

## Are You Someone Who Is...

Interested in serving others and proclaiming the Good News of God's love?

Concerned about small congregations in the synod and curious about how to support them?

Discerning a call to ministry and want to explore the options available?

Retired and now have more time to engage in theological study and ministerial service?

Seeking spiritual enrichment but not sure about being certified as a SAM?

Interested in developing a deeper understanding of the Bible, pastoral care, spirituality, leadership, & more?

Sensing a renewed interest in ministry after being unable to pursue it earlier in life?

Currently working in a career and now have space in your life to serve the church in a new way?

A congregation member concerned about the future of your small congregation and wanting to be trained and authorized to serve that congregation?

***If so, we invite you to prayerfully consider becoming a Synodically Authorized Minister in the NC Synod.***

## SAM Leadership Team

The SAM Leadership Team consists of rostered ministers who give of their time and expertise to guide SAM candidates during the formation and placement process. Their work is supported by rostered ministers who mentor SAMs during formation. Pastors will serve as supervisors after SAMs have been placed.

The Rev. Pam Northrup serves as chair of the SAM Leadership Team and is the first point of contact.

The Rev. Sara Ilderton, assistant to the bishop, works with the SAM Leadership Team.

## Interested?

If you are interested in learning more about the SAM Certification Program or becoming a SAM, please contact:

**Pam Northrup at 919-987-0102 or [ncsynodsam@gmail.com](mailto:ncsynodsam@gmail.com).**

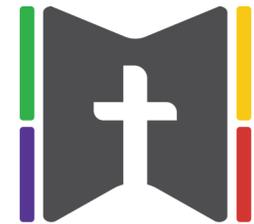
## NC Synod

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Salisbury, NC 28144

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# North Carolina Synod

## Becoming



## Synodically Authorized Ministers

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NRSV)

## Becoming a SAM

Prospective SAM candidates may be:

- Invited by the NC Synod bishop or designee.
- Nominated in writing by their pastor and congregation council (or just the council if there is not a pastor serving their church).
- An individual who discerns a call to SAM ministry and initiates a conversation with their pastor and congregation council or contacts the chair of the SAM Leadership Team directly.

Deacons may be appointed to serve as SAMs with sacramental privileges that are bound by location and time.

## Qualifications

- Be an active member of an ELCA congregation for at least one year with a commitment to remain an active member.
- Demonstrate a sense of call, spiritual maturity, leadership skills, commitment to the ELCA, and a desire to learn and serve.
- A willingness to adhere to the standards, guidelines, and expectations for Synodically Authorized Ministers as outlined in the handbook.
- A commitment to successfully complete the required formation.

## SAM Candidacy

The process of becoming a SAM includes similar steps as the traditional ELCA candidacy process, but is not officially part of the ELCA process.

**APPLICATION:** Complete and submit the SAM application, psychological evaluation, background check, references, and entrance essay.

**ENTRANCE:** The SAM Leadership Team will review the documents and schedule an entrance interview.

**FORMATION:** During formation SAMs will be accompanied by a mentor and their entrance panel who will read evaluations and provide ongoing support.

**APPROVAL:** The panel will do a final approval interview. The approval decision will be forwarded to the bishop who, in consultation with the synod council, may certify the candidate for ministry as a SAM.

**AFTER-APPROVAL:** Each SAM will be paired with a mentor/supervising pastor. They are expected to meet together monthly as long as the SAM is serving in a congregation.

## Formation

The SAM program will use the cohort model where candidates move together through the 18-month formation process.

Partnering with Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, SAM formation will include retreats, online classes, written assignments, reflection papers, case studies, role plays, and sermons.

Courses include:

- Lutheran Theology & Confessions (retreat setting)
- Bible (10 weeks online)
- Preaching, Worship, & Sacraments (retreat setting and monthly group reflections on sermons)
- Pastoral Care (6 weeks online)
- Discipleship & Leadership (retreat setting)
- Governance (4 weeks online)
- Commissioning & Celebration

## Program Costs

The non-refundable application fee is \$200. The anticipated program costs are estimated to be \$2,000 over the 18-month period. The cost for the program should be shared between the sponsoring congregation (75%) and the SAM candidate (25%).