

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL CENTER IN ATLANTA

A Ministry of the ELCA Southeastern Synod
2019-2021 Work Plan

God often calls us to things that we cannot do alone.

Mission and Vision

▪ **General Description**

The Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta is a ministry of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The work of the Center is done in ongoing collaboration with the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, the Domestic Missions Unit of the Churchwide Organization of the ELCA and Southeastern Synod, ELCA.

▪ **The Mission of the Center is to:**

1. Provide opportunities for learning and leadership development among rostered and lay leaders with an intentional focus on multicultural leadership development and congregational support; and
2. Offer continuing education and opportunities for spiritual development and growth for lay and rostered leaders; and
3. Establish stronger ties between the Interdenominational Theological Center, the African Descent Community in the US and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Through various partnerships the Center will:

1. Identify, support, and guide lay leaders and candidates for rostered and congregational ministry in the ELCA, with an intentional focus on multicultural congregations and its leaders; and
2. Develop relationships between and connect the ELCA community to the rich opportunities for learning at the Interdenominational Theological Center; and
3. Develop and participate in programs to connect lay leaders and seminarians to each other and to the wider church, in the Atlanta area and across the ELCA with an intentional focus on multicultural and ecumenical opportunities for making Jesus Christ known.

▪ **Focus for the Work for 2019-2021**

To provide guidance, leadership and support in formulating and facilitating processes and programs that result in connectiveness among leaders for evangelizing and outreach, intentionally focusing on lay leadership. Specifically the Center will carry out its mission with the following

activities as shown in the schedule below and circumscribed by this work plan (ministry plan) and in general by the vision and mission of the ELCA.

1. *Congregational Vitality & Lay Leadership - The Sending of the Seventy- A Certificated Program* for forming and developing congregation leaders (formerly deacons) preparing these leaders for evangelizing, for outreach, and ministry leadership: to be inviting and welcoming and to assist the pastor in the community and congregation.

- Sending of the Seventy Part II- East Cleveland, OH
February, 2020 through June, 2020 Pr. Snell
Pr. Mims
Pr. Flanigan

Funds from New Covenant LC and LTCA: \$1500

- Sending of the Seventy Part II- Metro Atlanta
April through August, 2020 Pr. Mims
Pr. Flanigan

Funds from Students and LTCA: \$500

- English as a Second Language Conversations
January – June, 2020 Pr. Crispin
Dr. MM
Mr. Patta

*Volunteers; donations for refreshments only
Christ Our Hope LC will provide mileage reimbursement for
Mr. Patta.*

2. *Seminary & Graduate Studies - LTCA will continue to support the partnership with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Interdenominational Theological Center in the following areas*

- TEEM: To market the program where appropriate and to continue to support and accompany the current 4 enrollees through their ordination and beyond. This goal is on-going.
- To continue to support and accompany Lutheran M.Div. and D.Min. candidates at the ITC
- Engage and recruit seminarians: through conversations around Lutheran identity.

These activities will be supported through the general grant from TEEM churchwide in the amount of \$1500. Timing is on-going.

3. Intensive Courses

- Lutheran Worship & The Lectionary – taught primarily as a candidacy requirement for students who attended non-ELCA seminaries and for continuing education for congregation members and staff.

*Course is funded by student fees and TEEM grant. \$1500.00
May 4-8, 2020; Pr. Nancy Christensen
Pr. Flanigan
Bishop Kevin (?)*

- ELCA Polity and Ecclesiology is similarly taught as a Candidacy Requirement and is also open to pastors, officers and members of Congregations.

*The course is funded through student fees and may be supplemented through funds from local sources. \$1800.00
July 13 through July 17, 2020 Pr. R. Hamilton*

- The Urban Plunge! Is an annual 10 day intensive exploring ministry needs and opportunities in an urban setting. Justice issues predominate: food security, criminal and racial justice, congregations and street ministry, and beauty in the city.

The course is taught by several members including a resident Theologian, an administrator, a clinical pastoral education supervisor, the District Attorney, a Judge, and several local pastors who direct and participate in reflection sessions.
The course is funded by a \$5000 grant from Southeastern Synod and from student fees and congregation gifts.

