

Report for 2026 Synod Assembly
Lay Ministry Institute

Lay Ministry Institute

The Lay Ministry Institute's (LMI) mission is to educate and equip lay people for theologically sound ministry. The Institute is under the office of the bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, which provides oversight and accountability to its programs and recommends commissioning lay leaders for ministry in our congregations. Bishop Miller has tasked the board with providing opportunities for individuals to grow their gifts in ministry.

Lay Ministry Board Members

Wendy Davis

Pastor Ted Cockley

Kaye Long – Secretary

Sherry Bingaman

Pastor Mindy Bartholomew

Jim Girven

Diane Bubb – Chair

Pastor Karla Leiby

Bishop Craig Miller

May 2025 to April 2026

- May 2025 – LWL Training providers are Faith+Lead (Luther Seminary) and Kindling Faith (United Lutheran Seminary). Chad Hershberger and Amber Keefer were commissioned as LWLs. A Variety of Gifts training was held at Milton Lutheran Church. One student decided not to continue with additional training. One student requested more training and a plan was developed.
- July 2025 – New student was entranced. Discussed supply process.
- September 2025 – Meeting with Rev. John Kratz of Go Tell It IN The Mountains Initiative. Planned Day of Discernment.
- October 2025 – Day of Discernment was held at Camp Mt. Luther on October 11.
- January 2026 – 2026 training planning. One student was entranced into candidacy. Reviewed Roster of Lay Leaders. New student applied for LWL training. Handbook submitted to Synod Council. One student decided not to continue with the plan for more training.
- March 2026 – Finalized May 2 A Variety of Gifts Training Day. Held Worship Practicum on March 21 at Washingtonville Lutheran Church. Scheduled Heart of the Matter (Lutheran Confessions) training for July 18. A Variety of Gifts Fall 2026 scheduled for October 10.
- April 2026 – Student is in the application process.

Website: <https://www.uss-elca.org/becoming-a-rostered-leader/>.

Respectfully Submitted on May 1, 2026 by:

Diane Booth Bubb, Vicar LMI Board Chair