

***Partnership Covenant for Participation
in the
Specific Ministry Pastor Program***

Participation in the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program requires a relationship of trust among those involved in this unique opportunity to prepare workers for Christian ministry and mission. A candidate for this program does not initiate the admission process himself, but rather is nominated and supported by those who represent and are responsible for the specific ministry/mission into which the candidate will be placed. This document articulates the covenant of trust and responsibility that exists among the seminary, the candidate, the sponsoring ministry/mission, and the district.

The seminary pledges its support to the student by

- Providing theological education through its program of studies.
- Providing orientation, support, and encouragement of the pastor-supervisor.
- Including SMP 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 Specific Ministry Pastor.

The district of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, through its district president, promises

- To provide overall supervision of the progress of the candidate, including doctrinal supervision, and to endeavor to support the candidate in every way possible.
- That by advancing a candidate for the SMP program, to ensure that once he is ordained as a Specific Ministry Pastor, it will monitor his continued progress in the program, and should a student refuse to complete the study program for the SMP, will remove that student from the roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- To ensure that once the Specific Ministry Pastor has completed his study program he will work in a situation which will provide supervision by an ordained pastor (non-SMP) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- To be responsible to ensure that tuitions and fees are remitted to the seminary in a timely manner.

The sponsoring entity (a calling agency of synod) agrees

- To pray for the candidate and support him, his family, and his 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 Specific Ministry Pastor candidate and ordinand according to the agreed upon arrangements to conduct the specific ministry for which he is being prepared.
- To require that the participant in the program complete the study program as administered by the seminary and to encourage and support him in continuing education.

The pastor-supervisor agrees to fulfill all responsibilities outlined in the document "SMP Pastor-Supervisor: Position Description."

The specific ministry candidate/pastor agrees

- To apply himself diligently to his study program.
- To conduct himself in a way that is worthy of the office of the holy ministry of Christ's church.
- To respect those in authority over him in his ministry, particularly his pastor-supervisor.
- To complete the SMP program in the specific ministry context into which he was Called and ordained.
- To agree that refusal to complete the SMP study program following call and ordination will result in his removal from the roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- 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.

Date District President

Date Calling Entity Official Representative

Date Seminary Representative

Date Candidate for Specific Ministry Pastor

Date Pastor-Supervisor