

Is Your Congregation

Struggling to call a full- or part-time pastor due to limited finances?

Located in a place where there is a limited number of supply and interim pastors who can provide consistent leadership?

Worried about its future and afraid that without a consistent pastor you won't survive?

Longing for pastoral leadership to care for your members and lead worship?

Willing to receive an authorized and certified SAM to provide weekly worship, pastoral care, and more?

If so, we invite you to prayerfully consider requesting a Synodically Authorized Minister.

Does your congregation

Have someone who is willing to enter the SAM certification process so that they can be authorized to serve your congregation?

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 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.**

NC Synod

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North Carolina Synod

Congregations and



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)

Is a SAM Right for You?

A Synodically Authorized Minister may be right for your congregation if:

- You're a small congregation and are unable to fund a full-or part-time pastor.
- You're located in a geographic area where there aren't ordained people who can serve as a supply or interim pastor.

If one or both of these situations describe you, then having a SAM may be a good solution for you!

SAMs Are

MEMBERS. They are active members of ELCA congregations in the North Carolina Synod.

TRAINED. They have completed the 18-month formation program, and have been certified and authorized to preach, plan and lead worship, administer the sacraments, and provide pastoral care in a specific congregation.

TRUSTWORTHY. They are committed to adhering to the Definitions and Guidelines for Rostered Ministers.

WILLING. They are willing to serve at the discretion of the bishop of the NC Synod.

Receiving a SAM

Be open to receiving a SAM when a member of the NC Synod's staff mentions the possibility to you.

Prayerfully consider how the SAM can serve your congregation. Talk with congregation members to enlist their support and acceptance.

When a SAM is assigned to your congregation, be sure to complete the SAM covenant making it clear what the congregation expects of the SAM and what the SAM expects of the congregation. The covenant will be sent to the SAM Leadership Team.

Commit to praying for the SAM and their family. Make every effort to welcome and support them.

Compensation

SAMs are compensated by the congregation where they serve at the rate of \$22 an hour plus mileage for their presence at congregation council meetings, pastoral care, etc. and \$150 for each worship service they lead. The congregation should pay for continuing education events and synod sponsored meetings.

Identifying a SAM

Is there someone in your congregation who is a recognized leader with gifts for ministry?

If so, this person may be willing to be trained and certified as a SAM. Speak with this person and invite them to prayerfully consider serving as a SAM.

Once trained, the person may be authorized to serve in your congregation or in another congregation in the synod.

Sometimes a person may sense a call to be trained as a SAM. They may initiate a conversation with their pastor and congregation council.

The sponsoring pastor and congregation council should submit a recommendation for the candidate to the SAM Leadership Team.

Program Costs

Congregations who are sponsoring a SAM candidate are encouraged to share the cost of the certification program. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$200. The anticipated program costs are estimated to be \$2,000 over the 18-month period.