



Community and Consecration

A handbook for diaconal candidates
who are approved and awaiting call



THE DIACONAL MINISTRY COMMUNITY
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

**Community and Consecration:
A handbook for diaconal candidates who are approved and awaiting call**

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OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



This document is online at www.elca.org/diaconalministry/handbook

*We welcome you in the
name of Jesus Christ to the
Diaconal Community of
the ELCA.*

*Warm congratulations on
your candidacy approval.*

*You are in our prayers as
you seek a call, guided by
the Holy Spirit.*

*May God continue to bless
your journey of faith.*

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement: The Six Marks of the Diaconal Ministry Community

Diaconal Ministers are marked by these characteristics and shall:

Be Rooted in the Word of God

Diaconal Ministers are ministers of the Word of God, committed to Christ, and called to be spokespersons for the Gospel, the apostolic faith, and the theological emphasis of this church to God's world.

Be Trained to Carry Out a Particular Service

Diaconal Ministers carry out a public ministry of service and witness. With demonstrated competence and expertise in a particular discipline, Diaconal Ministers may serve both within and outside of congregational settings, in each case bearing responsibility for making the linkages between church and world. Programmatic ministries within congregational settings should be marked by extension of the witness and service of the church into the wider community.

Be Committed and Prepared to Equip the Baptized for Ministry in the World and in the Church

Diaconal Ministers along with pastors are called to lead and equip the baptized for ministry. Diaconal Ministers support the ministry of the baptized through appropriate programmatic ministries and by working with the laity in discerning and encouraging their gifts for ministry.

Give Particular Attention to Ministries at the Boundaries Between the Church and World

Diaconal Ministers carry public responsibility to speak for the needs of God's world to the church, as well as taking God's saving Gospel to the needs of the world through the actions of God's people both individually and collectively.

Exemplify the Life of Christ-like Service Addressing all Forms of Human Need

The call to diaconal ministry is a lifelong commitment which supports and compliments the ministry of Word and Sacrament, focusing on ministry to the whole person. This "diaconal bias" provides the lens and vision for developing the diaconal mission of the church carried out among and through its members.

Be Grounded in Community

Diaconal Ministers need the support and shared vision of a community of leaders committed to a common calling. This grounding in a diaconal community serves as the reminder to seek to build community in all ministry settings.

Diaconal Ministers are ministers of the Word of God, committed to Christ, and called to be spokespersons for the Gospel, the apostolic faith, and the theological emphasis of this church to God's world

OUR COVENANT

As a covenanted community, centered in the Word, grounded in the Biblical call to diakonia, and brought forth by the ELCA, we seek to encourage and support one another and partner with others to address the emerging mission and ministry needs of the church and our world.

As called and consecrated diaconal ministers, we covenant to:

- Be prayerfully centered and rooted in the Word
- Speak the truth in love
- Identify, mentor, and assist with discernment and formation of prospective diaconal candidates
- Engage in ongoing spiritual formation, continuing education, and formation designed to strengthen the mission and ministry of the diaconate
- Partner proactively with the structures of the ELCA, for the purposes of interpreting diaconal ministry and guiding its development
- Be in relationship with other diaconal communities, both in the ELCA and ecumenically

OUR LEADERS

The four members of the Leadership Team of the Diaconal Ministry Community are chosen by ecclesiastical ballot at our gatherings. All consecrated individuals and those who have been extended a call, but who have not yet been consecrated, are eligible for election. A member of the Leadership Team may serve two consecutive three-year terms. (See Appendix C, *Past and Present Leadership Team Members of the Diaconal Ministry Community*, pg. 26.)

We seek to encourage and support one another and partner with others to address the emerging mission and ministry needs of the church and our world

OUR HISTORY

At the Diaconal Ministry Formation Event (DMFE), you were presented with an overview of the historic diaconate in the church and in the ELCA in particular. You were informed also of the steps that led to the creation of the Diaconal Ministry roster.

The community first began to take shape in Biloxi in February 2000; many of the pioneers among the Diaconal Ministers gathered for fellowship and discernment. Their decisions and actions helped to set in place the move toward community and laid the groundwork for gatherings that followed.

