Project Ideas

As part of the internship program each M.Div. candidate is expected to complete a project in one of the following four ministry areas:

- Evangelism
- Stewardship
- Lay Ministry
- Ecumenism

Ideas for Evangelism projects:

- Do a religious survey of a particular neighborhood or area of the parish.
- Find ways to make the congregation aware of people new to the area, whether new residents, transients, or visitors.
- Develop religious programs in community institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, parks, prisons, half-way houses and the like.
- Meet with evangelism committees from other congregations and denominations to see what could be done together and/or adapted to congregational use.
- Make evangelism a special congregational emphasis for Advent, Epiphany, Lent, or some other season of the Church Year.
- Contact persons who are engaged in evangelism and who are supported by the benevolence of the congregation, and invite them to share their experiences.
- Establish contact with persons working with migrants, inner city or rural subsidized missionaries, and/or overseas missionaries.
- Systematize follow-up work with worship visitors by the use of letters, phone calls, visits, introductions during coffee hour, etc.
- Follow up on contacts made as a result of weddings, funerals, or other events where visitors or friends of congregational members are present.
- Develop an evangelism library and a system to encourage reading in the area.
- Use films or other media to teach evangelism to all age levels in the congregation.

Ideas for Stewardship projects:

- Invite members of the congregation to list the talents they possess and would be willing to share for the benefit of others, then recruit a coordinator to match resources with needs.
- Compile a list of services available from churches, not-for-profit social agencies, and government offices in the area, put the information, complete with addresses and phone numbers, where congregational members can use it, and find ways to alert the congregation to this resource.
• Meet with stewardship committees from other congregations and denominations to see what could be done together and/or adapted to congregational use.
• Develop an adult education curriculum with a stewardship theme and teach it as a series (three to six weeks).
• Develop a stewardship library and a system to encourage reading in the area.
• Analyze the stewardship patterns of the congregation over a five year period—the number of persons making financial commitments as well as donating time and effort to various programs and projects—and inaugurate a plan to mobilize the "inactive."
• Publicize the leadership contributions that members are making to various volunteer organizations beyond those sponsored by the congregation and devise ways to recognize such contributions as a congregation.

Ideas for Lay Ministry projects:

• Conduct a survey of congregational members in order to determine how many lay ministries are being claimed. This could include occupations, work for community and/or political organizations, volunteer activities in hospitals or other social service institutions, and family roles such as parenting or the care of elderly parents.
• Organize a mini "Lay Academy" during which congregational members with similar lay ministries can discuss the challenges and opportunities for Christian witness and responsibility in those ministries.
• Organize a local "Laos in Ministry" Chapter and/or recruit members for the organization.

Ideas for Ecumenism projects:

• Write a concise history of ecumenism in your internship community.
• Reach out to leaders of denominations or religious groups that have not participated in traditional ecumenical or interfaith activities in order to discover their particular needs or concerns.
• Lead an adult forum series which introduces representatives from other denominations or religions with which the congregation is not familiar.
• Contact an ecumenical representative from your synod and plan with them a program on ecumenism for your congregation and others in the community.
• Organize visits to congregations of other denominations or faiths, and meet with appropriate counterparts (adult forums, church councils, committees, etc.)