

Job Description v3: Specific Ministry Pastor, Part-time (SMP) – LCMS

Position Title: Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)

Location: Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Reports To: Senior Pastor

SMP Program and Position Summary:

The Specific Ministry Pastor Program at Concordia Seminary is a four-year distance education program designed to prepare pastors for service in specific ministry settings. Students receive theologically rigorous training while working in a practical, ministry-based environment, receiving mentorship and guidance from experienced LCMS pastors. After completing two years of the vicarage portion of the SMP program, the SMP candidate is Called by the congregation, continues to serve under the Sr. Pastor's supervision until completing his education, and upon completion is ordained. After Ordination, the SMP will continue to serve under the Senior Pastor.

Key Responsibilities:

1. **Ministry Leadership & Preaching in accordance with LCMS liturgical practices:**
 - As needed, preach on occasion and lead worship services
 - Administer the Sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion)
 - As directed, lead Bible studies, Sunday school, lessons at our church school, and other educational programs to nurture the spiritual growth of the congregation.
2. **Pastoral Care:**
 - Provide pastoral care to members, including counseling, hospital visits, home visits, and responding to emergency situations.
 - Offer support to families in crisis, grieving, or facing life challenges.
 - Participate in the lives of members, fostering a spirit of unity and care
3. **Contextual Learning & Development:**
 - Engage in the SMP program's academic coursework while actively applying theological education within the local ministry context.
 - Work closely with a local pastor-mentor who will provide day-to-day guidance, support, and prayer.
 - Reflect regularly on personal and professional development in light of coursework, ministry practice, and mentor feedback.
4. **Mission and Outreach:**
 - Identify and nurture ministry opportunities to engage and reach both the congregation and the surrounding community.
 - Promote and lead outreach initiatives, aligning them with the broader goals and mission of the LCMS.
 - Assist with evangelism efforts and help grow the church's presence within the community.
5. **Administrative Responsibilities:**
 - Collaborate with church leadership, staff, and lay leaders in planning and executing ministry programs and events.
 - Participate in regular meetings with the senior pastor, staff, and church council

6. Mentoring & Development:

- Engage in ongoing personal development through feedback from the mentor-pastor and engagement in seminary-based courses.
- Participate in peer learning groups and networking opportunities within the SMP program to share experiences and learn from fellow pastors.

Qualifications:

- **Education:** Enrollment in the Concordia Seminary Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program or completed the vicarage portion and is working toward certification as an SMP Pastor.
- **Ordination:** Must meet the requirements of ordination and be eligible for placement within the LCMS after completing the SMP Program.
- **Skills:**
 - Strong understanding of LCMS doctrine, worship practices, and mission priorities.
 - Effective pastoral care and counseling skills.
 - Administrative and organizational skills.
 - Ability to work collaboratively with other pastors, church leaders, and laypeople.
- **Spiritual Maturity:** A strong personal faith, commitment to the Lutheran Confessions, and dedication to serving God's people with humility and integrity.

2.13 Membership Status and Limitations Specific Ministry Pastor Status and Limitations (Concordia website)

2.13.1 A "specific ministry pastor" is a minister of religion—ordained who has completed the requirements for service as a specific ministry pastor and has been examined by one of the Synod's seminaries, has received a regular call, and has been placed by the Council of Presidents into a specific Word and Sacrament ministry context. He is eligible to serve only in that specific ministry context for which he has been trained and may not be offered or accept a call for ministry for which he has not been certified as determined by his district president. He shall serve under the supervision of his district president and another pastor who is not a specific ministry pastor.

1. Because he is under supervision of another pastor and because a specific ministry pastor's theological education has been formed in part by and for a specific ministry context, he may not be placed or called into ecclesiastical roles that exercise pastoral oversight outside the context of his call.
2. A specific ministry pastor is not eligible to:
 - a. serve as a voting delegate to a national convention of the Synod—but may serve as an advisory delegate to national conventions and as a pastoral delegate to district conventions;
 - b. hold any elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level that is assigned by the Bylaws of the Synod to "a pastor" or "an ordained minister" (although specific ministry pastors may serve in all other capacities, especially representing the ministerial contexts in which they serve);
 - c. supervise vicars; or
 - d. serve as a circuit visitor.
3. The ministers of religion—ordained records maintained by district presidents as well as the official membership roster of the Synod shall distinguish between specific ministry pastors and other pastors.