



Candidate Name

Participation in the Deaconess Studies Program (Online-ODS) requires a relationship of trust among those involved in this unique opportunity to prepare workers for Christian ministry and mission. This document articulates the covenant of trust and responsibility that exists among Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, the student and the sponsoring ministry/mission, as well as the support and encouragement that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) district agrees to provide.

The Seminary pledges its support to the student by:

- Providing theological education through its program of studies.
- Providing orientation, support and encouragement of the student's mentor.
- Including ODS students in the corporate life of the Seminary student body through prayer, encouragement and student services.
- Working with local and district supervision to provide evaluation leading to certification as a deaconess.
- Providing financial support in accordance with the Seminary's financial aid policy, which is currently a grant of 1/3 of the tuition cost.

The LCMS district, through its president, agrees:

- To endeavor to support and encourage the candidate in every way possible.
- To consider providing, or facilitating identification of, funding for ODS students as needed, so that no one be deprived of entering or completing the program due to financial hardships.

The mentor agrees to fulfill all responsibilities outlined in the document Deaconess Studies Program (Online-ODS) Manual.

The sponsoring entity (a calling agency of the LCMS) agrees:

- To pray for the candidate and support her, her family and her ministry spiritually and emotionally as coworkers in God's kingdom.
- To develop and support a financial plan in which the costs of education and the support of the student are met in a realistic way.
- To utilize the deaconess candidate according to the agreed-upon arrangements to conduct the type of ministry for which she is being prepared.

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PARTNERSHIP COVENANT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEACONESS STUDIES PROGRAM (ONLINE-ODS)

- To commit, to the extent it is able, to assist the student with tuition costs, (ideally 1/3 of total tuition costs), in addition to whatever is appropriate as worker compensation for the internship. The latter will vary according to: the hours worked, which will depend on the needs of the sponsoring entity and the student’s availability (e.g. full-time church staff, bivocational, etc.); the sponsoring entity’s means; and the student’s needs.

The candidate for the Deaconess Studies Program (Online-ODS) agrees:

- To apply herself diligently to her study program.
- To conduct herself in a way that is worthy of the office of deaconess in Christ’s church.
- To respect those in authority over her in her ministry, particularly her mentor/supervisor.
- To take ultimate responsibility for the financial obligations of the program.

In good faith, the undersigned agree to this covenant and will do everything within their power to uphold it.

SEMINARY REPRESENTATIVE

Name, Title

Signature

Date

CALLING ENTITY REPRESENTATIVE

Name, Title

Signature

Date

MENTOR

Name, Title

Signature

Date

CANDIDATE

Name

Signature

Date

(continued)

PASTOR *(if different from mentor)*

Name, Title

Signature

Date

LCMS DISTRICT PRESIDENT *(optional)*

Name, Title

Signature

Date