Following is a summary of some significant decisions reached by the community at official gatherings:

August 2001 (Indianapolis, Indiana)

- Adopted the consensus model for decision-making
- Elected the first Diaconal Ministry Leadership Team
- Affirmed the Mission and Covenant Statement written by the diaconal ministers who had gathered in Biloxi, Mississippi
- Affirmed principles for gathering and a draft statement on community

November 2002 (Phoenix, Arizona)

- Adopted the Diaconal Ministry Mission Statement
- Agreed to gather as a community every 18 months and to rotate gatherings between retreat centers in the West, Central, and Eastern United States
- Agreed that a term in office would be for three years
- Shifted the role of planning the next gathering from the Leadership Team to a voluntary committee

April 2004 (Kansas City, Kansas)

- Our community was officially accepted in DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean)
- Formed three working teams of the Leadership Team — Candidate Support Team, Communications Team, and Gathering Planning Team

We are still in the process of shaping both who we are as a community and how we embody the Gospel individually and corporately as members of the Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA

October 2005 (Atlanta, Georgia)

- Agreed that in addition to the universal diaconal symbol of the basin and towel, the continuous line cross will be the common symbol for the diaconal ministry community of the ELCA
- Affirmed that a complete term of office is for three years and elected persons are eligible to serve for two consecutive three-year terms
- In the event of a vacancy on the Leadership Team when the Alternate cannot assume the position, the Leadership Team be empowered to appoint a member of the Diaconal Ministry Community in an interim role to complete the term of office. Appointee must stand for election at the next diaconal ministry community gathering following appointment, if that individual wants to continue on the Leadership Team
- Once a member has finished two consecutive terms on the Leadership team, the member is not eligible to be placed on the ballot again for one complete term of office (three years)
- If the Alternate member of, or an appointee to, the Leadership Team is called upon to fulfill the term of office for a Leadership team member who has resigned, the Alternate's/ appointee's time on the Leadership Team will not be counted against term limits
- A fourth working team of the Leadership Team was established — the Guiding Principles Team — to research and develop a proposal which focuses on addressing ways in which our community might be governed

April 2007 (Carefree, Arizona)

- Discontinue the Alternate position on the Leadership Team and empower the Leadership Team to appoint a member of the Diaconal Ministry Community to complete the term of office should a member of the Leadership Team resign
- The next gathering of the Diaconal Ministry Community be scheduled for the summer of 2009 to be held either prior to or immediately following the international World Federation Diakonia event sponsored by DOTAC
- (Diakonia of The Americas and Caribbean) in Atlanta, Georgia. Future decisions concerning the frequency of gatherings will be recommended by the Guiding Principles Team at the next scheduled gathering
- At each Gathering, the Diaconal Ministry Community will formally acknowledge and accept approved Diaconal Ministry candidates into the Diaconal Ministry Community, recognizing and affirming their gifts for ministry. With the acceptance of this proposal, a



task force will be formed to author a litany of acceptance into our Community.

- The term of office for Leadership Team members Tim Freund and Kris Perry be extended an additional nine months to coincide with the next scheduled gathering in Atlanta
- The Leadership Team be empowered to appoint a member of the Community to serve as Treasurer for a three year term subject to one reappointment. This appointee would be empowered to provide reports to the Diaconal Ministry Community and to the Leadership Team and be available for consultation if necessary in conference calls
- A committee will be appointed to explore sustainable income sources for the DM community and compensation for the Leadership Team, to report back by the end of 2008 with recommendations for the 2009 Gathering in Atlanta.

We are still in the process of shaping both who we are as a community and how we embody the Gospel individually and corporately as members of the Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA.

HOW OUR COMMUNITY DIFFERS FROM OUR ROSTER

Though similar in membership, the Diaconal Ministry roster and the Diaconal Ministry Community are not the same. The roster is a list maintained by the wider church of those who have been consecrated; it is also the body of ELCA members who have been consecrated. Decisions regarding the roster are made by the churchwide Vocation and Education Unit and by actions of the Churchwide Assembly.

The community of Diaconal Ministers of the ELCA is composed of consecrated Diaconal Ministers and those approved, awaiting call. Decisions regarding the community are made by members of the Leadership Team and by those members of the community who choose to attend community gatherings. We seek to use the consensus model of decision-making as often as possible; ecclesiastical ballot is used for leadership discernment.

Decisions regarding stoles, housing allowances, synod practices, and official roster concerns are beyond this community's purview. The Diaconal Ministry Leadership Team members can raise

As a community have full privilege and responsibility to discern our symbols, our leadership, our gatherings, our emphases, our prayer practices, our account expenditures, and our involvement with the ecumenical and world-wide diaconate

issues and concerns on behalf of the community, but their role can best be characterized as “messengers” rather than “advisors” in their conversations and interactions with the representatives and leadership of the Vocation and Education Unit of the ELCA.

