

Final Integrative Ministry Paper for DLM Diploma Program

Due Date: September 15 (for students who started in January/February/March); January 15 (for students who started June/October-November)

Goals:

- To demonstrate an integration of theory, theology, biblical connections, and personal experience related to your identity in designated lay ministry
- To name and reflect on the convictions, commitments, visions, and hopes you bring to designated lay ministry
- To provide an opportunity to incorporate learnings from ministry site appointments with learnings from readings, assignments, complementary courses, and learning circles

Requirements:

- This is neither a research paper nor a reflection paper but combines elements of both.
- All sources need to be acknowledged appropriately - footnotes/endnotes and bibliography (using Turabian, as per Learning Circle assignments document).
- **The assignment needs to refer to at least 12 of the assigned readings from all of the six learning circles. You must refer to at least one reading per learning circle – and note which learning circle you are referring to. This means that you may refer to two readings per learning circle, or you may end up referring to three or four readings from a couple of learning circles, and only one reading from another learning circle. You MUST have referred to at least 12 readings from the learning circles in your paper. Use direct quotations and paraphrases, and explicitly refer to the authors**
- The assignment needs to make reference to insights gained through the:
 - ⇒ Supervised Ministry Education (SME) site appointment experience
 - ⇒ engagement in the learning circles
 - ⇒ complementary courses
- ⇒ In order to do this, students should review all their written work from the learning circles (assignments and journals) and complementary courses (especially final papers), as well as any written reflections (journals, notes, responses to interview questions) prepared for interviews with presbytery Education & Students Committees and/or meetings with Education Supervisors and Lay Supervision Teams (LST).
- ⇒ Students should review their Mid-term Ministry Paper for the DLM Diploma Program (written after three learning circles). Note any changes in your theology, understanding of ministry, and identity as a DLM.

The assignment is structured in **two** parts:

1. A statement of identity in designated lay ministry which can be in point form in the framework of “I believe...”, or “For me, Designated Lay ministry is...” (to be not longer than **1 page**);
2. A theological reflection on the statement of identity in designated lay ministry (to be between **12 and 15 pages** long, double-spaced). The theological reflection needs to respond to the following questions, not necessarily in the following order! **Remember to cite from at least 12 assigned readings from all the learning circles.**

Questions:

1. What aspects of designated lay ministry are most important for you (including, but not limited to, worship & preaching, pastoral care, Christian education/faith formation)? Respond to the following questions in this section. *This section should be at least 6 pages in length.*
 - a. What biblical themes/stories/images/motifs most strongly influence your sense of identity in these ministries?
 - b. What theological themes/issues are most significant to you with regard to these ministries? Have these themes/issues changed for you? In what ways? Why?
 - c. What insights from theory are significant in your understanding of these ministries? (quotes/ideas/etc.). *Here is one place where you will specifically draw on assigned readings from the learning circles (you likely will also do so throughout the rest of the paper.)*
 - d. What experiences over the past three years (ministry site appointment, learning circles, readings, assignments, other employment, etc.) have contributed meaningfully to shaping your understanding of these ministries? Identify how these experiences have contributed meaningfully, giving examples from your experience or quotations (or paraphrases) from readings.
2. How has your theology changed over the three years (since you started the DLM Diploma Program)? Give examples and reflect on the changes. *At least 4 pages total.*
 - a. How do you understand God, Jesus Christ, the Spirit, and the Trinity? (Respond to each of these as separate points). *This should be at least 2 pages in length*

- b. What is your understanding of sin/separation from God and salvation/redemption/liberation? Who is saved, when, and by whom? What role, if any, do human beings play in salvation? *This should be at least 1 page in length*
 - c. What is your vision of love and justice? Be specific and explicit.
 - d. What is the nature and purpose of the church? (ecclesiology)
3. To what forms of power and vulnerability do you need to be attentive in designated lay ministry? *At least 1 page*