

# Summary of discussion on the report of the ELCA Theological Education Advisory Council

PLTS Advisory Board and Cal Lutheran Convocators

April 1, 2016

Lundring Events Center

## **In response to the prompt,**

**“What does the church need in its leaders for today and tomorrow?”**

Cultural fluency...ambassadorship for mission...faith courage to follow the spirit...  
technological skill...entrepreneurship...community building...  
embodiment of the gospel...theological thinking...engaging teaching...  
ability to hear voices on the underside...relational maturity and self awareness...  
compassion...ability to think/speak/act contextually and creatively... faith...  
responsiveness rather than reactivity...global awareness...political insight...  
interpretation of the gospel...listening...change agency...flexibility...economic knowledge...  
bi-vocationality...non-anxious presence...innovation...willingness to experiment...  
translation of theology into secular language...understanding Lutheran identity...  
ability to engage the world...ability to nurture leaders...  
comfort and delight with diversity...sense of purpose...understanding of other faiths...  
centered in Word and sacrament

## **In response to the prompt,**

**“What do church leaders need to reach these goals?”**

Training in different cultural contexts, understanding privilege/power dynamics  
Training in skills of listening, outreach, testimony  
Skill in community organizing  
Spiritual formation  
Biblical and theological literacy  
Formation of self-awareness, family systems, emotional maturity  
Training in leadership, entrepreneurship, technology, business, marketing and management  
Outdoor/ecological immersion  
Training in networking, shared leadership  
Exposure to storytelling, mysticism, interfaith contexts

## **In response to the prompt,**

**“What programs, plans, events could be provided to future church leaders?”**

Lutheran Theological Faculty of the West  
Los Angeles Basin satellite learning centers  
Feedback loop from local faith community needs to filling gaps in skills and knowledge  
Grant writing workshops  
Marketing/branding workshops  
Leadership events about best practices (e.g., Global Leadership Summit, Disney Leaders)

Opportunity for spiritual formation  
Interim ministry training for leading through transitions  
Global immersion; immersion in contexts of poverty  
Workshops for strategic planning and implementation  
Congregational re-development training  
Story sharing with TEEM students  
Non-profit leadership training  
Ethics training  
Apprenticeship programs at out-of-the-box places (e.g., Homeboy Industries, Night Ministry)  
Internship at Cal Lutheran  
Sharing of learning with congregants  
Education for a balanced life  
Understanding role clarity  
More teeth in requirement for continuing education for current leaders

**In response to the prompt,**

**“How might we strengthen callings to church ministries?” (Recommendation 2A)**

Invitation to Service events for young people at Cal Lutheran  
Synodical attention to vocational discernment in campus ministries  
Synodical teams to address vocational discernment among first-third life (ages 1-30),  
and have a synod staff person be advocate  
Focus on vocation in missional gatherings  
Develop synodical theme on vocation  
Work with Border and Urban Servant Corps  
A la Seattle University, offer year-long course, “What does it mean to be a Lutheran?”  
Congregational training to encourage church vocations  
Identify candidates and develop mentorships  
Attention to vocation in Youth Ministry Training Event  
Build participation in Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)

**In response to the prompt,**

**“How can we strengthen lay theological education?” (Recommendation 2C)**

Schedule offerings to be convenient to workers.  
Expand online offerings  
Create a series of TED-like talks by Lutheran educators, produced by Cal Lutheran  
Create missional gatherings for lay people  
Create Lutheran Academy of the Rockies  
Develop Days of Theological Reflection  
Develop Congregational Education trips  
Encourage Stephen Ministry programs

**In response to the prompt,**

**“How to we strengthen continuing education for church leaders?  
(Recommendation 2D)**

Put teeth in the requirement

Offer classes in technology, social media, languages, psychology

Create a synodical or regional Doctor of Ministry program

Between church and lay leaders, develop comprehensive ministry reviews,  
with suggestions for further education

Expand Intentional Interim Training

Continue to build Cal Lutheran Executive Skills for Pastors

Utilize Rainbow Trail Faith Formation Summit

**In responses to the prompt,**

**“How can synods increase funding and other support for theological education?”  
(Recommendation 3C)**

Seek Lilly grant to explore financial challenges of church leaders, helping to reduce debt

Build culture of generosity and stewardship

Identify congregations with seminary scholarships and point candidates to them

Publicize candidate stories and needs

Invite seminarians on break to visit congregations

Encourage synod-based scholarship funds

Educate congregations about what it takes to train church leaders

Re-think Lutheran Year