dn. Laura Carson (Associate with the Bishop for Formation and Administration)