



DLM
Designated Lay Ministry

Designated Lay Ministry Diploma Program

The program for recognition in the United Church as a **Designated Lay Minister** or DLM¹ is offered at **Calling Lakes Centre** (callinglakes.ca) Saskatchewan. (Formerly this program was also offered at Five Oaks Centre.) 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 DLM Program Coordinator 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 will be held in January and June. 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. Online community through the internet supports preparation for and follow-up after the Learning Circles. 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 DLM Program Coordinator.

The program also includes two comprehensive 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 adapted. These goals are incorporated into the Learning Covenant

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

made with the DLM Coordinator, the Supervised Ministry Education site and the student, in the knowledge of God's presence.

Admission

People interested in being recognized as a DLM must enter into a process of discernment conducted by their Presbytery. The Presbytery/District determines readiness to be a DLM. Admission to the DLM 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. Calling Lakes Centre 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. As soon as a student is accepted, the Coordinator 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.

The timeline for applying for a June circle is March 31 and for a January circle is October 30.

Current Program Costs for students entering the program

These are the costs for one year

Application fee (one-time only, non-refundable)	\$75
Tuition	
June to December (due November 30)	\$1150
January to May (due April 30)	\$1150
Accommodation and meals	
June Learning Circle (payable first day of circle)	\$1150
January Learning Circle (payable first day of circle)	\$1150
SUB TOTAL	\$4600
Course Pack and Books : for each Learning Circle	Yet to be determined

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

- Travel to Learning Circles (Students may be eligible to 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 January and June over the course of three years. Each circle is 10 days long. New students join the rotation as they enter the program. Each learning circle is preceded by a day of orientation for incoming students.

Organizing Community (June 2011)

Governance in the church
Congregational models (development and re-development)
Polity
Leadership models
Being a change agent
Administration
Community/social analysis

Leading in Community (January 2012)

Modeling effective leadership in various ministries
Transformative leadership
Prophetic leadership
Conflict and peace
DLM identity
Worship

Living Diversity in Community (June 2012)

Pluralism/multi-faith understandings
Justice in theological understandings
Inter-cultural and inter-denominational understandings
Gender, racism, sexuality
Working in team
Right-relations & reconciliation

Caring for Community (January 2013)

Ecology and stewardship
Understandings of charity & justice-making
Pastoral care
Ethical Decision-making
Boundaries in ministry

The Community's Story (June 2013)

Context and social analysis of community
Biblical story – how we tell story
Proclamation (including preaching)
UCC history and theology
Belonging to Community

The Learning Community (January 2014)

Learning throughout life's stages
Adult development theory
Bible study
Empowering and facilitating learning and leadership in the community
Children's Ministry, Confirmation, Youth Ministry

The Learning Circles are open for occasional and continuing education students as space allows

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.

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. Openness to full participation is expected.

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.

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 DLM Program Coordinator welcomes your inquiries about the Educational Program for Designated Lay Ministry.

DLM Coordinator

d1m@callinglakes.ca

www.callinglakes.ca

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

www.united-church.ca/minstaff/pastoral/leadership/designated



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