

Mentoring Guidelines

After you read this, pass it on to your mentor. The Lay School of Ministry was established to prepare theologically articulate lay people for ministry in daily life. This process of preparation intends to draw upon the resources and partnership existing between synod, congregation, and the Lay School of Ministry. A key component is the relationship between participants in the Lay School and a pastor or other rostered leader who agrees to serve as mentor during the two years of study.

The role of mentor takes several specific forms:

- Leading a “Rite of Beginning” in the congregation as you prepare for the first session of the Lay School and recognizing you publicly as you participate in the two-year course of study. The “Rite of Beginning” is on the Synod Resource Center website: http://synodresourcecenter.org/wma/worship/occasional/other/0003/rite_of_beginning.html
- Making books, periodicals and journals available for your study from the mentor’s personal library. You will not need to own some materials which you will study. You are encouraged to borrow them from your mentor.
- Agreeing to meet with you regularly (at least once per month) while you are participating in the Lay School of Ministry. You will have the opportunity to discuss the material you are studying each month, course readings, your own sense of call. Normally the participant in the Lay School sets the agenda for these conversations.
- Engaging you regularly in conversation about the specific forms which your ministry may take in your congregation and community.
- Giving you the opportunity to assist with leadership based on your gifts in worship, teaching, visitation, or preaching as you desire and are prepared in each of these areas. The intention is that your mentor should serve in the congregation of which you are a member. If for any reason your own pastor or deacon cannot serve in this role, you may seek a neighboring person to serve as your mentor. Participation in the Lay School of Ministry will require that your application be signed by a mentor who has agreed to serve in this capacity.

Your relationship with a mentor will be a key component of your participation in the Lay School of Ministry. The intention is to complement your personal study and classroom presentations. It offers the opportunity to integrate knowledge and experience, faith, and practice. Please give prayerful consideration to this mentoring relationship as a central piece of your participation in the Lay School of Ministry during the first two years.

Mentors are invited to visit the Lay School in action in October, although other months are equally appropriate if this one has conflicts. Contact the director so meals can be arranged. Zoom conversations to orient the mentors will be held on Sunday, August 29th at 3pm and Thursday, September 2 at 2pm. A private session is also an option. Email Phil Ruge-Jones to get the link and register: rugejones@gmail.com.

Thank you!