However, we as a community have full privilege and responsibility to discern:

- our symbols
- our leadership
- our gatherings
- our emphases
- our prayer practices
- our account expenditures
- our involvement with the ecumenical and worldwide diaconate

OUR WIDER DIACONAL COMMUNITY

World Diakonia is an ecumenical diaconal organization. DOTAC, Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean, is a member organization of World Diakonia. We, as the Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA, are a member organization of DOTAC and, subsequently, of World Diakonia.

DOTAC has gatherings every four years. In June 2002, the gathering was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Nancy Gable and Mindy Holland were able to attend as guests, as we had not yet become a member organization.

In July 2006, the DOTAC gathering was held in Trinidad. Beth Barkhau, Sandra Braasch, and Elaine Brant attended on behalf of our community. Sandra served as a group leader. Beth is our official liaison and representative to DOTAC, serving on the DOTAC Central Committee and participating in gathering plans and other DOTAC business.

In July 2005, World Diakonia gathered in Durham, England, and Elaine Brant was able to attend. In 2009, the gathering is scheduled to take place in Atlanta, and all of us are invited to take part!

As the Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA, we are a member organization of the Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean and, subsequently, of World Diakonia

OUR SISTER DIACONAL COMMUNITIES

We are working toward mutuality of support, open communication, and intentionality of fellowship with our two sister diaconal orders in American Lutheranism: the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, based in Chicago, and the Lutheran Deaconess Association, a pan-Lutheran organization based in Valparaiso, Indiana. Sister Anne Keffer, Directing Deaconess of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, was invited to attend the gatherings in Atlanta, Georgia, October 2005 and Carefree, Arizona, April 2007, and she shared that time with us. In return, Kris Perry attended the Deaconess Gathering in Omaha in May 2006 as a representative of our community. In July 2006 Mindy Holland attended the Lutheran Deaconess Association Gathering in Valparaiso, Indiana, in a similar capacity. We have much that we can share and learn from one another as we serve in Christ's name.

ADDITIONAL ECUMENICAL INVOLVEMENT

As representatives of our community, Nancy Gable and Beth Barkhau attended an international consultation on the diaconate in Brazil in November of 2005 that had been organized by the Lutheran World Federation.

Beth Barkhau and Mindy Holland attended a gathering of the North American Association of the Diaconate in June of 2005 as guests of that primarily Episcopalian organization. Margy Schmitt Ajer is our official representative to NAAD.

Nancy Gable, on behalf of the ELCA Vocation and Education Unit, serves as our representative to the Lutheran Deaconess Association in Valparaiso, Indiana.

We are working toward mutuality of support, open communication, and intentionality of fellowship with our two sister diaconal orders ... we have much that we can share and learn from one another as we serve in Christ's name

OUR RITES OF PASSAGE

We celebrate with you the approval decision that you have received from your candidacy committee. This is an exciting time as you seek, in cooperation with the churchwide assignment process, your assigned synod office, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, an opportunity for service in Christ's name in rostered ministry. Though we wish that all such searches would unfold efficiently and joyfully, we are aware that finding the right diaconal call demands time, creativity, energy, prayer, and patience. We encourage you to be in regular contact and conversation with your bishop and with your synod staff person in charge of mobility.

There are a number of on-line resources that may help you in envisioning or even locating a church or agency position. These can be good starting places to learn of openings, as well as to consider types of ministry roles that may be a good match for your gifts and talents. Thinking outside the box can be a blessing in diaconal ministry! Be sure to be in regular communication with your synod offices as you go forward in your search for calls.

Lutheran vocational opportunities websites

- www.elca.org/employment
- www.elca.org/colleges/jobs (ELCA Colleges and Universities)
- www.elca.org/campusministry/openings.html (Lutheran Campus Ministry)
- www.lutheranservices.org/bulletin.asp (Lutheran Social Services)
- www.lwr.org/jobs (Lutheran World Relief)

Ecumenical ministry sites

- www.ministrysearch.com
- www.ministryemployment.com
- www.churchjobsonline.com
- www.churchstaffing.com

Non-profit sites

- www.idealists.org
- www.nonprofitjobs.org
- www.opportunitynocs.org

This is an exciting time as you seek, in cooperation with the churchwide assignment process, your assigned synod office, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, an opportunity for service in Christ's name in rostered ministry

HELPFUL HINTS FOR CONSECRATION PLANNING

When the joyful moment arrives when you have been extended a letter of call by a congregation or received approval for a synodical call after being hired by an outside agency or organization, then a whole new process begins.

