

**“Statement of Commitment—Authorized Lay Leaders”**

The term “authorized” in regard to the Lay Ministry Institute lay leader programs carries a distinct meaning, and does not automatically apply to all LMI program participants. Most participants in the programs of the LMI do so for the purpose of making their skills and gifts available as resources to the congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. These participants seek, at program’s end, the authorization of the bishop in addition to a certificate of completion. Authorization by the bishop assures congregations that such resource people have been adequately prepared, continue to develop their skills, and are accountable to the larger church.

As a condition for application as an authorized leader or for continued authorization, please read, complete and sign the following Statement of Commitment for Authorized Lay Leaders:

*As an Authorized Lay Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, I shall...*

- *Continue to live out my baptismal covenant as a disciple of Jesus Christ;*
- *Continue my participation as an active, communing, contributing member of \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA in \_\_\_\_\_ (town);*
- *Carry out my ministry in accord with the Holy Scriptures and Creeds of the Church;*
- *Accept and adhere to the Lutheran Confessions as true and faithful expositions of the Gospel;*
- *Willingly serve in response to the needs of the synod;*
- *Uphold my covenant with my Mentor, the Rev. \_\_\_\_\_, as outlined in our covenant agreement (copy provided to synod);*
- *Lead an ethical and moral life in accordance with the standards described in “Vision and Expectations: Ordained Ministers” of the ELCA.*

*I promise to do these things, and I ask God to help me.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include the following in addition to this signed document in an application for continued authorization:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant agreement signed by Authorized Lay Leader
- \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant agreement signed by Mentor

Submit to:

The Lay Ministry Institute  
Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA  
P.O. Box 36  
Lewisburg, PA 17837