



Northwestern Minnesota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Application for Synod Authorized Minister

Personal Information

Name: _____
Last First Middle (Maiden)

Birthdate: _____
Month/Day/Year

Birthplace: _____ Citizenship: _____
City/State

Baptism: _____
Place/City/State Date

Race: African American, Black Asian & Pacific Islander Caucasian Arab & Middle Eastern
 American Indian & Alaska Native People Hispanic or Latino Other (specify) _____

Native Language: _____ Fluent in Language(s): _____

Marital Status: Single Married Widowed Divorced

Address _____
Street PO Box Address

_____ City State ZIP

Cell: _____ Email: _____

Congregational Membership: _____
Congregation Name Member Since (date)

City State ZIP

Pastoral Reference (ELCA Pastor)

Family (if applicable)

Spouse's Full Name: _____
Last First Middle

Profession: _____ Education: _____ Religious Affiliation: _____

Employment Status: _____ Full-time _____ Part-time _____ Not Employed

Spouse's Date of Birth: _____ Date of Marriage: _____
Month/Day/Year Month/Day/Year

Children living with you and their date of birth:

| Child's name: | Date of Birth: | Child's name: | Date of Birth: |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Education History

| | Name of School and City/State | Year of Grad. | Type of Degree |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| High School | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| College | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Graduate School | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Seminary _____

Other Education _____

Areas in which you have completed coursework (indicate bachelor or graduate level):

Work History: Please list your most recent position first, including any military service

Position

Employer

Dates

Synod Authorized Minister Questions and Essay

Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

YES NO

___ ___

1. Do you intend to live in accord with the standards of conduct of a ministry leader as described in the document *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*?

___ ___

2. Do you belong to any organization or lodge like the Free Masons or Eastern Stars which claims to possess in its teachings and ceremonies that which the Lord has given solely to the Church?

___ ___

3. Do you have or have had any health conditions (physical or psychological) that might interfere with your ability to serve as a ministry leader in the ELCA?

___ ___

4. Are there issues in your family situation or personal life that could adversely affect your ability to serve as an effective leader in the ELCA?

___ ___

5. Do you now engage, or have you ever engaged in any addictive behavior, including drug or alcohol abuse or sexual or pornographic addictions?

___ ___

6. Have you ever been terminated or resigned from any employment or volunteer activities due to accusations of misconduct, whether financial, sexual, ethical, or other improper behavior?

___ ___

7. Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, charged with, or convicted of a crime or illegal conduct, including conduct resulting in suspension or revocation of your driver's license?

___ ___

8. Have you ever been engaged in, accused of, sued, or charged with sexual molestation, sexual harassment, child neglect or abuse, spousal neglect or abuse, or financial improprieties?

___ ___

9. Do you have any sexual attraction toward children or minors or any history of sexually deviant behavior, including behavior with children or minors?

___ ___

10. Have you engaged in any behavior or been involved in any situations that, if they became known by the church, might seriously damage your ability to continue in synod authorized ministry?

___ ___

11. Is there additional information that would assist the Bishop or the Synod SAM Committee in considering your application or that you believe the Bishop or the committee should know?

SAM APPLICATION ESSAY

The SAM application essay is an autobiographical reflection which should contain insights and understandings gained during the period of discernment leading to your decision to apply to be a Synod Authorized Minister in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. It is not expected that your process of discernment is completed. You are asked only to provide an honest assessment of your current self-understanding of your journey thus far and your hope for the future. It will provide the committee with the background that will help guide your interview.

Please submit this application to Kathy Levenhagen, SAM Program Navigator at klevenhagen@cord.edu, Bp. Bill Tesch, btesch@cord.edu and Joan Meulebroeck, SAM Administrative Assistant, jmeulebroeck@cord.edu. Please save a copy of the application for yourself and retain it for your SAM interview.

- Provide a brief autobiography that includes your early years, faith formation, and current life situation.

- Describe your journey of discernment. How did you first experience your call to lay ministry? What have you done to deepen this understanding? Who have you discussed this with? Through this intentional time of discernment, what have you learned about yourself, the church and the world?

- Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ.

- What plans do you have to either complete your education or formation to work as a SAM, or to continue in your formation as a professional leader in the church?

Please indicate possible mentor (ELCA ordained pastor): Name and congregation if applicable

Often, Synod Authorized Ministers are encouraged to explore rostered ministry in the ELCA. Is there a possibility that your service as a SAM might lead to rostered service?

Yes

No

Candidate Name: _____

Date: _____

Specific Training to Serve as a Synod Authorized Minister

In the ELCA, Synod Authorized Ministers must have training in each of the 6 areas listed below. The SAM Committee of the NWMN Synod strongly recommends the program “LED by Faith--An Academy for Lay Ministry, Enrichment and Discernment” offered in partnership with other synods in Region 3 and currently being held at Luther Crest Bible Camp. All six of these core areas will be covered in six Friday-Saturday sessions over the course of two years. Other programs of education exist but must be approved by the SAM committee. SAMs may be approved to begin work before completing the training with approval from the Bishop and with close supervision from the SAM’s mentor pastor. Please indicate the status of your training in each of the areas below:

| Topic for Training | Completed? (yes or no)* | Will complete this through the NWMN Synod endorsed academy (yes or no) | Will complete this in another way – please specify: |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Biblical Preaching | | | |
| Lutheran Theology/Confessions | | | |
| Worship | | | |
| Leadership | | | |
| Faith formation | | | |
| Pastoral care | | | |

Contextual understanding is part of all classes

Date of last Boundary Training _____ (needs to be renewed every 3 years)

Date of last Anti-Racism Training _____ (needs to be renewed every 3 years)

* For training that has already been accomplished, please provide a certificate, transcript, or some other record showing that training was accomplished.