

Ministry Support Committee Report 2020

The Ministry Support Committee works to enable Christians of the Northern Illinois Synod to realize their call to ministry as both lay and professional workers by providing resources, support, and continuing education within our synod, in cooperation with other synods, agencies, and institutions within the ELCA and the Church.

Sub-Committees of the Ministry Support Committee include:

Candidacy Sub-Committee: Fifteen NIS candidates are currently working towards ELCA rostered ministry.

Professional Leaders Conference (PLC): A yearly continuing education/collegiality event for professional church leaders in the Northern Illinois Synod, featuring keynote speakers and musicians to enrich and challenge professional church leaders.

First Call Theological Education (FCTE): Required for all ELCA professional leaders in their first three years of ministry moving from academic study to parish life. FCTE teaches the “nuts and bolts” of public ministry.

Our committee work this past year included the following:

We developed a draft of the *2021 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers* and forwarded them to the Synod Council for approval. We clarified the guidelines around family leave, how to find the median housing costs of an area to determine compensation package and suggested no increase in base salary/year of experience from the previous year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In response to 2019 Synod Assembly R-2, we established goals and strategies for our congregations to **implement anti-sexual harassment awareness, training, and policies**. This year, we developed anti-sexual harassment resources to aid congregational leaders in drafting and implementing policies in the local congregation and shared them at the virtual forum on June 20. The resources will be available on the synod's website.

We began exploring how to help congregations have **shared and collaborative ministry** opportunities for NIS congregations for common missional ministry.

I am grateful for Pastor Marilyn Hanson for her dedicated and encouraging work as our synod liaison. I am grateful for the creativity of our Ministry Support Committee and the many leaders serving on our Sub-Committees and Working Groups. And, on behalf of the Ministry Support Committee, a word of deep gratitude for the rostered and professional staff who steward the mission of God's congregations with faithfulness and tenacity. Thank you for being the Church, in all times and places.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Jennifer Beamsley
Chair, Ministry Support Committee