

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN INTERIM PASTORS

Web: www.nalip.net

The Rev. John L. Czarnota
NALIP Faculty Trainer

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Welcome to the three-phase Basic Education for the Practice of Intentional Interim Ministry course of the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors: Phase I Planting (April 4-8), Phase II Cultivating Project, Phase III Harvesting (October 31 – November 4). You will discover this training program to be one of the most challenging and rewarding continuing education events in which you have ever participated. My trainer colleague and I look forward to working with you in this learning experience.

It is our hope that, if you have not already done so, you will plan to meet with your synodical bishop, district president or other church leadership about your goals for and expectations of this educational event, or to debrief afterwards. Clearly, if you become or continue to be an interim pastor following this educational experience, your availability, mobility and capacity for this special ministry are of vital interest to your church body leadership. The completion of this seven month course of study is not a guarantee that you will be asked to serve as an interim pastor at any particular time or place. That is a matter for the leaders in the faith tradition in which you serve. It is, however, a strong indication of your desire to focus your ministry gifts and interests in this ministry for Christ's church and people.

Enclosed with this letter is a page about "Policies" for this course, and also a page for "Pre-Work". It is important that you not only read the policies, but also do the pre-work assignments. The presentations for Phase One will assume you have read the required pre-work readings.

The first session begins promptly at 1:30 pm on Monday, April 4. Sessions run until 9:00 pm each evening except for Wednesday when we close at 5:30 pm. Morning sessions begin on Tuesday through Friday at 8:00 am. We conclude with Friday lunch. As noted in the Policies, if you are commuting, it is important to you and to the entire group that you arrive on time and not leave sessions early. Plan to have pastoral care coverage in your parish for any of those needs and to not attend any meetings in your parish. Certificates of completion cannot be given to those who miss any sessions.

We trust that this information is helpful to you in planning for this educational event. If you have any questions about the site and arrangements, please contact Pastor Karl Biermann at the Northeastern Ohio Synod office 330-929-9022, ext. 31. In the meantime, we look forward to being with you April 4 - 8 and again October 31 - November 4th, at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3725 Kent Road, Stow, OH 44224.

Sincerely in Christ,

John Czarnota
NALIP Faculty Trainer