

## THE PARTNERS

### CONGREGATIONS IN 6 ELCA SYNODS OF WI

Northwest	Northern Great Lakes
East Central	Greater Milwaukee
South Central	La Crosse Area

### ELCA LUTHER SEMINARY IN ST. PAUL, MN

- Dr. Dwight Zscheile, Vice President of Innovation and Associate Professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership & author of The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age
- Rev. Michael Binder Mill City Church, Minneapolis and PhD student at Luther Seminary with a focus on missional theology and leadership

### SEIBERT LUTHERAN FOUNDATION

Siebert Lutheran Foundation is an independent, private foundation established by the late Albert F. Siebert to advance the Lutheran church and its ministries. Pan-Lutheran in nature, the Foundation accepts funding requests from ministry programs associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our geographic focus is Wisconsin, especially Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine and Kenosha counties.

## THE PRIORITIES

### ADAPTIVE COMMUNAL LEARNING PROCESS

Groups will form to pray, encourage curiosity, develop and implement holy experiments, reflect on their learnings, make adjustments and continue forward in ministry.

### BUILD UP THE CHURCH

We will use our words and actions to promote hopeful and healthy ministry that is not afraid of differences, nor resentful of Jesus' call to be made new for the sake of the Gospel.

### COACHING NETWORK

Coaches will be trained to support, encourage and support congregation guiding teams and pastoral leaders all along the way.

### DISCERN JESUS' WAY

We will commit to Bible study and prayer that draws us closer to God in ways we expect and ways we don't.

### EMPOWER & EQUIP LEADERS

We will be lay led and pastor supported. The process centers around Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit among *all* people of *all* ages and types. Inevitably, new understandings and expectations of roles will emerge.

## THE PROCESS

### AUGUST 2018

- Training for Bishops, DEMs & Point People in the 6 synods at Luther Seminary

### FALL 2018

- Invitation to congregations to consider participating and discernment resources available to congregations
- Recruit coaches
- Congregations form Agile Church Guiding Teams (4-6 people)
- Secure participation covenants from congregations by **Dec. 31, 2018**.

### WINTER 2019

- **Saturday, January 19, 2018**  
Training 1 for Guiding Teams & Rostered Leaders; pairing of Coaches with Guiding Teams (place TBD)
- **Coaches' Training (Sat., Feb. 16, 2018)**
- First round of work in congregations led by Guiding Teams and monthly coaching sessions for Guiding Teams
- Monthly coaching for rostered leaders

### SPRING/SUMMER 2019

- **Saturday, April 27, 2019**  
Training 2 for Guiding Teams, Rostered Leaders and Coaches (place TBD)
- Second round of work in congregations led by Guiding Teams and monthly coaching sessions for Guiding Teams
- Monthly coaching for rostered leaders

## THE PROCESS (CONT.)

### FALL 2019

- **Saturday, September 21, 2019**  
Training 3 for Guiding Teams, Rostered Leaders and Coaches (place TBD)
- Third round of work in congregations led by Guiding Teams and monthly coaching sessions for Guiding Teams
- Monthly coaching for rostered leaders
- Celebration Event
- Evaluation
- Plans for the future

*"In an age when people are making choices about their faith, spirituality, and lives in unprecedented ways, our churches have the opportunity to be nimble, graceful, and creative."*

*--Doug Pagit: Pastor of Solomon's Porch and author of Church in the Inventive Age*

[www.lacrosseareasynd.org/agilechurch](http://www.lacrosseareasynd.org/agilechurch)

## OTHER INFORMATION

### • WHAT DOES THIS COST?

6 synods are sharing the grant (\$75,000 total), and it is being distributed according to need. In the La Crosse Area Synod, the cost to congregations who participate is **\$300** which covers all costs for all participants (trainings and coaching).

### • WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

It is open to any congregation in the La Crosse Area Synod. Go to [lacrosseareasynd.org/agilechurch](http://lacrosseareasynd.org/agilechurch) for more detailed information and discernment resources.

### • WHO IS LEADING THIS?

The synod's Director for Evangelical Mission, Pastor Libby Howe, and the chair of the synod's Evangelism and Outreach Team, Pastor Amanda Garcia, are the "point people" for this process. The Evangelism and Outreach Team will facilitate planning of the trainings and development of the coaching network.

### • I'M INTERESTED! NOW WHAT?

Call or email Pastor Libby Howe at [assistant@lacrosseareasynd.org](mailto:assistant@lacrosseareasynd.org) or 608-788-5000.

# FORWARD: FEARLESS & FAITHFUL



## A CONGREGATION BASED PROCESS TO BECOME AN AGILE CHURCH