



Are you exploring serving as a Collaborative Learning site in partnership with Wartburg Seminary? Wonderful! Here are some factors for you to consider as you prayerfully discern this possibility:

Teaching and Learning

CL sites are called to the holy work of formation through teaching and learning. They serve as seedbeds in which a student's gifts can be nurtured, growing edges can be tended, questions can be explored, and competence can be fostered. Ask yourself: In what ways would we be a good teaching and learning site? Are we willing to learn and grow alongside the student entrusted to our care?

Ministries

Careful attention should be paid to the relationship between ongoing ministries and the CL program. Ask yourself: What are our essential ministries? How would we hope that a CL student would participate in these ministries?

Opportunities

Each setting provides its own unique opportunities for learning and formation. Ask yourself: What learning opportunities can we provide a CL student? What learning opportunities will we *not* be able to provide a CL student? Could we partner with another nearby congregation/ministry site to provide additional learning opportunities?

Finances

Careful attention to financial matters is fundamental. The CL program assumes a shared responsibility for educational expenses between the student, the seminary, the synod, and the CL site. CL sites are asked to negotiate, in collaboration with the student and the synod, a fair compensation package for their CL student. A helpful starting point is considering half of synod guidelines for a first call compensation package. Ask yourself: What is the financial state of our congregation? What would a fair compensation package look like for a CL student serving with us?

Leadership

The student will work closely with the lay and rostered leaders of the congregation/ministry site. If there is a called pastor to the congregation, the pastor typically serves as the student's supervisor. Ask yourself: Who will supervise the CL student? Are there specific lay leaders with whom the student will be expected to have a closer working relationship? If so, who are they and why?

Context

Students are encouraged to pay particular attention to reading the context as a part of their formation experience. Each context is unique and affords both blessings and challenges for ministry. Ask yourself: What are the greatest blessings that our context would bring to a CL student? What are the greatest challenges that our context would present for a CL student?

Commitment

Congregations and other ministries that participate in the CL program are making a commitment for two-four years, depending on the program in which the student is enrolled. It is the hope that a student and CL site will be together for the entire formation experience. Ask yourself: What factors might inhibit our ability to commit to a student?

Polity and Piety

One of the blessings of life together is that there are multiple right ways of doing things. Each site will have its own unique structure of polity, or governance, and its own unique expression of piety, or devotion. Ask yourself: What would we want a student to know about our polity and piety? What would we want to know about a student's polity and piety?

Needs

Each congregation or ministry has its own unique needs. Ask yourself: What are our ministry needs? How would we hope that a CL student would intersect with those needs?

Other

This discernment wheel invites you to consider a great deal. However, no list can be fully comprehensive. Please consider other factors that you believe to be uniquely important to you in your discernment process. **Many blessings for grace-filled discernment as you explore the CL program!**

