

The Iowa Academy for New Ministry Development is an intensive two-year continuing education process which provides support and training to persons seeking to start new churches or revitalize existing churches.

Building on an exploration of spiritual gifts and nurtured in an atmosphere of trust and openness, participants are developed as leaders and encouraged to dream of, and act upon, the potential ministries their congregations are being called to.

Academy Commission:

Chad Jennings-Chair

Jeff Dadisman

Corby Johnson

Karen Larson

John Louk-Ex Officio

Beverly Marshall-Goodell

James Parks

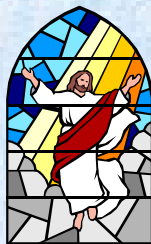
Craig Peters

Lanette Pollock-Plambeck

Scott Meador

Tom Shinkle

Steve Williams



Conference Staff:

Bernie Colorado, Cabinet Rep

Karen Dungan, CCMC Staff Director

Scott Hibben, CCMC Staff Consultant

Barb Mann, Registrar

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

"I found myself re-encouraged for ministry."

"The best thing the Conference has done."

"The Academy has provided encouragement/support and enabled many to take bold steps (and informed steps) they might otherwise never have taken."

"It has been a renewal of my spirit and enthusiasm."

"This is the most connection I have felt in the Conference."

"Praying together—being part of the congregation on Thursday night—it's so helpful to be able to observe a service."

"The readings and discussions give me different perspectives to more effectively lead my congregation."

For more information, contact:

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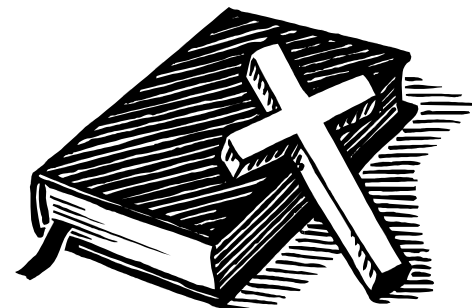
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Iowa Academy for New Ministry Development



A Ministry of the
Iowa Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Vision

In 1998, as part of a vision for the future of the Iowa Annual Conference, Parish Development established the Iowa Academy for New Ministry Development.

Today the purpose of the Academy is to develop leaders while helping them further discern God's call on their lives in ministry.

By networking with peers; reading and discussing important books; hearing the stories of teaching churches within Iowa and around the country; and praying and worshipping together pastors, along with a few laity who have partnered in ministry, are gaining a variety of tools to birth and grow new ministries as well as revitalize existing ministries.



Schedule

The Academy meets quarterly for nine sessions over two years at teaching churches both within Iowa and around the country.

In January, April and August the Academy meets over a Thursday and Friday at one of The United Methodist Churches around Iowa that is experiencing success in a unique outreach ministry or ministries.

Teaching churches are chosen to reflect the diversity of ministry opportunities in Iowa. From rural to urban, new to long-time existing, small to large, blended to single-point the expectation is that participants will gain practical ministry ideas.

In October, from Thursday through Sunday, the Academy travels via chartered bus to a large teaching church out-of-state. This provides a chance to meet with other pastors from around the country who are seeking to start new ministries and revitalize churches.

Some of the out of state teaching churches have included: Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City and Ginghamburg UMC in Tipp City, Ohio.

Curriculum

Each session of the Academy experience follows one of the "Eight Quality Characteristics" from Christian Schwarz in *Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches*. They are:

- Empowering leadership
- Gift-oriented ministry
- Passionate spirituality
- Functional structures
- Inspiring worship service
- Holistic small groups
- Need-oriented evangelism
- Loving relationships

Participants read one contemporary book related to each of these Quality Characteristics each quarter and discuss it in small groups at the teaching church.

Participants create a Ministry Action Plan and revise it every quarter. They form a Joel Council (visioning group) in their local church which meets regularly to bridge what the participants are learning in the Academy and how that relates to their local context. And they (and their congregations) receive the Natural Church Development Inventory.

This is truly a special gift from the Iowa Conference. All pastors of the Iowa Conference are encouraged to further their development through this Academy opportunity. This event is approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry for three (3) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) per year.