Here are some steps to keep in mind as you plan your consecration:

- Pray for God's guidance and blessing at this sacred and joyous time.
- Encourage your synod to update the churchwide offices with your call and contact information.
- Contact Kris Perry to update your status in our community records, directory, and data base.
- Feel free to announce your upcoming consecration via DM Talk and CDM Talk.
- Contact the synod office and bishop to begin planning your consecration service. In the following pages, you will find helpful hints and resources for planning, primarily put together by Diaconal Ministers in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. You are invited to involve other Diaconal Ministers and diaconal candidates both in the planning and the service itself.
- If your installation will be separate from your consecration, remember that it is also an important event! Both serve as worship services, times of celebration, and opportunities for interpreting diaconal ministry to a wider audience.

Please refer to the Rite of Consecration at www.elca.org/worship/liturgies/ministry.html. Copies of the Consecration and Installation services can also be found in your DMFE notebook.

The consecration of a Diaconal Minister is a rite of the church. In fact, some synods elect to hold consecrations (as well as commissionings and ordinations) at the annual Synod Assembly. In this case, the candidate may have very little opportunity to craft and influence service planning; those responsibilities may fall to the synod's Worship Committee. If this is true in your synod, take the time to clarify with your bishop what your role will be. Generally, such candidates are expected to purchase an alb (and jewelry if desired), provide for a basin and towel, invite the presenter, arrange for the diaconal banner to be present, and send invitations.

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Consecration cannot happen until all of the following occur:

- Graduation from an approved seminary
- Approval by your candidacy committee
- Fulfillment of all candidacy requirements
- Notification of your home synod
- Bishop's approval of your first call

If your calling synod permits consecrations in congregations, the following are recommendations and suggestions to ease and facilitate your planning! Begin by attending the consecrations of other Diaconal Ministers and Deaconesses. Be thinking about where you will be consecrated, special people you want to participate in the worship service, hymns you would like to have sung, and Scripture you would like to have read.

Basin and Towel

It is your responsibility to arrange for your basin and towel, which will be presented during your consecration service. Some Diaconal Ministers have had special friends or colleagues participate in designing, making, or purchasing these items. Resources are listed at the Diaconal Ministry website: www.elca.org/diaconalministry.

Choose a Date

Once you know where your call will be, it is time to plan the consecration worship service and reception, luncheon, or supper. Most individuals ask their home congregation to host the worship service and reception, although the installation takes place at the calling church or institution. You will need to check with your home parish and get three possible dates that work for you and the church. Then, phone the Bishop's office to see when your Bishop is available.

Choose a Preacher

Many candidates request rostered leaders other than the Bishop or their home pastor to preach the sermon for the day. Check in with the person you would like regarding availability.

Choose Worship Assistants

You need to choose those whom you would like to participate in your worship service as crucifer (optional), Scripture readers, Communion distributors, soloists, the candidate presenter, and the presenter of your basin/towel. Many Diaconal Ministers choose relatives to read the Scriptures and other Diaconal Ministers to distribute Communion. You may also wish to participate in the portion of the service that follows your consecration as the Assisting Minister. Also, you may want to incorporate a footwashing into the service. The person who presents you for

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consecration is usually either a synod candidacy representative or a seminary professor. The person who presents you with your basin and towel can be a colleague, friend, or relative who is special to you or who mentored you. Depending on your area of specialization, you may want additional worship assistants to anoint you with oil (healing specializations) or present you with a Bible (teaching specializations).

Banner

Notify Prof. Mark Oldenburg at moldenburg@ltsg.edu if you would like to have him ship the banner used during the DMFE to you for display at your consecration. It is possible that the banner will be mailed to you from another consecration locale or that the banner is not available on the day you choose. You may also notify Kris Perry (krisp@visi.com) to use her banner (you will be responsible for reimbursing her for cost of postage), or you could have your own banner made for the occasion.

Purchase an Alb

If you have not already done so, purchase an alb and cincture. This can be done through Augsburg Publishing House or any liturgical supply house. Cost is usually between \$100 and \$150.

From consecration service notes, “The candidate is vested in an alb (and cincture) only if she/he will function in the historic deacon’s roles during the liturgy of Holy Communion in this service. The diaconal minister may wear the dress associated with her/his area of specialized service.”

Jewelry

Diaconal jewelry is available through several sources. Allow several weeks for delivery. Resources are listed at the Diaconal Ministry website: www.elca.org/diaconalministry.

Identify Scripture and Hymns/Anthems

Choose the Scripture readings and music that speak to you and your particular call to ministry. Consult with your pastor or other colleagues for suggestions as well.

