



Colloquy: An Introduction for Congregations

What is Colloquy?

The word *colloquy* is the Latin word for “conversation”. In LCC, Colloquy is a process by which a man may become certified as a pastor or a man or woman may become certified as a deacon. It’s a route to certification that is an alternative to the regular in-person seminary programs due to a person having existing education and/or experience in church work.

Colloquy is overseen by two committees: one for Pastoral Colloquy and one for Diaconal Colloquy. The LCC Handbook specifies that the Vice-President of LCC chairs both committees. The presidents of our two LCC seminaries are members of both committees, and the LCC President appoints one Deacon as a member of the Diaconal Committee.

Who is Colloquy for?

The LCC handbook outlines who is eligible to apply for Colloquy. For a potential pastor, there are four categories; the main one is those men who are already ordained as pastors in other church bodies. For a potential deacon, it’s for someone who has at least a Bachelor’s degree and who has some measure of experience in church work.

It’s important to note a distinction between LCC’s Colloquy and Pastors with Alternate Training (PAT). For PAT, it is a *congregation* that begins the process, making an application because of a specific need for Word and Sacrament ministry in that place. (PAT is also only for pastors, not for deacons.) For Colloquy, it is an *individual* who makes the application.

What are the stages for Colloquy?

It's important for congregations to understand the basics of the process so that there is clarity on when a call might be made. There are three stages:

1. **Application:** An individual applies to Colloquy through his or her local Regional Pastor. The appropriate committee considers the application. If accepted, the applicant becomes a colloquy candidate.
2. **Candidacy:** The candidate completes a program designed to complement his or her existing education and/or experience through seminary coursework, other proofs of competency, and supervised ministry (internship).
3. **Certification:** Once the program is completed to the committee's satisfaction, the candidate becomes a certified candidate who is eligible for a call. The committee then commends the candidate to the President's Ministry Council (PMC) for placement.

Calling a Colloquy Candidate

A congregation is able to call a Colloquy candidate only once he or she is certified. The local Regional Pastor works with the congregation in the call process. The process is similar to calling a candidate from the regular in-person seminary programs, where a placement is made: the call is not made directly to the candidate, but through the Board of Assignments. For Colloquy, the PMC is the Board of Assignments, and so a congregation would call through the PMC.

Once the Colloquy candidate is placed into his or her first call, subsequent calls are made directly to the person and not through the PMC. (This is again in distinction to PAT, where the call is site-specific.) In essence, those who have gone through the regular in-person seminary programs and those who have gone through Colloquy are treated exactly the same once they are serving in an LCC congregation. There are no restrictions on receiving further calls to other congregations or other service within LCC.

Colloquy is a great blessing to LCC. It provides for men to become pastors and for men and women to become deacons without "reinventing the wheel" while safeguarding the high standards that we have for all pastors and deacons who serve in LCC. For more information about calling a Colloquy candidate, please contact your local Regional Pastor. For more details about the Colloquy process, please contact the LCC Vice-President.