



ELCA Coaching Ministry Updates:

What's going on in ELCA's Coaching Ministry? Nathan Swenson Reinhold, Coaching Coordinator of the Metro-DC Synod says, "The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is doing many really terrific things to support the reboot of the denomination's coaching ministry. At present it offers free continuing education hours for those who have at least Level 1 training in the ELCA's current model of certification. Hosted by CoachNet Global, these free Zoom calls give participants opportunities to review coaching as a technology and art, and to see its application in specialty modes related to congregational needs. We have had conversations now on Stewardship, Discipleship, and most recently Congregational Vitality."

Thank you, Nathan, for this introduction. Indeed we are striving to live more fully into our God-given potential. What does this look like? One way this is happening is the deepening engagement and use of coaching in many areas of ministry across our denomination. Currently we offer specialty coaching in the areas of:

- Stewardship
- Discipleship
- Mission Renewal/Congregational Vitality
- Care for Creation
- Creating Generous Congregations

Other areas of experimentation include:

- World Hunger
- Story Matters
- the Generosity Project
- Pastors Approaching Retirement.

It is important to remember these examples represent just some of the projects where coaching is being utilized. Likewise, this does not represent the innumerable 1-1

coaching conversations happening across our denomination between leaders that are experiencing or desire change and the coaches committed to journeying with them.

It seems people are grasping the true essence of coaching – that this fabulous tool helps us name a specific invitation (goal) God is giving us and discover how we will get there. It is a way for us to become unstuck, move a vision to reality, and develop positive habits.

Different from consulting, mentoring, and counseling, the power of coaching lies in the foundational belief that the person being coached is the expert of their paradigm and is moving from a good spot to an even BETTER SPOT! (This reinforces the concept of God's provision and abundance and our identity in Christ.) The tools of deep listening and powerful questioning are used to help the individual name themselves as beloved of God, gifted by God and invited by God into God's work of healing and loving the world. Each coaching conversation contains some essence of this equation and empowers the individual to learn how to think and act differently in order to live more fully into this identity.

For those of you that are numbers people – here are some stats from ELCA's Coaching Ministry 2018:

Completed Coach Launch in 2018 = 109

On path to credentialing in 2018 = 11

Total number of active Level 1 coaches = 292

Total number of active Level 2 coaches/specialty coaches

- Active Stewardship coaches = 47
- Active Discipleship coaches = 54
- Active Mission Developer/Congregational Vitality coaches = 16

Total number of coaches completing Level 2 specialty training in the areas of stewardship, discipleship, and mission development/congregational vitality in 2018 = 51

- The number of people moving on from Level 1 training to specialty coach training is also an indicator of the success of the coaching program/training.

** Note:

- These statistics represent individuals that trained through the ELCA Coach Training program partnered with the professional coach training organization CoachNet which is a training

program credentialed by the International Coach Federation – the gold standard of coaching across the world. Some ELCA synods engage in other types of coach training paradigms. Statistics of coaches trained in these alternate paradigms are not reflected in these numbers.

- The term ‘active coach’ has been defined by the ELCA Coaching Leadership Team as meeting the following criteria:
 - ❖ Have a working knowledge of the ICF Core Competencies and comfort with the general shape and flow of coaching conversations.
 - ❖ Coach at least two clients for a minimum of five sessions each within one year of completion of ELCA Coach Launch, and each following year.
 - ❖ Check in with their Synod Coaching Coordinator at least once each year.



Yes, God has provided for us abundantly and we look forward to all that is in store for us in 2019 as we walk into God’s reality and our promised future firmly rooted in our resurrected Christ!

More information regarding our ministry, how you can connect with a coach and how to train to become a coach can be found at our website: elcacoaching.org.



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