Invitation

You will need to send out invitations to your consecration approximately three to four weeks prior to the date. It is customary to ask all those rostered to vest and process. The assigned color of the day is the color of the church season in which your consecration occurs.

Photographer

You may want someone to capture this memorable occasion on film. Some Diaconal Ministers have had a photo taken of all Diaconal Ministers present, perhaps gathered around the banner.



You may also wish to have a photograph of all diaconal folks taken, including Deaconesses and diaconal candidates.

Reception

Work with your home church to sponsor your reception, which could be a cake/coffee reception or a full luncheon/supper.

Note

The Rite of Consecration holds the same level of importance as ordination. Most consecration costs (bulletins, invitations, reception) are borne by the congregation celebrating the consecration. Exceptions would be the cost of your basin and towel, unusual costs incurred for musicians, your alb, any jewelry you desire, and photographer's fees.

Important note regarding stoles, from the consecration service notes:

“Since diaconal ministers are not ordained, the presentation or use of a stole (even when worn over the shoulder) by consecrated diaconal ministers of this church is not appropriate. If the newly consecrated diaconal minister will function in the historic deacon's role in the liturgy of Holy Communion that person may also receive and be vested in a dalmatic (a vestment associated with the historic diaconate but not conveying the sign of ordained ministry) at this place in the liturgy.”



CONSECRATION CHECKLIST

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Talk with your Bishop | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consecration date | <input type="checkbox"/> Accompanist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consecration time | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consecration place | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presiding Bishop | <input type="checkbox"/> Scripture readings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Hymns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting Minister | <input type="checkbox"/> Anthems or special music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Processional participants | <input type="checkbox"/> Obtain basin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Obtain towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communion Assistants | <input type="checkbox"/> Order jewelry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presenter for consecration | <input type="checkbox"/> Borrow banner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presenter of basin and towel | <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase alb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presenter of cross and/or Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> Design invitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participants in footwashing | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare bulletin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acolytes | <input type="checkbox"/> Plan reception |

See www.elca.org/worship/liturgies/ministry.html

OUR GATHERINGS

Our community gatherings are held every eighteen months at retreat centers in different regions of the country. We alternate locations to accommodate the regional diversity of our membership. Past gatherings have been held in:

February 2000	Biloxi, Mississippi	
August 2001	Indianapolis, Indiana	“Together for Ministry”
November 2002	Phoenix (Carefree), Arizona	“From Koinonia to Diakonia”
April 2004	Kansas City, Missouri	“Splashed with Promise”
October 2005	Atlanta (Norcross), Georgia	“Woven Together in Love”
April 2007	Phoenix (Carefree), Arizona	“Voices in the Wilderness: A Prophetic Call”
July 2009	Atlanta, Georgia	

All consecrated Diaconal Ministers and candidates who are approved, awaiting call, are welcome at these events. We also invite guests from the Vocation and Education Unit, as well as representatives from ecumenical and other Lutheran diaconates.

Gatherings are scheduled from Thursday afternoon through Sunday noon, and they include worship, fellowship, Bible study, business meetings, bishops-in-residence, and an opportunity to earn credit for First Call Theological Education or Continuing Education.

Partial scholarships are available toward registration costs for those in financial need. Travel and registration costs are the responsibility of the participant.

*All consecrated
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these events*

WAYS TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Working Teams

The working teams are voluntary teams whose purpose is to support and strengthen the wider diaconal community, both those on the roster and those in candidacy. Teams convene in person at community gatherings and via conference call in the intervening months. Any community member is welcome to join a working team. One member of the Leadership Team serves as a liaison between the working team and the Leadership Team. Team members tailor their involvement based on their locations, their synods, their calls, and the time that they have to invest.

Candidate Support Team

Leadership Team Liaisons: Tim Freund and Sandra Braasch, Chairperson

Candidate Support Team members support candidates in a variety of ways:

1. Send out email messages or make phone calls to candidates
2. Participate in intermittent seminary-sponsored gatherings that are intended for information-sharing and support of lay rosters
3. Contact synods or seminaries for updated information about candidates
4. Serve as Prayer Mentors for the DMFE
5. Send out birthday cards to community members
6. Participate in conference calls 3-4 times per year, of 75-90 minutes in length.

(Note: Some committee members are also serving on Candidacy Committees.)

