

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies Presents The Art of Transitional Leadership

*Learning Ministry Skills for Today's and Tomorrow's Church
Pastors, Staff, COMs and Congregational Leaders
February 8-12, 2021*

Online

Whether it is a change in leadership or a changing community, leading a congregation through change is both challenging and rewarding. It takes knowledge, skill, resilience and spiritual strength to navigate the waters of change in a way that leaders and congregations thrive. This training is for individuals who are considering ministry in temporary settings (as an interim, transitional or designated pastor) or are experiencing ministry in these transitional times. Materials presented will include the basics of transitional ministry and will be of value to all congregational pastors regardless of their ministry setting. Best practices in transitional ministry include ways to enter the congregation and community, how to analyze a congregation's strength and growing edges, and how to assist a congregation in moving toward a vibrant future. This training will delve into navigating change, the pastor as a spiritual interpreter of transition, family systems, mission focus ministry, conflict mediation, and building resiliency.

Participants completing the full 30 hours of training will meet the requirements for Week I Transitional Ministry Education. If you want a certificate of completion, you must actively participate in all sessions in their entirety. We will meet Monday-Thursday from 9:00-11:30, 1:30-4:30 and Friday from 9:00-noon. Tuition and fees cover the tuition as well as the costs of taking the Thomas Kilman Inventory and the Intercultural Development Inventory.

Registration

<https://synod-of-lakes-and-prairies.events.idloom.com/the-art-of-transitional-leadership2021>

Costs: Tuition and fees \$ 400/person

Leadership:

Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley
Rev. Dr. Deb DeMeester
Rev. Dr. Jeff Japinga
RE Rachel Yates

Required Reading:

1. *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going? Leading in a Liminal Season* by Susan Beaumont
2. TBD

Feedback from our Fall 2020 cohort

What would you like most to say about your experiences as a student in this course?

The knowledge I gained has been invaluable. I may not enter the transitional ministry for a few years, but the learning applies to any ministry.

This was exciting and challenging for me. I feel that I have grown by leaps and bounds. It has prepared me much better for the challenges we are facing in our congregation.

I don't know how you would improve it. How can you fully prepare a person for transitional ministry?

This was one of the best trainings I have had in ministry. I think all pastors should do it.

I very much appreciated how well y'all pivoted to Zoom. You did it very well. Excellent use of videos and panelists -- I felt that you used the media well there.

Well done to all of you! Thank you for sharing your passion and care for the church and its leaders; transitional and installed.

I really enjoyed and appreciated this course! I learned a lot and am excited to see how God will use it in my future ministry experience.

I think the leadership team navigated the online learning environment very well - good spans of time spent morning, afternoon, and evening, good mix of presentation styles

Leadership Team



SanDawna Ashley is the Executive Presbyter for the Minnesota Valleys Presbytery. She has served as faculty for the Art of Transitional Ministry Training for six years. Previously an Assistant Stated Clerk, Manager for Call Process Support and Teaching Elders Ministries in the Office of the General Assembly in her work, she provided training, consultation, coaching, and resources for presbyteries in support of congregations, COMs, call seekers and calling organizations. Additionally, her experience includes serving as the denomination's Associate for Leadership Development with direct responsibility for equipping adaptive pastors, working with committees and assisting call seekers in vocational discernment. Her pastoral service includes serving as pastor of congregations in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Illinois. SanDawna holds degrees from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) with a concentration in leadership development and congregational transformation, Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary Master of Divinity in the Psychology of Religion and Pastoral Care (M.Div.) and Georgia State University Bachelor of Social Work (BSW).



Deb DeMeester is Director of Leadership Development for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. She provides training in presbyteries on a number of topics, facilitates strategic conversations, and supports a variety of groups and committees, including Synod School. Prior to being called to the Synod, Deb was Director of the Master Program for Public Safety Leaders (both face to face and online programs) and taught regularly in the doctoral program for Leadership Development at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. Her pastoral service includes serving congregations of all sizes as an installed pastor, interim pastor, and stated supply, all in Minnesota. Deb's education includes BA in political science from Westminster College, MA in College Student Services, Bowling Green State University, M.Div. from Yale Divinity School, and Ed.D. from the University of St. Thomas.



Jeffrey Japinga is executive presbyter for the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. In this work, he provides strategic and transformational leadership to a presbytery increasingly focused on turning itself outward by supporting its congregations and equipping its leaders to do the ministry God is calling them to do in the places God is calling them to be; and by governing effectively in support of those ministries. He has served the church for 33 years, beginning on the national staff of the Reformed Church in America (as editor of its denominational magazine; as director of its work in discipleship and faith formation; and as executive coordinator for the office of the general secretary); and then on the faculty of McCormick Theological Seminary, a PCUSA seminary in Chicago, as dean of the doctor of ministry program, assistant professor of church leadership, and founder of a non-degree program in leadership. He holds degrees from Northwestern University (in journalism); New Brunswick Theological Seminary (M.Div.); and McCormick Theological Seminary (D.Min.)



Rachel Yates is the Presbytery Executive for the Presbytery of Milwaukee. In this role, she helps the leadership of the Presbytery to implement its vision through innovative and strategic initiatives. She began in this role in January 2018, after serving Presbyterian World Mission as its Associate Director for Program and a Church Support Associate. Yates is a ruling elder who practiced law in Colorado for 23 years. She and her husband have one daughter, who also lives in the Milwaukee area with her husband and son.