

ELMM Announces Fall 2016 Retreats

By now you have likely seen the press release “LAY MINISTRY FOUNDATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM receives a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship” on our synod website. Some have raised questions about this ecumenical program’s connection to, or effect on, Equipping Leaders for Mission and Ministry (ELMM) formerly known as our synod’s Lay Ministry Training Program (LMTP).

The LAY MINISTRY FOUNDATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM is an ecumenically-sponsored program, now in its pilot stage. Rev. Dr. Dennis B. Smith, Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Constantine, Michigan has been instrumental, along with counterparts from other church bodies, in developing this program. He serves as Project Administrator for the grant.

Bishop Satterlee emphasizes that anyone sensing a call to serve as pastor should communicate with Pastor Sarah Friesen-Carper about the candidacy process. Further, he stresses that processes such as the aforementioned pilot program should be considered only when a missional need for a congregation to pursue this particular avenue has been prayerfully discerned and agreed upon by the congregation and the Bishop.

Lastly, for sake for clarity, we reiterate that completion of ELMM or any similar process does not mean one is authorized by Bishop Satterlee to preach the Gospel. Nor does it mean one is authorized to administer the Sacraments. Nor does it mean the Bishop is obligated to place one in a position of leadership in a congregation or ministry site.

We celebrate your commitment to learning and growing and your desire to serve in your congregations and communities as you support your pastors. ELMM equips you for faithful service by deepening your knowledge of the scriptures and connecting you with others as they learn and grow. See below the dates for upcoming ELMM retreats.

Friday, September 23 – Saturday, September 24 (Immanuel, Mt Pleasant)

Boundaries Training for Lay Leaders Pastor David Sprang and the Synod Response Team
Exodus, Covenant and Wilderness..... Dr. Kelly Jean Murphy, Central Michigan University

Friday, October 28 – Saturday, October 29 (Zion, Cadillac)

Ecclesiastical Teaching and Q&A..... The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, PhD., Bishop
A History of God’s People; Exile, Return and Restoration..... Dr. Julie Faith Parker, Trinity Lutheran Seminary

For more information about ELMM, contact Rebecca Bossenbroek (rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net)