Communications Team

Leadership Team Liaisons: Kris Perry, Chairperson, and Lisa Watson-Hill

The Communications Team oversees and generates important communication tools for the community, including the website, the *DiaconoNews* newsletter, the DM Talk and CDM Talk list serves, and such other communication tools as may be deemed helpful. This team also is responsible for the Archives Sub-Committee, prayer requests, rapid communication of emergency needs, and news releases and articles for Lutheran publications. The Communications Team has several conference calls each year.

The working teams are voluntary teams whose purpose is to support and strengthen the wider diaconal community, both those on the roster and those in candidacy

Gathering Planning Team

Leadership Team Liaison: Jessica Nipp, Chairperson

The Gathering Planning Team oversees all preparations for the upcoming community gathering including site arrangements, schedule planning, worship planning (perhaps through a subcommittee), invitations to speakers and special guests, registration, hospitality, and coordination on site. The Gathering Planning Team has quarterly conference calls.

Guiding Principles Team

Leadership Team Liaisons: Kim Winchell, Chairperson, and Marlene Daubert

The Guiding Principles Team explores and recommends how our community might organize itself in a more systematic way. Its creation flowed out of business discussions that took place at the October 2005 Gathering. The goal is to compile some of the expectations and governing principles that relate to our community, which may or may not include by-laws. The Guiding Principles Team is a task-oriented team that has quarterly conference calls.

Additional Opportunities

Prayer Mentor Program

You may remember receiving a letter from a Prayer Mentor when you attended the Diaconal Ministry Formation Event. All consecrated Diaconal Ministers and those who are approved, awaiting call, are invited to serve as Prayer Mentors. The goal of this program is to offer prayer support and encouragement to candidates in discernment. The primary commitment that Prayer Mentors make is to send a letter of self-introduction and encouragement to a candidate that will be received during the first day of the DMFE, as well as to hold that candidate in prayer during the two weeks in Gettysburg. If Prayer Mentors are interested in doing so, they may also choose to follow up with their assigned candidates after the event.

DMFE Staff Participation

Those who are consecrated Diaconal Ministers and those who are approved, awaiting call, are eligible to serve as DMFE staff members and small group leaders for the two-week event in Gettysburg. Staff members are chosen by Margy Schmitt Ajer, who is the liaison from the Vocation and Education Unit to the DMFE and Dean of the event. If you are interested in being considered to serve in this capacity, please contact Margy at msajer@earthlink.net.

STAYING IN TOUCH

As a candidate, you have already been able to receive the *DiaconoNews* community newsletter and have been invited to join the DM Talk List Serve. As a candidate who is approved, awaiting call, you are also invited to join CDM Talk, an additional list serve. Please contact Kris Perry at krisp@visi.com to get signed up for this opportunity!

You are invited to submit articles for the newsletter and items to the list serve. For articles, it is preferred that you offer first-person accounts of ministry work in which you are involved; these might also be shared via the Diaconal Ministry web site, in which Diaconal Ministers' stories are shared. Please direct articles to the current editor, Jennifer Larson, at krueger_jennifer@hotmail.com.

For list serve submissions, it is appropriate to ask for prayer, to request discussion around a community topic, to invite participation in an event, and to share news. Personal contact via the list serve is strongly discouraged; it is best to respond to any posting via an individual's address, unless you wish the entire community to see your response. The list serve is not meant to be an avenue for fund-raising or political campaigning.

We have both a pictorial diaconal directory and a data base of consecrated folks and those approved, awaiting call. When your contact information or call information changes, please contact Kris Perry (krisp@visi.com) with the new information, as she is currently maintaining these tools. You may also send her a current color photograph, either by mail or electronically.



OUR FINANCES

The Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA has an account in Minnesota. At the present time it is administered by Sue Vogel Herrera and it is held at the same bank as the accounts of the Minneapolis Area Synod. Donations may be made to this account at any time.

Yearly we extend the invitation to community members to donate \$25.00 toward this account. This helps to defray the cost of conference calls, postage, printing, and other minimal overhead expenses for community purposes. A portion of the amount is put toward our community's dues payments to DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean) and World Diakonia, ecumenical diaconal organizations that our community has agreed to join and to support.

Fund for Engaging the World

In 2005, a new fund was established, entitled FEW: "Fund for Engaging the World."

- The purposes of the FEW include serving as a source of funding for:
- A subsidy for someone in our ELCA diaconal ministry community who needs partial funding in order to participate in a special opportunity to engage the world
- Seed money to begin a worthy project beyond our ELCA community
- A special gift to help grow long-term stability of diaconal ministry locally, nationally, or globally

Pledge cards are sent out in June to invite community members to discern whether they would like to make a commitment to this giving opportunity. Donations to the Fund for Engaging the World are welcome at any time.