- 4. *Enrichment Workshop & One Day Courses* - to assist congregations and leaders in addressing complex issues that may from time to time arise in their settings and offers expert help to guide conversations and plans of action. This year these Workshop/courses will be offered at Synod Assembly and subsequently in congregations.

***What We Should Do and What We Should Not Do:
Racism, Reconciliation and Forgiveness Pr. Craig Storlie
Grief, Loss, Change and Growth***

Pr. Bev Shaw

These activities will be supported through the general grant from TEEM churchwide in the amount of \$1500. Timing is on-going.h

5. *The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Service*, Metro Atlanta, GA;
6. *The Lutheran Day of Service, Martin Luther King, Jr.* in Partnership with Inspiritus;
7. *Courses, workshops & conversations to support lay leadership development-* The Urban Plunge with Five Components; Faith and Science, God's Work in the World (4 Sessions for congregations and a graduate course)
Two Martins: Intersection of the Theologies of Martin Luther and Martin Luther King, Jr. (1 or 4 session mini courses for congregations)
8. *Undoing the Most Segregated Hour in America-* A one day consultation on welcoming the other, in partnership with Lutheran Congregations
9. *Interdenominational Theological Center Activities-* Participates in ITC Faculty Council Meetings; the Council of Deans Meetings; and to lead the Campus Worship Service for The Reformation and Ash Wednesday; provides guidance for the Atlanta University Center Lutheran Campus Ministry Worship Life.

▪ **Guiding Principles**

1. Discernment – identification and selection for leadership development is a discernment process by the Church with participants, congregations, and candidates are resourced by prayer, scripture and a whole system of support and partnerships.
2. Competence – There are certain identified competencies required for leadership that guide our discernment and work with participants.
3. Transparency – We value competence over credentials, and therefore welcome all to participate in our learning adventures.
4. Partnership – The ministry of the LTCA is not possible without our many partners, community, and volunteers; our work is further framed by our understanding of vocation. **God often calls us to things that we cannot do alone.**
5. Hospitality – LTCA and its volunteers and partners ground its work in a climate of hospitality, respect, empathy and relationships. We see Jesus Christ in each of our participants and partners.
6. Confidentiality – We value confidentiality and trust.

Goals and Outcomes

- Managing the Lutheran Center

1. Establish a cadre of advisors, planners, peer consultants and volunteers
Strategy: Address planning, evaluation, inclusiveness and partnerships
 2. Establish a schedule and timeline of expectations
Strategy: Each major activity, program etc. has expectations which are developed with partners and volunteers and participants
 3. Be culturally sensitive and honor traditions and established lines of communications
Strategy: Work through Bishops, Deans, Pastors and Congregations to establish initiatives, enlist Women, Ethnic Communities and Conferences
Strategy: Revisit the guides and traditions of each program and/or course and conference.
- **Partnerships**
 1. Representation at appropriate gatherings
Strategy: Make lists; arrange attendance/ participation
Strategy: Ask Domestic Missions to help strengthen our relationship with the wider church. Pay special attention to the Ethnic Strategy Teams.
 2. Use our relationship with Leadership and Candidacy to strengthen our partnership with seminaries and candidacy committees
Strategy: Use Directors of Evangelical Mission and Ethnic Strategy teams to identify needs and opportunities for leadership training locally and across the ELCA.
 - **Recruitment**
 1. Use partners to keep opportunities for development and training before bishops, synod staff, congregation pastors & leaders, and churchwide leaders.
 2. Recruit key pastors and leaders to “tell the LTCA” story; especially from African Descent and ethnic congregations. Assist partners in establishing clear expectations, and a vision for recruiting; recruit key pastors and leaders to “tell the LTCA” story.
 3. Assemble recruiting and marketing tools, technology to support outreach strategies.
 4. Arrange preaching opportunities and invitations with congregations and ethnic strategy teams, especially with the African Descent Outreach Strategy Team.
 - **Organization and Staffing**
 1. Check in frequently on the Mission/Vision statements
 2. Encourage the development of communications among participants and stakeholders.
 3. Make sure planning teams have compositions representative of interests of synod, churchwide and ethnic strategy teams

4. Press for resources for a full time Assistant
5. Considering new evolving structures of synod staff, the churchwide organization, continually strengthen, utilize and evaluate LTCA's relationships with all partners and stakeholders.
6. Exercise intentional self-care.