

Presbytery Leader Formation

Program Description and Details for 2019

Orientation – February 25-27, 2019 (Louisville KY)

The Program begins with a 48-hour orientation, which will begin on a Monday at 12:00 noon and end on a Wednesday at noon, in Louisville, Kentucky. The orientation introduces you to the full three-year program, builds community with the new presbytery leaders who will be joining you in this journey and provides an opportunity to explore some of the most immediate pieces of the presbytery leader's work such as responding to conflict and referencing. The orientation also seeks to anchor the new leader in his or her role as spiritual leader of the presbytery. We understand that our presbyteries are undergoing great change. The Orientation will deal primarily with technical issues while we will spend more time on adaptive leadership in the residencies.

The Orientation is normally co-led by experienced presbytery leaders and staff of the Office of the General Assembly. Amy Fowler (General Presbyter of Presbytery of Genesee Valley) and Joey Lee (Executive Presbyter of Presbytery of San Jose) are the two experienced presbytery leaders. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Associate Director for Mid Council Relations and Wilson Gunn, Coordinator for the Presbytery Leader Formation program will also provide leadership.

Participation is generally expected for those entering the full three-year program. You will also meet J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk; Diane Moffett the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency; and additional staff who will talk about Church Leadership Connection and legal services. The registration fee of \$450 is paid by most Synods and travel expenses are borne by the Presbytery.

Annual Residency – May 5-10, 2019 (Malibu, CA)

Following this Orientation, the program will consist of an annual one-week residency for the three years following the new leader's call. The 2019 Year One Residency is scheduled for May 5-10, beginning at 5 PM on Sunday and concluding at 10 AM on Friday. Faculty for this residency will be Tricia Dykers-Koenig (Associate for Mid-Council Relations), Wilson Gunn (Program Coordinator), Craig Howard (Giddings-Lovejoy), Corey Schlosser-Hall (Northwest Coast), Sheldon Sorge (Pittsburgh), Sheryl Kinder-Pyle (Inland Northwest), Sara Dingman (Synod of Lincoln Trails and Gavin Meeks (New Harmony). The location is the [Serra Retreat Center](#), 3401 Serra Rd., Malibu, CA about 40 minutes west of LAX. You will receive more information about this event after the first of the year but please mark your calendar now. If you have any questions or want to discuss the Presbytery Leadership Formation Program please do not hesitate to contact the Mid Council Office or Wilson Gunn, the Program Coordinator. Future residencies will be at [Roslyn Center](#) outside Richmond VA May 3-8, 2020 and [Solomon's Center](#) outside New Orleans, LA May 2-7, 2021, and [Archbishop Brunett Center](#) at the Palisades between Seattle and Tacoma Washington May 1-6, 2022.

Each of the annual residencies will reflect three themes – our experience of God, the role of the person and the gift of vocation. This emphasis on the leader's spiritual, personal and professional well-being provides the balance needed to successfully execute the demanding ministry of presbytery leadership. The three years build on one another adding complexity to the understanding of the role; extending the skill sets needed and grounding the leader in a deep sense of his or her relationship to God and call to ministry. The entire Program is designed to acknowledge the changing context of the Church and will reflect the adaptive challenges facing post-modern Christianity, particularly presbyteries and

congregations. Participants will become part of a learning community and will draw heavily on their own experience of service. Faculty for the residencies has been selected for their proven effectiveness in serving a presbytery and for their excellent ability to teach and facilitate learning conversations. Travel expenses and the Registration fee of \$1000 for each residency (\$3000 for all three) is paid for by the Presbytery. We encourage Presbyteries to pay for this in addition to the Leader's continuing education budget.

Ninety-Day Companion

If you have not already talked with Wilson Gunn, he will call you in the near future to get acquainted and get information used in assigning a ninety-day companion and coach. The ninety-day companion is a seasoned Presbytery Leader who will be asked to call you on a weekly basis (initially) and to simply walk with you as you prepare to start your new call and during the first few months on the field. This is a person who can direct you to resources you may need as well as help you sort out the things with which you will need to deal as you begin your ministry.

Coaching

An important component to the program is the inclusion of a personal coach. Coaching is very different from the role of the ninety-day companion or from that of a consultant. A coach is not an "answer giver" but rather an individual who is invested in the success of the new leader. Our coaches have been especially trained to assist you in meeting your personal and professional goals. Each participant in the Program will be provided a list and biography of program approved coaches. These are individuals who have been trained in programs consistent with the approach taken by the International Coaching Federation.

Lorna Kuyk, the Coach Coordinator, will provide three choices for coaches and the Program Coordinator will select from among those names based on the current assignments of the requested coaches. It is expected that the new leader will have a monthly call with his or her coach, but each participant will have a total of 36 coaching hours available during the first 38 months following your first coaching session. This element of the program is consistently rated as greatest gift of this program. We encourage you to make use of the service on a regular, monthly basis in order to get the most out of the coaching relationship. Coaching relationships are mutually evaluated, and the participant and the coach can agree to request reassignment. A working covenant will be developed by each coach and participant and all information in coaching sessions is completely confidential.

The process of establishing a coaching relationship begins upon the receipt of a commitment from your presbytery and synod to support your participation in the Program. The program encourages each participant to begin seeing coaching as an ongoing professional expense. We encourage you to prepare your Presbytery to continue to support your coaching relationship at the conclusion of the thirty-six sessions. The Synod pays \$3600 of the \$4500 cost for these 36 sessions of coaching. Additional gifts to the program from presbyteries cover the balance. Most coaches are glad to continue the relationship beyond the scope of the program at a negotiated monthly fee.

The overall program is also supported by the Office of the General Assembly, the Association of Mid-Council Leaders, presbyteries, and synods.

Contact Information

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