



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

Teaching and Learning

Congregations and other ministries that serve as contextual learning 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 internship program. Ask yourself: What are our essential ministries? How would we hope that an intern 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 an intern? What learning opportunities will we *not* be able to provide an intern? Could we partner with another nearby congregation/ministry site to provide additional learning opportunities?

Finances

Careful attention to financial matters is fundamental. Interns receive the following financial remuneration: \$1800 per month stipend, full housing expenses, reimbursement for work related expenses, and covered expenses for Synod Assembly, Synod Theological Conferences, and Internship Cluster Gatherings. All contextual learning sites also pay the following one-time fees: \$1000 administrative fee, \$500 travel pool fee. Ask yourself: What is the financial state of our congregation? Are we prepared to meet the financial obligations of this program?

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 intern? Are there specific lay leaders with whom the intern 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 an intern? What are the greatest challenges that our context would present for an intern?

Commitment

Congregations and other ministries that participate in the contextual learning program make a one-year commitment to students in the Word & Sacrament formation process and a six-month commitment to students in the Word & Service formation process. It is the hope that a student and site will be together for the expected time frame. 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 an intern 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 serving as an internship site!**

