

The Ministry in Context Program at LSTC

The LSTC Ministry in Context Program has the following goals:

1. Provide an opportunity to reflect contextually about theology, ministry and the world with special attention to issues of class, race, ethnic origin and history.
2. Provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate leadership skills in an additional Lutheran setting to those previously experienced.
3. Provide an opportunity to practice collegiality and flexibility in an ongoing ministry leadership group.
4. Provide an opportunity to practice being in a supervised setting where one designs and receives feedback from a supervisor, lay committee and peers.
5. Provide an opportunity to practice the skills necessary for a successful internship, such as the ability to receive feedback and the ability to negotiate, write, evaluate and complete in a timely manner a learning service covenant.

Students are expected to devote seven hours per week to the Ministry in Context (MIC) site which does not include commuting time. The pastor-supervisor is to spend one hour per week with the student(s) in theological reflection over and above the time spent in the assignment of ministry tasks. A committee of lay members of the congregation will meet with the student(s) for one hour every four to six weeks to provide feedback. These lay committee meetings may be scheduled after worship services on Sunday to reduce the need for additional commuting. Students may not accept payment for tasks performed in the MIC setting.

Students are required to prepare in consultation with supervisor and lay committee a learning covenant for each semester in the parish, along with a project which is named in the first semester and carried out in the second. Supervisors will be expected to discuss monthly reflection topics as they impact the MIC congregation, leadership or supervisor with the students. The monthly reflection topics will be discussed in the MIC Class which meets on the first Thursday of each month. MIC supervisors are welcome to join us for class. Supervisors will also sign off on supervision hours and complete written evaluations about their student(s) at the end of the year.

The Ministry in Context program is required for M.Div. candidates but is open to MAM candidates as well.