

Nicole Garcia -- Alternate Residency Formation Plan

FORMATION: To give a broader sense of the ELCA to candidates through church experience, understanding ELCA polity and connecting with future colleagues.

Depth and Breadth of the Rocky Mountain Synod: Connection with ten congregations/ministries in the Rocky Mountain Synod, one in each conference

Goal: Understanding the diversity of ELCA congregational ministry.
Expectations: Occasional preaching, leading a study, attending council meetings, having conversation with rostered leaders, experiencing a variety of ministries, seeing how the church is alive in the world.

WYOMING – The Church in the Windswept West – Buffalo
Pastor Alena Lamarato

UTAH – The Church in the Mormon Context: Redevelopment at St. Matthew
Pastor Christine Higuera-Street

NORTH COLORADO – Ministry on the High Plains: Eben Ezer Care Center
Deacon Ro Fesser

METRO EAST – Lives Transformed by Hope: New Beginnings Women’s
Correctional Ministry
Pastor Terry Schang

METRO WEST – Contrasts of Ministry in the Mountains: Vail and Gypsum
Pastor Scott Beebe and Pastor Dan Tisdell

METRO SOUTH – Ministry on the Margins: Lutheran Family Services RM
Jim Barclay or _____

BOULDER BROOMFIELD – Ministry on the Campus: CU Boulder
Pastor Zac Parris

SOUTHEAST COLORADO – Ministry meets Medicine: Zion, Trinidad
Pastor Andrea Doeden, TEEM Pastor and Physician

NORTH NEW MEXICO – Advocacy Ministry for hunger and justice in New
Mexico
Ruth Hoffman, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry NM

BORDER – Ministry in the Shadow of the Fence
Pastor Rosemary Sanchez-Guzman / Kari Lenander

Understanding ELCA polity and practices:

Goal: Understanding how the ELCA's polity and practices inform Word and Sacrament ministry.

Expectations: Schedule conversations with the following people to get a broader understanding of the following, and experience the intersection of our three expressions of ministry from the perspective of leaders in the Rocky Mountain Synod:

The Rev. Judith Van Osdol, DEM: missional leadership,
New congregations, Revelopment

Ms. Margy Schmidt Ajer, Region 2 Coordinator: call and vocation;
ELCA polity

Ms. Earline Bohling, Synod Council: synod governance

Mr. Dennis Reynolds: money matters: how we are better together

Deacon Erin Power: global mission, world hunger, hospitality,
RMS events and hospitality

The Rev. Sarah Moening: healthy leaders and healthy congregations

Bishop Gonia: mission statement, strategic planning, integration of
Congregation/synod/churchwide ministries

Connection:

Goal: To develop collegial relationships within the wider church.

Expectations: 1. Attend conference meetings/text studies, as well as other synodical events when applicable.

Wellness:

Goal: To live and serve in harmony with God, self, and creation

Expectations: Using the Wholeness Wheel...

REFLECTION: Using these experiences and conversation share with the Candidacy committee in a reflection paper what you have witnessed and experienced across the vast lands of the Rocky Mountain Synod.

Blogs and Photos: After each experience or conversation, reflect on the ministry of Christ's church, and how we are better together, when united together. Post reflections and photos, which also will be used in other ways, to tell the stories of our mission and ministry.

Video snapshots: Prepare brief video snapshots of your experiences to post on the RMS Website or Facebook page. Could be with a recurring headline: **Where in the RMS is Nicole?**

FINAL REFLECTION: Prepare a paper, integrating these experiences and conversations.

TIMELINE: We expect that this experience is congruent with 1 full-time semester at Luther. However, the experience will take place over 8-9 months, allowing for continued serving in counseling practice.