

Mid-Term Ministry Paper for DLM Diploma Program

Due Date: September 15 (for students who started June 2014 or March/April); January 31 (for students who started June 2015 or 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 both a research and reflection paper. As such, the following aspects **must** be included in the paper:

Format:

- Introduction, body, and conclusion. The introduction and conclusion must be at least one paragraph long, each (minimum five sentences) and should summarize the key points in the paper.
- All sources need to be acknowledged appropriately - footnotes/endnotes and bibliography (using Turabian, as per Learning Circle assignments document).

Content:

- You must refer directly to at least **six (6)** of the authors assigned during the course of the **three (3)** learning circles. You must refer to at least **one** author from each learning circle. You must demonstrate a clear connection with their theory/theology, either through using direct quotes or paraphrases, identifying the relevant ideas. Be specific – write about what exactly you have learned from the author and how you are able to apply it in your own ministry context.
- 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).

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 designated lay ministry is . . .”, or “For me, Designated Lay ministry is...” (to be not longer than **1 page**);
2. A theological reflection on your statement of identity in designated lay ministry (to be between **8 and 10 pages** long, double-spaced). The theological reflection needs to respond to **ALL** of the following questions, not necessarily in the following order!

Questions:

1. What aspects of designated lay ministry are most important for you? These can include, but are not limited to: worship & preaching, pastoral care, Christian education/faith formation. Identify **why** these aspects are important for you.
 - a. What biblical themes/stories/images/motifs most strongly influence your sense of identity in these ministries? Why do these themes/stories/etc influence your sense of identity?
 - b. What theological themes/issues are most significant to you with regard to these ministries? Why are these themes/issues significant? Theological themes include: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, ecclesiology (nature and purpose of the church), sin and grace/salvation/redemption, creation, theological anthropology (what it means to be human beings created in the image of God), Trinity, eschatology (the vision of the end-times or God’s reign), scripture.
2. What insights from theory are significant in your understanding of these ministries? (Give examples of quotes/ideas/etc. from the readings). *Remember that you need to cite at least six authors (from the assigned reading) from the three learning circles, and at least one author from each of the three learning circles.*
3. What experiences over the past year and a half (ministry site appointment, learning circles, readings, assignments, complementary courses, 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.
4. To what forms of power and vulnerability do you need to be attentive in designated lay ministry?
5. How has your theology changed over the past year and a half (since you started the DLM Diploma Program)? Give examples and reflect on the changes.
 - a. How do you understand each of: the Spirit, God, Jesus Christ, and the Trinity?
 - b. What is your understanding of sin/separation from God and salvation/redemption/liberation? What is your vision of love and justice?