

WABASH PASTORAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM GUIDE TO SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION



We are delighted that you are applying to participate in the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program. In order for the selection committee to give proper consideration to your application, we need to receive the important information described in this guide. Please provide a copy of the information requested below and mail your application to:

Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program,
Wabash College
301 W. Wabash Ave.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

by May 11, 2014. If you prefer to submit the application electronically, please send it as a Word document to pastorleader@wabash.edu. If you have any questions, please consult Derek Nelson, Director, or Libby Manning, Associate Director, at 765-361-6327.

Characteristics of Successful Applicants

As you prepare your application materials, keep in mind that we are looking for younger pastors serving congregations who have developed some confidence, optimism, and security in a pastoral role, and have high potential for the next two or three decades of Christian ministry. Applicants should have at least five years experience in ordained ministry, but not much more than ten years, and an M.Div. degree from an accredited seminary. Our definition of "younger" is flexible. The criteria for selection will include:

- vocational clarity;
- theological acuity necessary to interpret the experience in the program and analyze results;
- appropriate balance of confidence and ability;
- good public speaking and preaching;
- a healthy ego necessary for creativity, integrity, and humility, and
- an ability to listen to and communicate with a diverse group of people from different social and theological backgrounds for the sake of the common good.

We hope that all participants will share basic assumptions regarding pastoral collegiality across social and theological divides; the character of constructive engagement and dialogue; the value of pastoral congregational ministry; and the necessity of professional pastoral development.

Complete applications will contain the following information

Profile information:

- A. Complete contact information (mailing address for office and home, telephone #s, email address)
- B. Ordination date, location, and ordaining communion
- C. List of ministerial appointments with dates of service
- D. Other employment in which you may currently be engaged and how your time is balanced with your ministerial work (e.g., congregation 70%, substitute teacher 30%)

- E. Educational background, including dates of graduation, majors, and concentrations
- F. Contact information for three (3) people you have asked to write letters of recommendation regarding your work and potential in ministry
- G. List and brief description of continuing education or leadership programs in which you have participated (title, location, dates, and a descriptive sentence about each)
- H. Will you be enrolled in an academic degree program in 2015 or 2016? If so, explain.

Narrative essay (maximum five pages, single-spaced) to cover the following questions and topics:

- I. What led you into pastoral ministry?
- J. Share some stories about your ministry that gives evidence of the characteristics we seek.
- K. Describe a Christian leader or ministry that exemplifies for you the best of pastoral leadership in the larger world? In congregation life?
- L. Tell us what has shaped your sense of who you are as a pastor and leader?
- M. Describe the congregation you serve.
- N. What is the most difficult situation you have faced as a minister, either in a congregation or beyond the congregation, and what did you do?
- O. What do you most hope for yourself as a pastor?
- P. What do you hope to gain from the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program?
- Q. What do you think you bring to the program?
- R. What caused you to apply to the program?
- S. Are there any special circumstances regarding your application that you would like to explain?

Letters of Recommendation Information continued on page 3



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

With your application, please provide full contact information for three (3) people you have asked to write letters of recommendation regarding your work and potential in ministry.

Give each of those three (3) references A COPY OF THIS PAGE, and ask them to mail their letter of recommendation directly to:

**Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program
Wabash College
301 W. Wabash Ave.,
Crawfordsville, IN 47933**

prior to May 1, 2014. (It is prudent to inquire prior to the deadline if they have submitted the letters.)

Ask three (3) people who are appropriate to the categories named below, and make sure to note for each of them specifically what should be included in his or her letter of recommendation.

- a. Ask a **leader in your congregation** (e.g., senior pastor, council president, board chair, moderator) to confirm that the congregation agrees to and will support your participation in this two-year program. Also ask this leader to comment upon the characteristics described in the paragraph below as he/she perceives them in you.
- b. Ask a **regional leader** in your communion/denomination (e.g., regional minister, district superintendent, synod/presbytery official, bishop) to verify that you are in good standing with your communion/denomination. Also, ask him/her to comment upon your capacity for leadership in the next two to three decades of Christian ministry, and upon the characteristics described in the paragraph below as he/she perceives them in you.
- c. A **third person** (e.g., seminary professor, senior minister, colleague, mentor, former employer, another lay leader) who is in a position to provide evidence of and comment upon your potential for leadership, particularly as leadership is described in the paragraph below. This third letter of recommendation should be from someone who knows your ministry well and can elaborate upon what would make you an excellent candidate.

From page one of Guide to Submitting an Application:

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