

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

**A LAY MINISTRY TRAINING
PROGRAM OF THE
EASTERN CLUSTER LUTHERAN
SEMINARIES**

The need for competent lay ministers is growing...

The purpose of this program is provide a basic training program for lay ministers to the synods of the ELCA. Synods have the ability through this process to add their own requirements through the independent study course and other additional options. The certificate that participants receive is not transferable to other synods unless directed by the bishops of those synods.

ECLS RESPONSIBILITIES



Instructors



Curriculum



Cohort Leaders



**Program
Coordinator**



Financials



Instructors

Instructor Applicants will submit a CV and teaching philosophy & cover letter; recommendation from a Bishop is preferred for applicants other than seminary faculty members.

Synods are encouraged to share their qualified resources as well.

DMin or PhD applicants preferred.



Curriculum

The program offers eight courses with room in the schedule for an independent study designed and facilitated by synods if they so desire.

Each course has eight sessions with two being in real time over zoom and six being presented asynchronously via pre-recorded videos.

Instructors are encouraged to engage with students one on one and provide feedback for written assignments appropriate to the subject matter using the Google platform.

Individual course audits are available.

The academic year runs from September – May with two courses offered every two months.

Enrollment is capped at 40 students (plus auditors) per cycle.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Lutheran Confessions

Discipleship & Stewardship

Worship & Liturgy

Old Testament

New Testament

Preaching I & II

Pastoral Care

Governance

Cohorts are capped at ten students

Cohort leaders are available via email throughout the training

Cohort leaders have a monthly zoom check-in with their student group

Cohort leaders should have at least ten years of congregational leadership experience, preferably having an M.Div. or ordination through the SAM or TEEM program.

COHORT LEADERS



ETS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Hires Cohort leaders and instructors

Facilitates Student Orientation

Keeps records of student course completion

Provides data to students' home synods

Provides certificate of completion

Rev. Dr. Beverly Wallace

LTSS Continuing Ed.



FINANCIALS

Rev. Dr. Martin Otto-Zimmann (ULS) is the fiduciary for the ETS program.

Responsibilities include:

Collection of tuition and auditing fees

Payments to Program Coordinator, Instructors, and Cohort Leaders

Maintaining a balanced budget

- **Whatever entry/vetting process as defined by Bishops.**
- **Possible subsidies for students to help cover tuition.**
- **Assigning an independent study (if needed).**
- **A final interview/approval equivalence.**
- **The “consecration” or “commissioning” that would take place after completion of the program.**
- **Providing mentorships once the student is serving in a ministry context.**
- **Decision regarding dispensation.**

SYNODICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

THANK YOU



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