

DIAKONIA – Lay Discipleship / Leadership Development Program

DIAKONIA is the largest of a number of lay leadership training programs across the ELCA. It operates in 9 Synods, including Indiana-Kentucky. It's a 2-year program meeting on Saturday mornings from September to May, with training centers in NW Indiana Conference and Indianapolis Conference. We are planning to expand with a third training center in Louisville beginning in 2016-17.

Year "A" (2014-15) – New Testament, Early Church History, Pastoral Care/ Visitation, Lutheran Creeds and Confessions, Christian Daily Life, and Christian Vocation (*5 weeks each*)

Year "B" (2015-16) – Old Testament, Communicating the Gospel, Christian Doctrine, Christian Worship, Differentiating Our Faith in American Context, and Christian Ethics (*5 weeks each*)

DIAKONIA helps pastors develop a trained lay leadership. The program equips parish leaders for service to the church and community. Graduates can be recruited to assist with worship, lead Bible study, lead mission teams, or however their strengths can best be used to grow your community of faith. It is much more than just a "really good Bible study", as some have said.

Pastors of students in DIAKONIA are asked to develop a mentoring relationship, to give the student local leadership opportunities, to help students become conscious of their strengths and sense of calling, and identify leadership opportunities following graduation.

Fall classes begin on either September 12th or 19th, 2015, meeting Saturday mornings from 9 am to noon. We will identify a central location after recruiting the new class, and 5 of the 6 classes will meet there. Class #2 ("*Communicating the Gospel*", to be taught by Mark Havel) will hit the road and visit a number of our conference mission sites, exploring how to speak the Gospel in cultural context.

Students ideally begin in the fall and can start with either year. It is possible to start mid-year with the beginning of any course, but then completion must extend into a third program year. Students may take individual courses. There is a tuition fee, and one or two books are read with each course.

Tom Stempson will be available to meet pastors, congregations, or prospective students during the summer, just give him a call. DIAKONIA can be a tool for growing disciples and ministries in our congregations. For more information, go to: www.thediakoniaprogram.org

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