

Geographical Parishes
Northeastern Iowa Synod
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Shared Ministry – The First Steps

One congregation invites one or more congregations for a conversation. This should be a meeting open to anyone who is interested in learning more about shared ministry. It is not a formal meeting and no decisions will be made so it is open to anyone interested. There should be coffee and refreshments because relationships are always best fostered when people share food.

You can have a volunteer from the congregation lead this meeting or Pastor Kristen Corr Rod will be happy to lead this conversation with you and answer questions about the process.

Suggested Agenda:

Encourage people to sit with someone from another congregation but don't insist. If it's more comfortable to be with familiar faces for this meeting, that's okay. Have a sign-up sheet with name, congregation they are from and emails so they can be contacted for follow up meetings.

Have someone from the congregation open with prayer.

Begin with a bible study about how we see what God is doing around us. Pastor Kristen can lead this or share this study with you. This study, which includes group discussion takes up to a half an hour.

Review the different possibilities for shared ministry.

Time for questions and answers about the process.

Hand out discussion questions to give to church councils to discuss and answer. At this point it is important to have all church councils involved agree to continue with discussions. Council should share what was discussed at this meeting and seek feedback and questions from as many congregation members as possible about the process. This can be done with meetings, but also informal gatherings after church.

Before closing, agree to how much time each church needs to for these discussions to take place. It should not be less than a month, then agree to another meeting, preferably at a different church.

The next meeting will address concerns and feedback from the discussions which have taken place at each congregation. Based on that discussion, congregations will decide how to proceed.

Conclude with Lord's Prayer.