



“It’s not easy to be the church these days”. This is a common sentiment in mainline Christian denominations, and the ELCA is no exception. We know there is a need for hope and grace and the power of the gospel, but the ways of communicating that and the ways of being church in the world are shifting beneath our feet. How much more has this become true in the past 18 months as we have attempted to negotiate the added challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic?

In response to this truth and the desire to raise up courageous, resilient, and faithful leaders, the Rocky Mountain Synod has created a leadership initiative called Excellence in Leadership. It is a two-year investment, with classes meeting 1-2 times per month, that will provide tools and resources to last a lifetime.

This initiative is grounded in authentically claiming our identities as individuals and as church. By engaging deeply in the studies of adaptive leadership, vulnerability, emotional intelligence, family systems, TheoryU, and spiritual practices, we will be stepping forward to meet the future boldly. The Rocky Mountain Synod is inviting participants from all regions and walks of life – lay or rostered, young or old. That includes you!

During the time in the pandemic, they have begun offering online cohorts for this program. This September they will begin two new ones, one on Thursday evening and one on Friday morning.

Truly this initiative is helpful for not only congregations, but for all people who wish to improve their leadership skills and increase their capacity for emotional intelligence. Whether you would like to do it as an individual or would like to participate as a group, this initiative is for you.

Listen to this testimony from The Rev. Will Johnson, a participant and trainer in the program.

<https://vimeo.com/582292569>

We don't know exactly what the future holds, but we do know that it begins with each personal journey toward emotional and spiritual wholeness. Let’s embark on this journey together.

Find out more information and registration here: <https://www.rmselfca.org/leaders/excellence-in-leadership>