



Designated Lay Ministry Diploma Program

The program for recognition in the United Church as a Designated Lay Minister or DLM¹ is offered at St. Andrew's College (www.standrews.ca), in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. A DLM is a lay member of the United Church, recognized and appointed by a presbytery/district to serve in paid accountable ministry in a pastoral charge or other presbytery/district-accountable ministry.

The Director of the DLM Program works with an active Program Team. The Team participates directly in student admission and assessment, curriculum design and program oversight.

The DLM Program braids together three educational components:

- **Supervised Ministry Education:** Three years of reflection and integration on the practice of ministry with an Educational Supervisor and Lay Supervision Team in a presbytery appointment which is a conference approved learning site. The appointment is at least 50% time.
- **Learning Circles:** Six residential learning circles over 3 years, each of 10 days' duration. The Circles are held in March/April and October/November. The Learning Circles introduce theory and theology; guide students in reflection on integrating the content with the practice of ministry; and provide a peer setting for deepening formation in lay ministry. The Learning Circles are required for **all** students regardless of previous formal learning or experience.
- **Complementary Courses:** Complementary courses are chosen to round out the educational program based on the learning needs and particular ministry focus of the student. Three courses (one per year), each a semester or equivalent long, are taken at theological school, university or educational centre or other venue, as approved by the Director of the DLM Program.

The program also includes two integrative Ministry Papers (after 3 learning circles and before completion), and occasional on-line community involvement.

A Learning Covenant Guides the Program

Students are supported to assess the gifts, skills and knowledge they bring into the program and identify the gaps in their background and areas for development. The "Learning Outcomes for Ministry", approved by the United Church of Canada, along with the DLM program's "Marks for Ministry Preparedness" guide this assessment. Learning goals are developed to help the student focus on the identified needs and as the program progresses the learning goals are

¹ More information on Designated Lay Ministry is available on the United Church of Canada website (www.united-church.ca/minstaff/pastoral/leadership/designated) and from Conference Personnel Ministers and Education and Students Convenors in each Presbytery.

adapted. These goals are incorporated into the Learning Covenant made with the Director of the DLM Program and the DLM Program Team (volunteers), the Supervised Ministry Education site and the student, in the knowledge of God's presence.

Admission

Pre-requisite:

As of January 1, 2014, there is a pre-requisite for entry into the DLM program. Applicants must have successfully completed **one** of the following:

- Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) program
- Lay certificate program at a theological college
- Learning on Purpose module at the Centre for Christian Studies (formerly the Leadership Development Module) (<http://ccsonline.ca/program/leadership-development/>)
- Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) conducted by a team – please contact the DLM Director for contact information

People interested in being recognized as a DLM must enter into a process of discernment conducted by their Presbytery/District. The Presbytery/District determines readiness to be a DLM. Admission to the DLM Diploma Program requires an appointment in a Presbytery/District accountable ministry of at least 50% time.

Inquirers can apply to the DLM program as they are beginning to move toward approval by the church to seek an appointment as a DLM. If they are accepted however, it would be a conditional acceptance until such time as they have secured an appointment. Either can proceed first: the admission to the DLM program or the appointment, but neither can be finalized until the other happens.

The Presbytery/District may determine educational prerequisites required before allowing the inquirer to begin an appointment. St. Andrew's College may determine educational prerequisites required before entering the educational program. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are able to undertake academic work at the University entrance level.

Applications are accepted throughout the year (see below for deadlines). As soon as a student is accepted, the Director of the DLM Program begins to work with them to plan their program. A student may complete a complementary course and/or be supported to meet gaps in their writing or electronic communication abilities prior to coming to the first Learning Circle.

