

Leadership for Faithful Innovation Learning Community

Overview Summary

God is up to something new. We believe the Holy Spirit is moving ahead of the church, calling the church into a new future in a time of disruptive social and cultural change. This presents some new leadership challenges for the local church. Luther Seminary and many synods are recognizing that even pastors who are really good at leading in the local church are facing challenges which they don't know how to address. These pastors often feel isolated in their work. This journey is designed to connect pastors, synod leaders, congregations, and the seminary into a new kind of generative learning community which provides enough depth, longevity, space, structure, and support to innovate faithfully in today's world. Together, we will engage ancient spiritual practices and cutting-edge innovation theory as we discover ways to join God in cultivating Christian faith in community. Rather than work harder at old ministry patterns that are breaking down, we will seek to identify and embody together faithful ways to lead the church more deeply into God's life and love for the world.

What do we receive from participating in this learning community?

- Each congregation will experience new ways of being the church in their own local context and create a plan for how to continue faithfully innovating in the future
- Pastors and lay leaders will receive monthly coaching from trained coaches throughout the process
- Pastors and lay leaders will benefit from learning with their peers in the learning community
- In-person training sessions provided by the Luther Seminary Innovation Team three times per year

What is the time commitment?

- For Pastors - 3 In-Person trainings each year (1.5 days per training). Monthly coaching calls in-person or on Zoom.
- For Congregations - 3 In-Person trainings each year (1 day per training) and monthly coaching meetings.

What is the Content?

- **Listening** to God, each other, ourselves, and the World
- **Reconnecting** with God's faithfulness and God's story
- **Defining** the challenges we are facing
- **Reframing** our expectations and goals
- **Cultivating** new ways of being church through spiritual practices and innovation

Who is leading this?

This learning community opportunity is being offered through the Luther Seminary Innovation Team in partnership with the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod.

Cost:

\$2,000 per congregation per year (3-year process, total cost \$6,000). First year requires only pastor participation. A guiding team of 5-7 lay people from the congregation would participate in the trainings and coaching in years two and three of the process (2019-2020 and 2020-2021).