**Candidate Plan**

*Wartburg Theological Seminary*

*2021-2022*

updated 12/15/21

Greetings from the Castle!

I invite you to pause for a moment to consider all the people prayerfully tending to and investing in your formation, discernment, and call. Please pray for your candidacy committee as they engage in the holy work of determining readiness and fitness of candidates for positions of authority as church leaders. Know that they are praying for you along with me, your advisor, and so many here at Wartburg!

You, student/candidate, are encouraged to take the lead in the candidacy process. It demonstrates how you manage multi-layered projects (and people). You contact the candidacy committee, your advisor, arrange the meetings, and facilitate good communication.

**Introduction to the Candidate Plan**

As the world and realities of Church become more complex, the Candidate Plan serves to help all partners (synod, seminary, and student) have open and clear communication about the formation and discernment process for each candidate.

Putting together a proposed plan honors the care that candidacy committees and seminaries put into creating curriculum, learning experiences, and opportunities for deep discernment and prayerful deliberation through accompaniment. The purpose of the Candidate Plan is to bring together the expectations and record them in one place with anticipated dates in mind. This way we can make sure the proposed plan is feasible, be intentional in preparing for each step, and ensure that nothing is dropped or forgotten.

As this plan is formed, please keep in mind that each partner is seeking to be creative and responsive while at the same time each one brings deep wisdom and care for the candidate, the Church, and the Gospel. Each step of the process is created and done in good faith with wisdom and grace. We are on the same side!

**Creating the Plan**

**Candidate fills out** [**ELCA Candidacy Plan**](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Candidate_Plan.pdf?_ga=2.213752340.1698762679.1612295156-1684206230.1607372521)**.**  After being entranced by the candidacy committee and enrolled in seminary, the form is completed by the candidate in consultation with their academic advisor and synod candidacy person. *Note for Collaborative Learning (CL) students: it is best to do this after the Partner Launch Meeting.*

**Partners Review Plan.** Every partner has the opportunity to clarify or suggest amendments. In some cases it may be helpful to have a short zoom meeting with someone from the seminary (advisor and/or WTS Director for Candidacy and Community Life), someone from the synod (candidacy staff, Bishop, and/or chair), and the student.

**Finalized and Filed.** Synod Candidacy approves it, sends the WTS Director for Candidacy and Community Life (candidacy@wartburgseminary.edu ), the candidate, and academic advisor the final copy. Both WTS and synod file it in their candidacy records.

**Further Clarifications or Changes.**

In the case of further clarification or a significant change, a meeting is convened with all partners represented. The form is updated and signed or initialed by representatives from all partners. The plan is reviewed and affirmed during the endorsement process.

**Timeline Note:**

The curriculum including field work and contextual education is intentionally interwoven in the Wartburg formation process. It is in this spirit that internship typically occurs before a student’s final year so they may have time in their final year to process the experience with classmates and through a critical and theological lens guided by faculty.

**Notes for Completing the Candidate Plan Form**

*Wartburg Seminary Program/Track Options*

Programs:

**Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry (MA-DM)**

*Preparation for Roster for Word and Service*

**Master of Divinity (MDiv)**

*Preparation for Roster for Word and Sacrament*

**Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM)**

*Preparation for Roster for Word and Sacrament – with their Synodical Bishop and Congregation’s approval.*

Tracks**:**

**Accelerated Ministry Program (AMP) –** MDiv Only

*This is an exclusive relationship with Wartburg College Students for an accelerated ministry track. 3 -4 years of undergraduate formation through Wartburg college and 3 years formation through Wartburg Seminary.*

**Collaborative Learning (CL) -** MA-DM and MDiv Only

*Student (in consultation with the synod) takes on-line synchronistic classes while learning and serving in a ministry site. Students typically are part-time paid staff at the ministry site for all four years except for the time of the internship when they shift from staff to intern/vicar.*

**Distributive Learner (DL) -** MA-DM and MDiv Only

*Student takes most classes on-line either synchronistical or anachronistically.*

**Residential Learner (RL) -** MA-DM and MDiv Only

*Student lives on or near the Wartburg Campus and takes most classes in-person.*

**Classic -** TEEM Only

*Students take classes when offered during the WTS Academic Calendar.*

**Journey Together –** TEEM Only

Students work through curricular learning objectives at their own pace to meet competency requirements while working in a local congregation, mentored through regular peer group meetings, and evaluated by a student assessment team.



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