

Role of School for Lay Ministry Graduates

The role of lay persons in the ministries of The United Methodist Church is expanding. The missional needs of our congregations require trained laity working together with ordained and licensed clergy. Participants in the Iowa School for Lay Ministry are prepared to fulfill a wide variety of roles in and beyond local churches often based on their professional experiences in other disciplines. Some of the ways graduates of the School for Lay Ministry are serving with ordained clergy in Iowa include ministering with local churches in:

Leadership capacities:

Praise and worship leader/or planner
Worship Committee Leader
Praise band leader/or planner; direct special practices
Plan contemporary worship services and special worship events
Keyboard for the contemporary worship
Adult Choir Director
Lead separate/alternate services (different time/focus)
Pulpit fill
Help with funerals
Assist pastor (themes of worship, sermon series, worship materials)
Lay leader
Liturgist
Serve communion
Organize Prayer Shawl Ministry
Children's Time
Associate pastor
Assist in church management
Stephen Leader
Pastoral consult/counseling
Serve on Building Task Force
Leadership Team (Ad Council)
SPRC Chair and member

Volunteer management:

Team leader for new ministries
Director of Kids Hope USA (KHUSA)
Mission Committee chair
Finance Secretary
Coordinate Lay Ministry and Lay Speakers
Direct caring ministries; develop programs
Volunteer on conference committees
Education ministries coordinator, coordinate new ministry opportunities
Women's Ministries (Walk to Emmaus, SS, Women's special events)
Director of Connection and Congregational Care ministries
Prayer coordinator

Christian education:

Sunday School teacher/supt.
Lead Adult SS and small group studies and other small group activities
Small Group Bible studies
Teach Bible study classes; teach prayer classes
Facilitate women's Bible studies
Education coordinator
Director of Children's Ministries
Vacation Bible School
Christian Education Leader/Teacher
Free afterschool program

Vacation Bible School
Teaching the Junior & Senior high school girls' SS class
Volunteer for Children's Reading Program at local library
Coordinator of Lay Ministry
Coordinator of Worship

Care-giving ministries:

Stephen's Ministry
Train Stephen Ministers
Bible study for Alcoholics Anonymous
Hospital and shut-in visitation
Serve on a re-entry aftercare committee helping offenders return to society
Fellowship time prep
United Methodist Women
Ingathering
Ingathering Committee support
Organize mission trips
Worship & Bible Study at nursing home
Nursing home visitation
Lead worship at the nursing home
Prison ministry

Program staff positions:

Head of Worship Team
Christian Education Director
Council Vice-Chair
Education Ministries Coordinator
Connection Coordinator
Director of Connections and Congregational Care
Multimedia ministry facilitator

Visitation ministries:

Nursing homes
Hospitals
Shut-ins

Youth programming:

Youth group
Mentor for confirmation classes
Coordinate participation
After school program

District ministries and mission:

District Stewardship Committee member
Annual Conference delegate
Participant at District laity meetings
Serve on two District committees
Clergy Member at A.C.
Mission's trips
Lay Member to AC
Board of Laity (Assoc. Lay Leader)
Board of Location & Building
District Nominations
Conference Task Force
Conference Nominations Committee

Outreach and evangelism:

Community programs

New ministry as Asst. to pastor

Established KHUSA faith based mentoring program

Work with church/school to mentor at-risk elementary school children

Summer, reading program at the public library

Outreach to home for severe and profoundly handicapped children

Co-leaders for the retreat ministry team

Developed Welcome Ministries

Home Bible Study (Stoncroft Ministries)

Prison ministry

Women's Connection prayer coordinator

National Day of Prayer coordinator

We have Tiny House – a second hand store; all the items are donated; all workers are volunteers and all the money taken in goes to missions.

Personal/spiritual growth:

A deepening of prayer life

A better understanding of church, doctrine and polity

A deeper confidence and understanding of one's gifts

Enriching & strengthening my prayer life in order to intercede for those in need

Member of new men's prayer breakfast

Completed Red Disciple Bible study

Completed 6 Beth Moore Bible studies

Coordinated/led/attended a Beth Moore weekend retreat

Read books to strengthen faith

Spending more personal time with God

Learning to share my faith story

Participate in a Recovery Bible study

Associate Conference Lay Leader

Attend Course of Studies; Spiritual growth; study and discipline in prayer life

Email prayer list

Better understanding of the ministerial position as well as the conference structure

Better knowledge of bible study resources

Deeper sense of importance of sharing spiritual gifts and empowering others to discover their own Prayer

A deeper connective prayer life and relationship with God

Able to speak to issues involving doctrine & polity

More openness to God's evolving Spirit in my life in ministry to Him & His people

Spiritual Gifts retreat coordinator

SLM was part of my discernment process as I sensed a call into pastoral ministry which led me to seminary

Lay Speaker Training,

Aldersgate Annual Conference

Lay Witness Mission Training

No aspect of my life has been untouched by SLM; the spiritual conviction, denominational understanding and deepening relationship with my Savior impacted my understanding of God's will in and for my life

Pastoral role (for those who have gone on to get licensed and are serving as pastors):

Plan on attending Advanced Lay Speaker class

Quarter-time pastor at twp churches in IA

Associate pastor in larger church; provide pastoral counseling; weddings, baptisms, communion, funerals, reception of members, lead committees, organize and administer caring ministries.

Assoc. Pastor part-time while fulltime seminary student and will begin July 1, 2010 as FT Associate Pastor.

My church has been without a pastor since May of 2009; am one of four lay leaders who have shared the role of pastor for over a year, all volunteer.