



The Basics

- STEP is a three-year part-time pastoral and leadership training program.
- Students join a cohort that stays together the whole time, sharing life, and building relationships.
- Classes meet one Saturday per month September–May (8:00 am–4:00 pm).
- Homework takes about 4–6 hours each week and is completed and submitted electronically before each Saturday session.
- Participants enroll as LMC students.
- The three years of study yields 30 undergraduate credits awarded by EMU.
- Graduates receive a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry from LMC.
- STEP provides the core courses for an Associates Degree in Pastoral Ministry.

Staff

Marcia Mylin

STEP Director

Mindi J. Hoover

Administrative Assistant of STEP

"I said, 'there's no time, there's no money, it's so far away, and I don't know if I can study anymore. Are you gonna teach an old dog new tricks? I had all kinds of excuses for not going. But God ever so politely moved the excuses out of the way.' We still have two sessions to go [this year]. I would encourage anybody to take [STEP]. I've only had one year, but it has changed me."

— Mert Maust, Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Year 1



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Study and Training for Effective Pastoral ministry

Helping leaders grow in love for God, in character, in competence, and in effectiveness.



What is STEP?

STEP teaches the basics of congregational ministry leadership – for pastors, those exploring a call, and other leaders. STEP is discipleship training for congregational leaders at the first-year college-level.

STEP is a partnership between Eastern Mennonite University, LMC and other supporting church groups and congregations.

The STEP curriculum is designed for adult learners as part-time study. Actual ministry practice, coupled with assignments and teaching, forms the basis for lively learning in community. Coursework covers

pastoral topics, pastoral skills, and pastoral formation. Year 3 requires each student to complete a missional experiment. STEP uses Google Classroom for electronic delivery and submission of all assignments.



“The best way to describe STEP is more like discipleship training. Yes, I was prepared for many of the basic parts of pastoral ministry, but it encompassed every aspect of a discipleship journey.”

– Randy Carr, Beaverdam Mennonite Church, 2014 Graduate

STEP Curriculum

STEP utilizes a fully-developed curriculum with over twelve years of use. A newly revised edition of the STEP curriculum was completed in 2016.

With Colossians 1:9-12, our prayer is that each STEP leader will live worthy of the Lord and please him in every way by...

Being – transformed and empowered by the Holy Spirit for effective ministry

- ▶ spiritual disciplines
- ▶ character formation
- ▶ prayer
- ▶ study

Knowing – the truth of God’s Word

- ▶ O.T. survey and N.T. survey
- ▶ Bible study and interpretation
- ▶ church history
- ▶ Confession of Faith

Doing – activities of ministry

- ▶ preaching
- ▶ teaching
- ▶ pastoral care
- ▶ missional project and outreach

Leading – God’s people as a servant leader

- ▶ missional leadership
- ▶ administration
- ▶ team building
- ▶ managing conflict

Tuition and Financial Aid

Standard tuition is \$300 per credit hour or \$3,000 per year. Textbook costs are included.

Congregations and districts are encouraged to assist with the tuition of their students. LMC awards Leadership and Education grants.



“Participating in STEP has been one of the most life-giving experiences I have had to date and I have had a lot of experiences in life. STEP has been instrumental in restoring my personal call.”

– Sherri Martin, Weaverland, 2018 Graduate

Learn More

Contact the STEP director to arrange a meeting. You can also visit a STEP class during the school year.

Apply Online

Select the blue “Apply Now” button on the STEP webpage: lmcchurches.org/ministries/step/