

Leadership Development

The Leadership Development Committee supports congregations with resources for ministry. Most of this is provided through an annual workshop for church councils; a program for the development of lay ministry, called Lay Pastoral Assistants Program; and many other resources such as conflict management, which may be found on the Synod website, under the topic of "Leadership".

The 2011 Church Council workshop, called "Renewing" provided participants with the chance to hear from keynote speaker, The Rev. Chad Moir, who described his unique approach to a more relational type of ministry that he's developed in Saskatchewan. Many questions and helpful conversation indicated the willingness of congregations to look at new ministry ideas. Seven other workshop options were offered and a time of fellowship over the delicious lunch served by the ladies of Peace Lutheran Church, Leduc, rounded out the day.

The 2012 Church Council workshop will be held at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Red Deer on March 17, with the Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen as the keynote speaker. The theme will be "Transformers" based on the verse from Romans 12:2. Pastor Gordon will speak on "Transformed by Grace". Other workshops offered will provide church leaders with information on finances, worship, social ministry, hospitality, volunteering, conducting effective meetings, and family ministry. Please register (by calling the synod office) early for the event that will equip you for leadership in the congregation.

The Lay Pastoral Assistants Program is designed for those lay members who are interested in serving the congregation by developing their ministry skills and advancing their understanding of who we are as Lutherans. Although there are about thirty students registered, due to everyone's busy schedule, there are usually about 12 – 15 who attend the one-day courses. In June, The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer was the lecturer on the topic of "Shaping Worship: the Freedom and the Flexibility". The day passed by too quickly as participants tried to apply all the lesson principles into a month of worship service planning. In November, The Rev. Tim Posyluzny will lead a course on "Last Conversations – Palliative Care and Beyond". This course will take place at the FCJ Centre in Calgary. Call the synod office (780, 439-2636) to register as an LPA student or to attend this course.

Thanks to The Rev. Eleanor Ness whose term of service on the Committee has expired. She provided invaluable leadership to the Committee meetings and to the events that were hosted. Members on the Committee include Ron Bennett, Janet Charlton, Gary Unterschultz, and Anne Lysing.

Respectfully Submitted by
Sharon Villetard, Program Coordinator