ELCA Coaching Ministry Overview


Vision: Multiplying Leaders for Christ’s Mission Through Coaching

Purpose: Create a coaching culture in the ELCA that will empower and multiply leaders at every expression of the church to actively engage in her or his part of God’s mission in the world.

Guiding principles

- God’s mission and the work of the Holy Spirit are the heart of coaching.
- Coaching is a ministry of accompaniment and encouragement.
- God provides everything needed to accomplish God’s purposes for every leader and congregation.
- Effective leadership is adaptive leadership. Coaching facilitates adaptive leadership.

Professional, skilled, trained coaches

All ELCA Coach Launch trainers have received an associate certified coach (ACC) credential or higher through the International Coaching Federation or are in the process of working toward this level of expertise.

Our licensing agreement with CoachNet Global means that our training meets the standards of the International Coaching Federation. Our coaches demonstrate not only knowledge and skill, but also a commitment to high professional standards and a strong code of ethics.

An ELCA coach, Level I, is someone who has successfully completed 20 hours of coach training and follow-up activities. ELCA Coach Launch provides this training.

An ELCA coach, Level II, is someone who has completed a four- to eight-week coaching lab in an area of ministry specialty with a group of four to eight peers, facilitated by a trained and recognized lab coach.
Lab coaches are experienced coaches who have received a Level I and Level II ELCA coaching designation, have coached at least four others, have the recommendation of their director for evangelical mission and their lab coach in their area of specialty, and have completed the online group coaching lab.

Coach training and development opportunities

ELCA Coach Launch – The two-day training event provides 20 hours of coach-specific training during which new coaches learn, apply and practice good coaching skills. Upon completion, a participant is recognized as an ELCA Coach, Level I.

Coaching labs – Upon completion of ELCA Coach Launch, coaches are encouraged to put their new skills to work in a particular ministry area. Current labs include stewardship and discipleship. Labs under development include mission development and mission redevelopment. Each coaching lab provides a group coaching experience over four to eight sessions, led by experienced and trained lab coaches. Upon completion, a participant is recognized as an ELCA Coach, Level II.

The ELCA supports, sustains and is expanding coaching ministry through:

- ELCA Coaching Coordinator Amy Walter-Peterson, Amy.Walter-Peterson@elca.org
- ELCA administrative staffing Maria Maldonado, Maria.Maldonado@elca.org
- ELCA Coaching Leadership Team
- ELCA Lab Coach Coordinators Jill Beverlin, jillbeverlin@gmail.com and John Mocko, john.w.mocko@gmail.com
- Promotional materials and guidance
- Expansion of coaching specialties into other areas of leadership development
- Regional and synod networks of ELCA coaches Synod coaching coordinator

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