

Resource for Present & Future Church Workers

What a Way is a four-year-old initiative to recruit and retain professional church workers that offers the following resources:

- ◆ curriculum materials for students in kindergarten through Grade 8, for Grade Schools and/or Sunday Schools
- ◆ resources designed to help congregations host a “Recruitment Sunday” or “Concordia Sunday” – bulletin/newsletter articles, sermons, Bible studies
- ◆ DVD - introduces you to the joys and challenges, ups and downs, of working in the church through the real lives of church workers
- ◆ website, www.whataway.org, with information about church careers, LCMS colleges and seminaries, continuing education, supporting church workers, staying healthy and related topics.

Good Questions - from www.whataway.org

Q: What types of careers are included in professional church work?

A: The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod recognizes six professional church careers. These are: Pastor, Teacher, Deaconess, Director of Christian Education, Director of Parish Music, Director of Christian Outreach, and Lay Minister. To find out more about each of these programs, go to the following link and read about each of them.

<http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=4180>

Q: How do I know if I should pursue a professional church career?

A: God created each of us as unique beings with a one-of-a-kind combination of gifts and talents. In Ephesians 4: 11-12, we read "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up."

If you have a desire in your heart for service, a passion to spread the news of Jesus Christ, and you feel a calling by God, then please continue to pray for guidance in your decision making. God has an incredible plan for you - continue to keep your heart open to the blueprint.

Q: What educational background do I need to go into one of these careers?

A: Depending on where you are in your life plan, many different steps can be taken.

Traditional students (soon to be graduating from high school or currently enrolled in college): Your most direct approach is to attend one of ten Concordia University System schools. Not all schools offer all programs, but with a little research and some campus visits, you'll find the right one for you.

- Concordia University - Ann Arbor, MI <http://www.cuaa.edu/>
- Concordia University - Austin, TX <http://www.concordia.edu/>
- Concordia College - Bronxville, NY <http://www.concordia-ny.edu/>
- Concordia University - Irvine, CA <http://www.cui.edu/>
- Concordia University - Mequon, WI <http://www.cuw.edu/>
- Concordia University - Portland, OR <http://www.cu-portland.edu/>
- Concordia University - River Forest, IL <http://www.curf.edu/>
- Concordia University - St Paul, MN <http://www.csp.edu/>
- Concordia University - Selma, AL <http://www.concordiaselma.edu/>
- Concordia University - Seward, NE <http://www.cune.edu/>

Non-traditional students: Life is always throwing us curve balls, so whether you are searching because of job loss, or just a desire unfulfilled, there are many options for you to complete a course of study in any of our church professional programs. Accelerated programs, distance learning, continuing education, and cooperative programs are some ways to obtain your new career. Please contact any of the Concordia University System (CUS) schools (see above), seminaries (see below), or your [church district](#) to find out about options available to you.

- Concordia Seminary - St Louis, MO <http://www.csl.edu/>
- Concordia Theological Seminary - Ft Wayne, IN <http://www.ctsfw.edu/>

Q: Does the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod provide tuition assistance for students entering these programs?

A: The synod itself does not offer scholarship programs. But, many if not all of our church districts offer financial assistance to students entering church professional programs. Each Concordia University System school offers some type of financial assistance in the form of grants and scholarships, as do many home congregations. Other sources might be LWML, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and various other church affiliated organizations.

Q: What if I'm interested in more than one program?

A :When you enter a college or university, it is not required that you know exactly what program of study you will ultimately complete. Take the time to talk with all the program directors, take some courses in each program, talk to current professionals in each of the programs you are interested in, and shadow these individuals to get a true look at their responsibilities. The more you educate yourself prior to completing your degree, the better fit you will have within your profession.

Encourage a Vocation in the Church: Recruiting and Supporting Church Workers

"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it'" (Is. 30:21).

What a way our God has set before us! Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except by Him. To know Jesus is to know the Father (John 14: 6-7).

With Christ as the cornerstone, the Church, the body of Christ, lives, moves and has its being. As His people, we look to ways we can serve Him.

All of us are called to "church work." For some, the calling is to full-time service. Others are called to serve in their community, in workplaces, in families and as members of local congregations.

Together, we find joy in walking His way - joy beyond explanation!

How do we assure that there will be new workers for this joyful service ... and that current workers experience this joy in this service?



- ... to make a difference!
- ... to serve the Lord!
- ... to serve others!
- ... to use your gifts!
- ... to go to work!
- ... to live your life!