

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies Presents The Art of Transitional Leadership

Ministry Skills for Today's and Tomorrow's Church
October 23-27, 2023

Online 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CT (regular breaks, including 11:30-1:30)

Whether it is a change in leadership or a changing community, leading a congregation through change is both challenging and rewarding. It takes knowledge, skill, resilience, and spiritual strength to navigate the waters of change in a way that leaders and congregations thrive. This training is for individuals who are considering ministry in temporary settings (as an interim, transitional or designated pastor) or are experiencing ministry in these transitional times.

Materials presented will include the basics of transitional ministry and will be of value to all congregational pastors regardless of their ministry setting. The ultimate goal of any transitional ministry are congregations that are healthy, effective and faithful in their ministries. In addition to gaining tools for ministry, participants will also have the opportunity to be a part of a rich online community, sharing stories and wisdom, worship and learning.

Participants completing the full 30 hours of training will meet the requirements for Week I Transitional Ministry Education. Tuition and fees cover the tuition as well as the costs of taking the Thomas Kilman Inventory.

Registration

<https://synod-of-lakes-and-prairies.events.idloom.com/the-art-of-transitional-leadership11-21>

Costs: Tuition and fees \$500/person

Primary Leaders

Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley

Rev. Dr. Deb DeMeester

RE Rachel Yates

Others will join us to bring their expertise on given topics throughout the week.

Feedback from a previous cohort:

What would you like most to say about your experiences as a student in this course?

The knowledge I gained has been invaluable. I may not enter the transitional ministry for a few years, but the learning applies to any ministry.

This was exciting and challenging for me. I feel that I have grown by leaps and bounds. It has prepared me much better for the challenges we are facing in our congregation.

I don't know how you would improve it. How can you fully prepare a person for transitional ministry?

This was one of the best trainings I have had in ministry. I think all pastors should do it.

Leadership Team



SanDawna Ashley is the Transitional Synod Executive for the Synod of the Northeast. Previously as Assistant Stated Clerk, Manager for Call Process Support and Teaching Elders Ministries in the Office of the General Assembly in her work, she provided training, consultation, coaching, and resources for presbyteries in support of congregations, COMs, call seekers and calling organizations. Additionally, her experience includes serving as the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys, Associate for Leadership Development for the PC(USA) with direct responsibility for equipping adaptive pastors, working with committees and assisting call seekers in vocational discernment. Her pastoral service includes serving as pastor of congregations in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Illinois. SanDawna holds degrees from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) with a concentration in leadership development and congregational transformation,

Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary Master of Divinity in the Psychology of Religion and Pastoral Care (M.Div.) and Georgia State University Bachelor of Social Work (BSW).



Deb DeMeester is Director of Leadership Development for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. She provides training in presbyteries on a number of topics, facilitates strategic conversations, and supports a variety of groups and committees, including Synod School. Prior to being called to the Synod, Deb was Director of the Masters Program for Public Safety Leaders (both face to face and online programs) and taught regularly in the doctoral program for Leadership Development at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. Her pastoral service includes serving congregations of all sizes as an installed pastor, interim pastor, and stated supply, all in Minnesota. Deb's education includes BA in political science from Westminster College, MA in College Student Services, Bowling Green State University, M.Div. from Yale Divinity School, and Ed.D. from the University of St. Thomas.



Rachel Yates is the Transitional Presbytery Executive and Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Boise. Prior to this she served as Executive Presbyter in the Presbytery of Milwaukee. She worked closely with the leadership of the Presbytery to implement its vision through innovative and strategic initiatives. She began mid-Council leadership, after serving Presbyterian World Mission as its Associate Director for Program and a Church Support Associate. Yates is a ruling elder who practiced law in Colorado for 23 years.