As of October, 2007, \$13,005 has been given to the FEW against pledges of \$14,305

FY2006: \$4,840 given against pledges of \$5,205

FY2007: \$6,990 given against pledges of \$7,500

FY2008 YTD: \$1,175 given against pledges of \$1,600

OUR PRAYERS

The 26th of every month has been designated by World Diakonia as a day to pray for diaconal ministry, diaconal ministers, deacons, and deaconesses around the world. We as a community are invited to participate in this intentional prayer.

Please hold in your regular prayers the following concerns:

- Candidates in discernment, for the Holy Spirit's guidance in their reflections
- Those approved, awaiting call, for opportunities to arise before them in God's time that will lead to meaningful and joyful calls
- For those consecrated and under call, for openness to do the will of God and embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their serving
- For those on leave from call, for rest and renewal, as well as clarity of discernment as it comes time to seek a new call
- For diakonia throughout the world, that all who are members of the body of Christ may serve with faithfulness and joy in Christ's name

Thanks be to God! Soli Deo Gloria!

Thanks be to God!

Soli Deo Gloria!

APPENDIX A: CONSECRATED DIACONAL MINISTERS

Margy Schmitt Ajer	06-15-96	Kristina K. Perry	04-08-00
Phillip R. Deming	06-29-96	Susan M. Herrera	06-01-00
Nancy E. Gable	07-21-96	Lee L. Liverance	06-26-00
Diana J. Sickles	08-26-96 *	Lori L. Liverance	06-26-00
Audrey D. Forbes	10-20-96	Linda S. Kruse	09-09-00
Sharon M. Gall	12-15-96	Lisa A. Harris	09-17-00 *
Gloria J. Strickert	12-22-96	Christine P. Connell	09-24-00
Katherine S. Miller	05-31-97	Tammy L. Devine	10-01-00
Madelyn H. Busse	06-13-97	Edgar C. Kruse	10-22-00
Judith A. Schroeder	09-13-97	Elizabeth A. Reinking	11-12-00
Ardith L. Senft	09-14-97	Marjorie H. Myers	02-17-01
*Jay Rossman	09-21-97 *	Carol J. Kaufman	02-18-01 *
Karla J. Neumann	10-05-97	Judith A. Knapp	02-18-01
Beth A. Barkhau	10-12-97	Terri L. McMaster	03-18-01
Elaine E. Brant	05-08-98	Gayla H. Crosmer	06-02-01
Dianna S. Wentz	06-13-98	Mary E. Lasits	06-02-01
Jennifer A. McBride	10-11-98	Kirstin A. Tannas	06-30-01
Douglas B. Spiotta	11-01-98	Melinda L. Holland	07-01-01
*Ordice Gallups	01-17-99 *	Esther L. Schmidt	08-26-01
Lake Lambert III	02-14-99	Laurie L. Beckman	10-07-01
Karen S. White	02-21-99	Barbara L. Martyn	12-09-01
Sharon L. O'Brien	05-06-99	Lois C. Richardson	12-09-01
Heather L. Feltman	05-13-99	Carole N. Urbanski	12-09-01
Sue M. Setzer	06-03-99	Rachelle L. Gilbertson	01-20-02
Sheryl D. Faulk	06-13-99	Patrick L. Monroe	02-10-02
Rowena M. Henry	06-19-99	Marilyn F. Hugh	02-18-02
Terry L. Moore	06-27-99	Janet L. Lepp	04-20-02
*P. Morgan Gordy	09-23-99 *	Eva Creydt Schulte	05-10-02
*Sheldon Christenson	10-10-99 *	Ann E. Myhre	06-01-02
Joyce L. Freund	12-10-99	Randy Johnson	06-09-02 *
Leslie A. Whited Vance	02-14-00	Sharon M. Biles	09-29-02
Richard Ryback	03-26-00 *	Beth D. Anderson	10-26-02
Kristina K. Perry	04-08-00	Patricia A. Gerber	10-27-02
Susan M. Herrera	06-01-00	Judith A. Rooney	10-27-02
Lee L. Liverance	06-26-00	Sharon M. Biles	09-29-02
Richard Ryback	03-26-00 *	Beth D. Anderson	10-26-02

* Indicates no longer on the ELCA Roster of Diaconal Ministers due to ordination, withdrawal from roster, or removal from roster.

