

Introducing Advanced Lay Ministries of the North Carolina Lutheran Synod

Advanced Lay Ministries (ALM), a formation and certification program of the North Carolina Synod, brings together the Lay Preaching (LP) and Synod Authorized Ministry (SAM) programs. Having these two programs under one umbrella facilitates the sharing of resources, access to advanced coursework, and a more streamlined approach to identifying and developing lay people in the synod for service in congregations.

The Advanced Lay Ministries program consists of two parts: one focused on the knowledge and skills needed for lay preachers and the other on additional coursework related to congregational leadership. Part One is required for anyone seeking to serve as a Synod Authorized Minister.

To enter the Advanced Lay Ministries formation a person will:

- pay the application fee of \$100 to the NC Synod
- complete an application
- write an essay
- initiate a background check
- seek three recommendations
- participate in an interview with members of the Advanced Lay Ministries Leadership Team
- receive approval from the ALM Leadership Team and pay the tuition fee of \$675.

Part One Lay Preaching intensives include:

- Theology
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Preaching
- Worship

At the end of this coursework, lay preaching candidates may be commissioned by the Bishop of the NC Synod as Lay Preachers, making them eligible to provide pulpit supply in congregations, as specified by the bishop.

A person who desires to continue their formation to become a Synod Authorized Minister will need to complete the following:

- pay the application fee of \$200 to the NC Synod
- complete the application supplement
- complete the psychological assessment
- participate in an interview with members of the Advanced Lay Ministries Leadership Team
- Receive approval from the ALM Leadership Team and pay the tuition fee of \$1325.

Part Two SAM intensives include:

- Worship and Sacraments
- Discipleship and Leadership
- Pastoral Care
- Governance

Near the end of Part Two, SAM candidates will write an essay and participate in an interview with members of the ALM Leadership Team. The Leadership Team reviews the candidate's progress and makes a recommendation to the Bishop of the NC Synod. If approved by the Bishop, a SAM may be placed in a small congregation that is unable to call a rostered leader and granted sacramental privileges in that congregation.

Contact The Deacon Wendy Roberts, to learn more about Advanced Lay Ministries in the NC Lutheran Synod. You can reach her at wroberts@nclutheran.org.