



**Ministry in Context
Internship Newsletter
November 2004**

Contextual Leadership Initiative
2481 Como Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108
651/641-3266
cli@plts.luthersem.edu

This is the second newsletter of this internship year. We plan to produce a newsletter every other month and will send it out via an e-mail web link to pastors, students, and lay committee members. This month we have two articles to share with you. One from Intern Jean Hay at Mt. Olive Lutheran in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the other article from Margy Schmitt Ajer, deployed adjunct faculty for the Contextual Leadership Initiative. January's newsletter will feature an article from Intern Barbara Punch at Redeemer Lutheran in Portland, OR. We welcome your input for the Ministry in Context Newsletter. Please let me know if there is a particular topic you would find helpful or if you would like to submit an article. If you have pictures of yourself in your ministry setting, please send an electronic copy. We love to share pictures!

Sincerely,
Laure Schwartz, Coordinator
Contextual Leadership Initiative

My Internship Committee
by Intern Jean Hay, Mt. Olive, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Should I just admit, right up front, that I am being totally spoiled by my internship committee? This is the reason I was asked to write after all. Mount Olive is well seasoned when it comes to working with interns. With that perhaps comes an understanding of what works and what doesn't. I find there is certain wisdom to the tasks I've been asked to complete in my introductory weeks. But it's not established practices and processes that make the difference for me. It's the processes that aren't there.

Let me start by explaining what is in place. The first thing to know is that Mount Olive is warmly welcoming. Hospitality is important to this worshipping community, and that characteristic shapes the internship committee as well. We meet once a month, over a leisurely breakfast, hosted each time by a different person. The meals are fabulous, but I think being welcomed into each other's homes is what really makes it special. I feel invited into relationship with each person and I sense the invitation extends between members of the committee. I can only write about what I see of course, but I sense that the group gets along well and each member seems to enjoy meeting and being a part of the committee.

We spent our entire first meeting on introductions. It was wonderful to hear a little bit about each person. And it was fun to see similarities emerge among a diverse group. The diversity of age, gender and life experiences is as important to me as the connections, but it is the invitation into relationship that I cherish most.

And the invitation seems to come without expectation. It's human nature to wonder what the future holds and to categorize life experiences – it's human nature to have expectations, but I felt welcomed as I am. By this, I mean the committee, indeed the entire congregation, made, and continues to make, a special effort to meet me where I am without assuming I will be similar to last year's intern, or the one from five years ago.

With this in mind, I think the committee has been intentional about not establishing a process, but rather letting our process emerge. We spent our second meeting talking about my learning goals, and will probably let them guide our future meetings. I also deeply appreciate the hospitality / concern the members of my committee show outside of our regular meetings, as when we meet during worship or various social or mission events.

Given the attention to relationship and freedom to be who I am, I find myself trusting the process, trusting the people. Internship is a time of learning, making mistakes, and moving forward. It's not a test, and thanks to the wonderful individuals who volunteered to walk with me and help to guide me, it doesn't feel like one.

How do you learn more about the role of the Internship Committee? Access the following web link to read the Internship Committee Handbook:

http://plts.luthersem.edu/cli/internship/Lay_Committee.asp

If you have committee members who would like to receive the newsletters and other information from the Contextual Leadership Initiative Office, please complete the information form found at:

http://plts.luthersem.edu/cli/internship/committee_info.asp

Reflections from Margy Schmitt Ajer
Contextual Leadership Initiative
Deployed Adjunct Faculty

I've just completed facilitating three internship cluster retreats. Having never led or participated in a cluster event, I was not sure what to expect. It was a wonderful experience! Here are some of the things I learned:

- These events are primarily about relationships. It is an opportunity for supervisors and interns to build on their relationship outside of the everyday ministry setting. And it's a place to build relationships with others in a similar relationship.
- Every intern/supervisor team is unique. It's quite interesting to see how these teams are developing.
- These interns and supervisors have much wisdom and experience to share with one another...and are probably the best resources for one another.

Each of these events was a unique experience, but I left each one feeling great hope for the church. In both those seasoned pastors who serve as supervisors, and in those interns who are preparing for ordained service in the church, I saw great examples of faith, commitment, and competent ministry. Thanks be to God!

FORMS

We are pleased to announce that by **February 1st** you, your supervisor, and your lay intern committee chairperson will be able to fill out the mid-year and final evaluations online, and *without using Formatta*. We'll do this using Luther Seminary web site's database capacity.

- The online forms will observe all appropriate confidentiality protocols.
- Supervisors and committee chairs will be able to print out a copy of their completed forms for themselves but will submit the evaluation to CLI electronically.
- Interns will be able to view the supervisor and committee evaluations online and submit their responses electronically.
- The only thing you'll need to submit on paper will be a signature page.

As always, we invite your feedback and look forward to helping you if you have any questions on using the CLI website. <http://plts.luthersem.edu/cli/internship.asp>. Keep in touch!

INTERN BLOGS – Some creative, technologically astute interns have found an informal way to keep in touch with each other through a Group Blog. A **blog** is an easy-to-use web site, where you can quickly post thoughts, interact with people, and more. All for **FREE**.

If you are curious to see how this works, go to the following web site to visit and listen in on their conversations. <http://0405intern.blogspot.com>

The creator of the Intern Group Blog is Intern Christopher Miller in Glenville, Minnesota. If you would like to join the group, please send Christopher an e-mail request at cmiller@luthersem.edu. He will reply to your e-mail with an invitation to join that will take you to a web site to sign up through www.blogger.com.

Christopher and others in the group have found this way of communicating about internship related items to be very helpful. You could even see it as a diary of your experience. Check it out.

Contextual Leadership Initiative Contact Information:

Randy A. Nelson, Director
651/641-3259
rnelson@luthersem.edu

Rod Maeker, Associate Director
651/641-3226
rmaeker@luthersem.edu

Alicia Vargas, Associate Director
510/559-2713
dravargas@aol.com

Laure Schwartz, Coordinator
651/641-3266
cli@plts.luthersem.edu

Margy Schmitt Ajer, Deployed Faculty
619/460-9312
msajer@earthlink.net

Kate Sterner, Program Developer
651/641-3474
ksterner@luthersem.edu

Elba Selby, Administrative Assistant
510/559-2713
contexted@plts.edu