Patricia A. Gerber	10-27-02	Kim Winchell	05-15-05
Judith A. Rooney	10-27-02	Rebecca Wiese	08-06-05
Joanne M. Otte	11-24-02	Harry Hiltner	09-25-05
Barbara A. Koch	12-22-02*	Kim Gonia	10-16-05
Gracia L. Hegener	02-02-03	Jennifer Larson	11-20-05
Nicholas T. Wilkens	06-01-03	Terri Endres	12-04-05
Letha M. Isbell	06-22-03	Glenda Blegen	04-02-06
Anne M. Goode	07-26-03*	Barb Finley	04-02-06
Erin C. Morris	09-17-03	Tara Ulrich	04-23-06
Timothy L. Freund	09-20-03	Frances Victor	04-23-06
Patricia A. Lee	10-26-03	Margaret Howell	06-02-06
Heather J. Oberdeck	10-26-03	Marlene Daubert	06-10-06
David M. Glover	11-02-03	Lauren Mache	06-10-06
Martha E. Baker	11-08-03	Charles Drenning	08-06-06
Dawn M. Alitz	11-15-03	Lyn A'Hearn	08-26-06
Jennifer M. Vasquez	11-16-03	Joan Braunhardt	09-30-06
Barbara C. Schmitthenner	11-23-03	Brenda Fleagle	10-14-06
Susie Everingham	03-23-04	Tammy Rade	10-14-06
Carole A. Bohn	03-28-04	Eric Price	11-12-06
Sandra L. Braasch	03-28-04	Bob Pfennig	11-26-06
Suzanne M. Rigg	04-18-04	Bill Dahl	12-03-06
Suzanne M. Beauregard	06-04-04	Harry Prim	01-14-07
Marilyn R. Olson	06-05-04	Patrick Kane	01-20-07
Joy T. Heine	06-11-04	Kathleen Storey	01-27-07
Sarah E. Wilson	06-18-04	Amy Hartman	01-28-07
Kathryn P. (Trink) Schwartz	06-26-04	Kristi Gullickson	03-11-07
Linda Daus-Deegan	07-11-04	Jeff Schacht	03-25-07
Karen D. Green	08-22-04	Karen Gerth	04-22-07
Linda J. Fox	09-26-04	George Bennett	05-04-07
Christine Van O'Linda	10-31-04	James Wise	05-04-07
Melissa M. James	11-07-04	Marvin Combs	06-03-07
Jessica S. Nipp	01-30-05	Blaire Smith	06/08/07
Katherine A. Kluckman-Ault	02-20-05	Heather Smith	06/08/07
Judy L. Bergeson	02-26-05	Anna Hollingbery	06/16/07
Donald Burgess	05-01-05	Lisa Watson-Hill	06-24-07
Janell Weum	05-14-05	Karen Zeile	08-19-07
Kim Winchell	05-15-05	Kelly Howard	09-02-07
Judy L. Bergeson	02-26-05	Troy Faith Ward	09/09/07
Donald Burgess	05-01-05	Kathy Bonn	09/15/07
Janell Weum	05-14-05	Jeremy McElvain	09/16/07

* Indicates no longer on the ELCA Roster of Diaconal Ministers due to ordination, withdrawal from roster, or removal from roster.

APPENDIX B: PAST AND PRESENT LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

Elected August 2001 (drew straws for length of term)

Margy Schmitt Ajer (2001-2004)
Madelyn Busse (2001-2002)
Heather Feltman (2001-2004)
Ed Kruse (2001-2005)
Lake Lambert (resigned Fall 2001)
Sue Setzer (2001-2002)

Elected November 2002 (three-year terms)

Terri McMaster (2002-2004; resigned mid-term in April 2004)
Alternate: Kris Perry (completed Terri's term 2004-2005)

Elected April 2004 (three-year terms)

Beth Barkhau
Mindy Holland
Alternate: Libbie Reinking (resigned October 2005)

Elected October 2005 (three-year terms)

Tim Freund
Kris Perry
Alternate: Doug Spiotta

Elected April 2007 (three-year terms)

Jessica Nipp
Kim Winchell

The Leadership Team meets annually in Chicago for conversation with representatives of the Vocation and Education Unit and other churchwide representatives. The Leadership Team also meets two days prior to the community gatherings on the site of the gathering for fellowship, prayer, and business discussions. The Leadership Team shares quarterly conference calls with representatives of the Vocation and Education Unit and monthly phone calls for more informal conversation for the team.

Kris Perry is currently serving as the chairperson of the Leadership Team. This is a voluntary role decided within the team.



APPENDIX C: SAMPLE INVITATION OR BULLETIN COVER

