



Photo courtesy of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

I really see our Deacon training program as a funnel for men to taste and see what ministry is like and some will be led, by the Lord, to more formal education via the SMP Program (Ordination)."

*Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper
Assistant to the President
Michigan District, LCMS*

The Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)

program is a distance education program that prepares men for pastoral ministry. The SMP program is designed to meet the needs of the church for pastors in mission and ministry opportunities where a pastor with a seminary degree may not be available. It is contextual in that the men receive their academic training in the setting where they will continue to serve following ordination. The Michigan District offers Pre-SMP training through its Deacon Training Program seminars to prepare you to take the entrance exams and create portfolios required by the seminary.

For more information, visit

michigandistrict.org/smp

or contact

**Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper - District Screening Assistant to the President –
Congregational Ministries/Ministry Support
Michigan District, LCMS
888.225.2111 ext. 230
robert.kasper@michigandistrict.org**

**Rev. John A. Herzog, PhD
Dean of Instruction
586.855.8421
john.herzog@michigandistrict.org**

**Chris Brown
Registrar
810.772.1254
chris.brown@michigandistrict.org**

"Portions of our Deacon training program, Old Testament, New Testament, Survey, Confessions I and II, prepare the student for successful completion of the required entrance exams for the SMP program."

*Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper
Assistant to the President
Michigan District, LCMS*



Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
People of Hope...Vigorously Making Known the Love of Christ

3773 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-3098
Phone: 734.665.3791 | Toll Free: 888.225.2111
Fax: 734.665.0255 | michigandistrict.org
facebook.com/milcms | twitter.com/milcms



Photo courtesy of Faith, Troy

Pre-SMP Program

Preparing lay men interested in pastoral ministry through local seminars.

“The deacon/Pre-SMP program gave me a level of education to be involved in ministry as a deacon at a deeper level; really understanding the role of a deacon. It also gave me the needed foundation to be successful in the SMP.”

Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle
Pastor Genesis Center
Eastpointe, Mich.

Are You Interested in becoming an SMP Pastor?

District Screening Qualifications Include:

- at least two years of membership in the congregation;
- at least some post-secondary education;
- family support;
- a commitment to the Lutheran Confessions and a strong faith;
- personal qualifications according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7;
- leadership ability; and,
- a place to serve.



Photo courtesy of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Pre-SMP Training Seminars:

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Christian Doctrine: Doctrine 1
- Worship
- Preaching (Homiletics)
- Spiritual life: Doctrine 2; and Witnessing: Outreach
- Teaching the Faith
- Church History

The Commission on Deacon Qualifications (CDQ) encourages you to take the other seminars of the Deacon and Pre-SMP Training Program. Serving in the field under a Supervising Pastor for some time allows you to gain ministry skills and helps confirm God's call to you to become an SMP Pastor.

Instructors

The instructors are pastors, commissioned ministers, and LCMS trained deaconesses. Some already serve as instructors in the Deacon and Pre-SMP training program.

Other Information

Cost is \$300/seminar plus books, travel, and food. Classes usually meet once-a-month on Saturdays at various LCMS congregations throughout the District. Scholarships are available.

SMP Program

The SMP program is offered at both Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne. Their programs of education, however, are different.

The SMP Program involves:

- serving in your congregation as a Vicar;
- serving under your supervising pastor;
- taking intensive courses several times a year, and participating in discussions via Internet on a regular basis;
- ordination as an SMP Pastor after two years and successful completion of the program; and,
- continuing education, perhaps moving toward becoming a “general” pastor.

Prior to acceptance the seminaries will

- test you on: Old Testament, New Testament, and Doctrine which you will prepare for through these classes.
- require portfolios on: worship, preaching, spiritual life and witnessing, and teaching the faith. Your materials from classes will help you create your portfolios.

For more information on what an SMP Pastor is eligible to do, contact a seminary.

Concordia Seminary:
www.csl.edu

Concordia Theological Seminary:
www.ctsfw.edu

