

**Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA
Authorized Lay Worship Leader Program**

APPLICATION

Personal Information

Full Name _____

Home Address _____

Preferred Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Resident of PA for 10 or more years? _____

Congregation _____

Church Address _____

Pastor _____ Membership since (year) _____

Describe your participation in the ministry of your congregation. Include leadership roles and terms of office if applicable.

Describe your participation in the ministry of your conference, synod, region and/or Churchwide organization of the ELCA.

Family Information

Marital Status: Single / Married / In publicly accountable same-sex relationship

If applicable:

Spouse's Full Name _____

Date of Marriage _____

Spouse's Occupation _____

Children's Names and Ages:

Educational Background

High School

Graduation Date

College/Technical School/Other

Name: _____

Degree/Certificate/Area of Study: _____

Graduation Date: _____

College/Technical School/Other

Name: _____

Degree/Certificate/Area of Study: _____

Graduation Date: _____

Employment Background (starting with most recent)

Employer	Dates of Employment	Job Description
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As a candidate for this ministry, I understand I will be held accountable to the synod's Candidacy committee and Lay Ministry Institute board regarding this church's expectations for my speech and conduct. I understand that my participation in this ministry brings increased attention to my life. I am responsible for informing my bishop regarding any circumstance that might subject me to discipline and understand that the bishop and/or committees may modify the status of my participation in this program in response to my speech and conduct. Please answer the following questions (include explanation for Yes):

1. Do you belong to any organization or lodge like the Free Masons or Eastern Star which claim to possess in its teachings and ceremonies that which the Lord has given solely to the Church?

2. Do you have any learning or health concerns that you would like to share with the Lay Ministry committee?

3. Are there issues in your family situation or personal life that could adversely affect your ability to serve in this ministry?

4. Do you now engage or have you ever engaged in any addictive behavior, including drug or alcohol abuse or sexual or pornographic addictions?

5. Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, charged with, or convicted of a crime or illegal conduct, including conduct resulting in suspension or revocation of your driver's license or termination of employment?

6. Have you engaged in any behavior or been involved in any situations that, if they became known by the church, might seriously damage your ability to continue in this ministry?

7. Is there additional information that would assist the committees in considering your participation in this ministry or that you believe the committees should know?

References

List the names, addresses, phone numbers and titles of three persons who have known you for an extended period of time and who may be asked for written and/or verbal references on your behalf.

Do not include your pastor, as they are required to submit a separate reference form.

If possible, include your current or most recent employer, someone who knows you from your involvement in the community or your congregation, and someone who is well acquainted with you and your family.

1.

2.

3.

Spiritual Formation

Please answer the following questions.

1. Why do you want to participate in this Lay Leadership program?
2. In what ways, if any, will your family support you in your studies and beyond?
3. What are your special interests in church work?
4. What special gifts and skills do you bring to this area of ministry?
5. Describe the studies you have undertaken and completed that would assist you in this Lay Leadership program.
6. Describe any special needs you have that might impact your participation in the preparation of or performance of this role of lay leadership.

ENTRANCE ESSAY

The entrance essay is an autobiographical reflection which should contain insights and understandings gained during the period of discernment leading to your decision to apply for authorized lay ministry in the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is not expected that your process of discernment is completed. You are asked only to provide an honest assessment of your current self-understanding of your journey thus far and your hope for the future. It will provide the committees with background that will help guide your interview. For each of the four parts, please write two to three pages in length, double spaced, and photocopy ready. Please submit a copy of the essay to your lay ministry committee through your synod office. Keep a copy of the essay for yourself and bring it with you to your Entrance Interview.

1. Provide a brief autobiography that describes your family of origin and how this has shaped who you are, your faith formation over the years, and your current life situation.
2. Describe your journey of discernment. What events, circumstances, and persons in your life have affected your faith and led you to this lay ministry? How did you first experience your call to this lay ministry, or how have others encouraged you to explore this lay ministry? What have you done to deepen this sense of call?
3. Reflect on your personal journey of faith and relationship to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Upper Susquehanna Synod, including your current church involvement.
4. Describe your relationship with God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.