

Lay Community Ministers

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Philippians 2:4 the words of St Paul from prison

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

We are looking for a dozen caring and committed members to serve as lay ministers this year. Each lay minister, in a servants role, will take on 5 -15 families in a given area. The role is one of encouragement, information sharing, service and being someone with whom people can stay in touch. Before anyone comes out of his chair, the role is *not*, repeat not, about giving orders or even directing anything. The role is one of humble service and encouragement – not command. He/she will reach out to and stay in touch with the members in his/her area, support, and visit, pray for and be a true friend. Simply giving love to and serving the members in the area.

As St. Paul well said, it's about looking to the interests of others. Taking an active, genuine interest in folk's lives and situations. Being interested in people is love. The successful lay pastor will develop that organic natural brotherly sisterly concern. “Hey how's is going over there? It's Leonard, just calling to see what going on. How ARE you? How's your wife? Yeah? ...Ok, good. And Susie or Billy...was Susie able to get into the teacher training program at UMD she was hoping to access? Oh, great.”

The term of service will be for 6 months at a time. January '14 through June '14. The main qualification is a sincere loving parental heart toward others. Either you have one now ...or want to develop one! This is a rare opportunity. Folks who take this service work on – will grow. Candidates can be interviewed either by phone or in person by the pastor team. We will appoint twelve, ideally spread out with some geographical balance. For example, Antonio Betancourt has already been interviewed and has agreed to take on College Park and environs. Margaret Herbers has already agree to serve somewhere around Wheaton.

Any member in good standing with a base of leadership and people skills is welcome to apply. Don't hold back. If you have any feeling for this please speak to anyone of the pastors to discuss. Appointments will be announced through January. After or even during the 6 month launch and learning term, improvements to the structure and nature of the program will no doubt be made. We have to start somewhere.

We emphasize the *servant nature* of these positions. Heart, concern. Genuine interest in the success and well being of other members and their families, their lives and their development, thus supporting and strengthening our overall movement. Quite emphatically, it is not about order giving, or event generation. It is *pastoral*.

A lay minister would probably spend as little as between 1 to 2 hours a week and, given interest and time, as much as 4 or 5 hours a week. One evening a week might constitute 3 hours of effort. Visiting folks, drop off extra tomatoes from your garden, call people on the phone, and have a couple folks over to your house for coffee or desert- whatever, whenever. You can do as little or as much as you can. It's your service. It's your ministry. And the pastor team will be behind you and underneath you, serving and helping you as you serve and help

others. Within reason, you can do whatever you like. It's your ministry to serve, support, encourage in any way you see fit. And some members might not even want to hear from you! You'll encounter it all!

Second Generation young adults are also encouraged to apply.

Lay misters will be a "group" and will meet regularly with the pastor team, perhaps once a month as a group. There will also be some degree of informal training, peer support-type ongoing education for further development.

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"Based on the principle of living for the sake of others, the most valuable view of life would be that you exist for all humanity." SMM, Cheon Seng Gyeong, (75-323, 1975.1.16)