**Leadership Summit – Thursday, April 21, 2022**

**Trends and Opportunities: The Future of Pastoral Leadership**

The Leadership Summit is an annual event sponsored by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies to provide support and resources to its presbyteries in working with candidates, pastoral leaders, and congregations. It provides an opportunity for personal interaction with national staff as well as others doing similar work within the Synod. Each year has a particular theme. This year’s theme is about trends that we should be preparing for as we move into the future.

Main Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83415902628?pwd=Zk41Y3FDNHEwNGgvRzBTTy9aeFFvdz09>

# Agenda

9:30 Gathering & Worship:

9:45 Presentation: **Future Trends for Pastoral Leadership** by Deb DeMeester

Reflections: Tim Cargal and Manuel Silva-Esterrich: A word from the Office of the General Assembly (OGA): What we have observed and what we are doing

10:45 Break

11:00 Conversation Groups: Introductions and Innovations

Introductions – name, presbytery, role

What are the trends in your presbytery?

What are some of the conversations or innovations you are exploring?

11:35 Report Out

12:00 Lunch Break

1:00 - 2:30 Workshops (descriptions on next page)

1. COM Basics: Now and moving forward – Manuel Silva-Esterrich, OGA

<https://zoom.us/j/94944837665?pwd=ODh2TVgzVDgzZVk3M3pNVVZsSXNUdz09>

1. Preparation for Ministry Basics: Now and moving forward – Tim Cargal, OGA

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82648293557?pwd=MWZiMGs2d3BHZVdLZ3d0R1JjQ09iZz09>

1. Project Regeneration: Planning for the Future – Kyle Nolan, Presbyterian Foundation

<https://zoom.us/j/98536292084>

1. Board of Pensions: Staying Ahead of the Curve – Ken Green, Board of Pensions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83846649883?pwd=UCswd29EelUxdzlEWEQ0UUJkeHdkZz09>

1. Better together: Creatively Considering Connectionalism – Deb DeMeester

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83415902628?pwd=Zk41Y3FDNHEwNGgvRzBTTy9aeFFvdz09>

1. Pathways to Belonging – Mark Sundby, LeaderWise [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85836670795](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85836670795&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1650737707786808&usg=AOvVaw1NCv-DGElBR-IvEJAcQOES)

2:30 Break

2:45 Closing Conversation – panel of resource folks using main Zoom link

3:15 Closing Worship

# Workshops

COM Basics: Now and moving forward – Manuel Silva-Esterrich

An opportunity for those who serve on Committees/Commissions on Ministry to get updates on the call process, mission study materials and other resources from OGA as well as to talk through particular situations/issues arising in your setting.

Preparation for Ministry Basics: Now and moving forward – Tim Cargal

An opportunity to learn the latest about the candidacy process, commissioning ruling elders, and other resources from OGA to aid in the Preparation for Ministry process. There will be time to discuss situations or issues arising from your context as well.

Project Regeneration: Discerning the Future – Kyle Nolan

The Presbyterian Foundation has been piloting a discernment program to help congregations write the next chapter of their lives. Whether thinking through the use of a building, to considering future community-based ministries, to leaving a legacy, the pilot program has been well received by the churches involved. This program engages the Session in reading together, digging into financial matters, and considering options.

Board of Pensions: Staying Ahead of the Curve – Ken Green

The Board of Pensions has stayed ahead of the curve for quite a while now – making adjustments from the “one-size-fits-all” expectations of the past to an array of potential benefits to meet the needs of the Church and those who serve it. In fact, it is hard to stay on the top of the possibilities. We offer benefits and programs that foster the wholeness of the members by focusing on four key areas: spiritual, health, financial, and vocational. As COMs it is helpful to understand the options as we work with congregations at times of call, in times of crisis, and in times of need.

Better Together: Creatively Considering Connectionalism – Deb DeMeester

In recent years the Synod has underwritten the training of coaches, making them available to at reduced rates to pastoral leaders in the Synod, to address the need to build healthy support systems to help attract, support and retain great leadership. We also administer a training program for potential Commissioned Pastors (or CREs) that was designed by three presbyteries coming together to collaborate. What else could we be doing? What would be most helpful to your presbytery? What can we do better together (with three people from several presbyteries, for example)? In particular, how do we build better relations with ruling elders who may or may not have a Presbyterian pastor or moderator?

Pathways to Belonging – Mark Sundby

Loneliness is an epidemic. According to a 2018 national survey by Cigna Insurance, almost half of us feel sometimes or always alone (47%), and about the same number feel left out (46%) at any given moment. Why would a health insurance company be interested in loneliness? Aside from the mental health implications, the physical consequences for premature death due to loneliness are statistically equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes per day. Loneliness takes both an emotional and physical toll. At LeaderWise, Mark Sundby and Mary Kay DuChene have studied loneliness and pathways to belonging in clergy for the past two years. They recently authored a book on the subject which is scheduled to be published in the summer of 2022. In our time together, Mark will share what they have learned about loneliness for people in ministry and specific strategies which individual clergy and mid-Councils can pursue to counter the epidemic.

# Leaders

**Tim Cargal**, Assistant Stated Clerk, Ministry Preparation and Support, Mid Council Ministries of OGA

**Deb DeMeester,** Director of Leadership Development, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

**Ken Green**, Board of Pensions Church Consultant for the Synod of Lakes & Prairies

**Kyle Nolan,** Ministry Relations Officer, Upper Midwest, Presbyterian Foundation

**Manuel Silva-Esterrich,** Manager, Call Process Support, Mid Council Ministries of OGA

**Mark Sundby,** Executive Director, LeaderWise