

Pastor-2-Pastor: Partnering for Pastoral Excellence

• ANNUAL REPORT OF PASTOR-2-PASTOR in 2015

Pastor-2-Pastor is a cooperative ministry sponsored by Southwestern and Southeastern Minnesota synods and Gustavus Adolphus College. The purpose of the program is to support and encourage care for pastors in body, mind and spirit. Pastor-2-Pastor welcomes clergy from Southeastern and Southwestern Minnesota Synods and CCM congregations who have interest in collegiality and spiritual growth.

The Pastor-2-Pastor Program has two key elements:

❖ **Small groups** meet monthly for peer-to-peer accountability and support. These colleague groups are led by trained facilitators.

❖ **24-Hour Gatherings (3 annually)** are held at Gustavus Adolphus College.

In 201 these gatherings had the following foci:

Winter (February): “Christian Prayer and Meditation Practices and the Medical Sciences: Powerful Healing Resources in our Midst”. *Speakers were: Mari Thorkelson; Will and Patricia Freiart; William Shores; and Tammy Olson Devine*

Spring (April): “Hosting Conversations that Matter”. *Speakers were: Dave Newell and Katie Boone*

Fall (October): “The Agile Church: Spirit-led Innovation in an Uncertain Age”
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile, Luther Seminary

An increasing number of congregational leaders recognize the importance of supporting “healthy models” for their pastors, and pastors who are committed to pastoral excellence are grateful! The Pastor-2-Pastor Program is a natural progression for First Call Pastors who have completed their initial three-year First Call Theological Education program. Regardless of the length of a pastor’s service in Ordained Ministry, Pastor-2-Pastor is an asset for deepening spiritual gifts, igniting passion for ministry and supporting overall health and well-being.

We continue to cultivate funding from multiple sources. The support and hospitality of Gustavus Adolphus College and key leadership from the Office of Church Relations help to make this program beneficial to the whole of southern Minnesota and beyond. We are also grateful for the support of Thrivent Financial and the funding of our noon meal at every 24-hour Gathering.

Congregations and their organizational groups are encouraged to consider financial support for Pastor-2-Pastor as an expression of care and support for the servants of their church. The connections made by pastors in their colleague groups and during the Gatherings at Gustavus enhance and renew ministry on many levels. Congregations, Lay Leaders and other colleagues regularly benefit from the wealth of shared ideas, resources and networking. The value to the Church of holistic health, continuing education, and support for pastors is beyond measure.

Pastors are invited to join this program at the minimal cost of \$150/year; the actual cost per pastor is approximately \$700/year with the difference being generously supported by Gustavus Adolphus College, Southwestern and Southeastern Minnesota Synods, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

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