***Deadlines for applying:
for a March/April circle, apply by November 1;
for an October/November circle, apply by June 1.***

Current Program Costs for students entering the program

These are the costs for one year

Application fee (one-time only, non-refundable)	\$75
Tuition March/April learning circle (due December 15) October/November learning circle (due July 15)	\$1200 \$1200
Accommodation and meals – costs are approximate. <i>Students are responsible for their own accommodation and meals, although a number of meals are catered during the learning circle. Payment for catered meals is due the first day of each learning circle</i>	Approximately \$1150 <i>(accommodation ranges from about \$650-800; catered meals cost about \$250)</i>
SUB TOTAL	Approximately \$3550
Course Pack and Books : for each Learning Circle	Approximately \$100-150

Additional costs that will be incurred in order to complete the program include:

- Travel to Learning Circles (Students may apply for a partial travel subsidy.)
- Computer and high-speed (where available) daily accessible internet
- Tuition and related costs for Complementary Courses
- Costs related to meetings with the Educational Supervisor.

Learning Circle Themes

The six learning circles are offered in a circular rotation each March/April and October/November over the course of three years. Each circle is 10 days long. New students join the rotation as they enter the program. DLM identity is an overarching theme that is addressed in each learning circle.

Please see the website for dates for the learning circles:

<http://www.usask.ca/stu/standrews/for-students/dlm-circles.php>

Caring for Community

- Ecology and stewardship
- Pastoral care
- Pastoral Occasions & Contexts (eg. Birth, marriage, funerals; nursing homes, prisons, hospitals)
- Ethics
- Boundaries in ministry

The Community's Story

- Biblical story – how we tell story; exegesis of text & context
- Proclamation (including preaching & evangelism)
- UCC history and theology
- Worship
- Sacraments

The Learning Community

- Educational Design & Facilitation
- Lifelong learning (includes life/faith stage development and learning styles)
- Study Programs (Children's ministry, Youth ministry, Adult ministry, confirmation)
- Theology of Learning in Community

Organizing Community

- Governance & polity in the church
- Congregational models (development and re-development)
- Administration (including time management)
- Context and social analysis of community (eg. Outreach, evangelism)
- Working in team
- Belonging to Larger/wider Community (eg. Ministerials, relationships in wider community)

Leading in Community

- Leadership models
- Modeling effective leadership in various ministries
- Transformative leadership
- Missional Leadership (including evangelism & outreach)
- Prophetic leadership
- Conflict resolution

Living Diversity in Community

- Pluralism/multi-faith and Inter-cultural and ecumenical understandings
- Justice in theological understandings (Understandings of charity & justice-making)
- Social issues (eg. Gender, racism, sexuality, etc.)
- Right relations & reconciliation
- Advocacy & Solidarity

Educational Principles Guiding the Program

The Program is rooted in an experiential learning model that includes doing, reflection, theory/theology, analysis and action. Learning happens not by the doing, but by both doing and reflecting on the doing. As adults, students take responsibility for, and become involved in their own learning and that of others. Learning is shaped by the context: it is a communal activity.

It is the nature of God's creation to change, adapt and grow in response to the stimuli of the environment. In this complex web of relationships learning is a faithful response to God's call.

Learning is a process and discipline that occurs within a community of trust, where there is openness to risk, and where support, challenge, and feedback are available. Learning involves mutual accountability between and among all those involved.

Learning encompasses the whole being of a person, the intellect, body, spirit, emotions, and intuition. Structured learning environments are lively: expressions of spirit are fostered, ideas are exchanged and probed respectfully, emotions are shared with integrity, new behaviours are tested. Full participation is expected. Learning is a life-long process. Learning together to acquire the skills, passion and discipline for ongoing education is an important goal.

For More Information or to Apply

The Director of the DLM Program welcomes your inquiries about the Diploma Program for Designated Lay Ministry!

Director, DLM Program
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For further information on the process to become a DLM, contact your Presbytery/District or Conference Personnel Minister or visit The United Church of Canada website at <http://www.united-church.ca/handbooks> (scroll down to Ministry Vocations and look for the Designated Lay Ministry Handbook).