



Luther Seminary
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

**Ministry in Context
Internship Newsletter
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Contextual Leadership Initiative
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**Diakonia Leadership Conference
Reflection**

Since I am particularly interested in urban ministry, I was pleased to be invited to the Diakonia Leadership Conference as it was specifically targeted at training leaders who are involved in ministries to the poor. It was through association with a new ministry to the African-American community in Portland, Oregon, that I was included. In four days of workshops, gifted and experienced leaders offered concrete training in many skills useful to ministries to the disenfranchised. There was a workshop about open-plan group facilitation, a process by which group vision can become representative of the thoughts and ideas of each individual in the discussion. This particular skill will be used in my own congregation next week as we continue to build a partnership between Redeemer Lutheran Church and Vernon Presbyterian Church. We learned to identify our personal values and claim them for our workplace. We learned how to build evaluations into our programs, and how to recruit and train volunteers. We spent a whole day talking about fundraising and grant writing, each of us having a chance to practice “the ask,” after learning that most of the money raised for causes comes from individuals, not from institutions. We spent time learning about creating presentations in order to publicize events, and about creating relationships with media partners to build a public presence for our ministries. We spent another whole day learning about story-based organizing, relational meetings to raise community issues, and asset-based community development. The days were intense, as there was a great deal of information shared.



**Barbara Punch
Redeemer Lutheran, Portland, OR**

Information was not only theory, but we had challenging opportunities to work together to apply the principles we were learning to our own projects. Materials provided included books on congregational ministry planning and on fundraising and grant writing. This was a priceless opportunity to work with people who had been building ministry from the ground up, to hear of their frustrations and to hear the wisdom of their successes. The 50 people who attended this conference represented a broad range of ethnicity, age, and experience, but all had a passion for their work and a passion for justice that informed every conversation and project.

In my training as leader/organizer at Redeemer, I have come to see ministries to the marginalized as crisis management, while the work of justice to prevent such marginalization often still needs to be addressed. In our discussion of racism, Jean Morehouse presented her own awakening to her status of white privilege as grief-work. That had a particular

resonance for me, as I have been aware of a deep sadness in learning this work. I was able to see my own grief, to see my complicity in the system of injustice in the assumptions I have about my own aspirations and to open to mourning. In this sense, the conference was a turning point in ministry for me. It left me in a

very uncomfortable place, but a place of gratitude, nonetheless. I see my pastoral leadership being built on the foundation of my continuing re-formation as a person of faith, deeply engaged in doing justice as well as loving mercy.

What does the Internship Committee do?

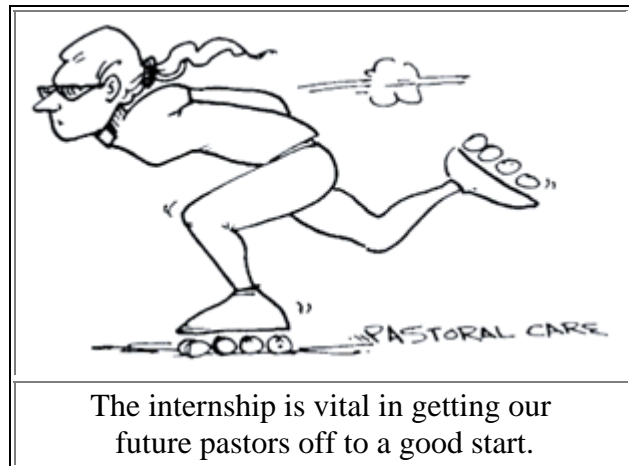
It is our hope that each intern has regular interaction with the Internship Committee, especially now that Mid-Year Reports are being worked on. If the CLI office faculty/staff can assist in anyway to help your Internship Committee, please let us know. You can find contact information at the end of this newsletter.

The text below comes from the Internship Committee Handbook found on-line at: http://plts.luthersem.edu/cli/internship/Lay_Committee.asp If this article leaves you wanting more information, go to this web site!

I. Committee Roles

The Lay Intern Committee has a unique perspective. You can tell the intern about life as you experience it, and the challenges you face. You can tell the intern how well he or she is equipping you for your ministry. With loving concern, you can tell the intern about his or her rough edges or weaknesses. We don't always perceive ourselves as others do; someone who honestly reflects our behavior can be invaluable. Share your story of faith and your style of ministry.

Take time to ask the intern what he/she needs from the members of the committee. Similarly the committee can help the intern learn what the expectations of the congregation are.



II. Common concerns of the Lay Intern Committee

1. **"All we ever do is evaluate sermons."**
Try to broaden your approach so that you are able to "walk with" the student within the context of a deeper relationship.
2. **"How can we get better attendance from committee members?"**
Make sure that active church members and responsible people are appointed. Don't appoint people to this committee who do not attend worship or will not see the student in ministry.

3. **"Our meetings are always rather business-like. We don't really share much."**
Try meeting in private homes. Try starting the meetings with personal spiritual reflections or journeys of faith stories.
4. **"It's hard for us to be critical of our intern. He/she is a person whom we highly respect. Pastors shouldn't be picked at."**
All evaluation should be done on the basis of what is effective and faithful ministry, not on the basis of personal issues. Try saying, "We want you to be the best possible pastor, so this is what we think. . ."

Do YOU have an internship PROJECT idea?

Just for fun, the CLI office collected samples of internship projects from the 2002-2003 internship class. As expected, those received were very diverse and creative and covered a wide range of needs that a church might have. Are you stuck in thinking about what you might do for your internship project? Are you looking for a quick way to get some ideas for projects or ministry ideas you might try on internship or in your future ministry? If so, check out the list below:

- ✚ "Reel to Real" Bible study
- ✚ "Whistleblowers" Bible study
- ✚ "Being Christian in the world" Bible study
- ✚ Lenten Journey Devotional
- ✚ Support group for caregivers and family members of people with memory loss illnesses
- ✚ Co-host of "The Coffee Crew" - a morning "drive time" radio show
- ✚ Continuing education for the parish musicians
- ✚ Creating a Congregational Policy and Procedure Manual
- ✚ "Faith, Family, and Foundations Workshop"
- ✚ ACT/Neighbor-to-Neighbor Emergency Services List
- ✚ Puppet ministry
- ✚ Developing lay leadership
- ✚ Exploring a congregation's vision and organizational structure
- ✚ "CrossConnections" - a spiritual gifts inventory
- ✚ "Children's Memorial Service"
- ✚ Visiting similar congregations and interviewing pastors

This was just to whet your appetite! More information about these projects are available on the CLI website at http://plts.luthersem.edu/cli/internship/handbook/project_ideas.asp May all your projects and ministries reflect the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ!

FORMS

We are pleased to announce that by **February 1st** intern, supervisor, and 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!

This is the third 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. If there are some committee members who have not submitted their e-mail address, please have them do that. 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 or hard copy and I can scan it. We love to share pictures!

Sincerely,
Laure Schwartz, Coordinator
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