



Transforming Younger Local Church Pastors Transforming Churches Transforming Lives

Since 2008, the United Church Board of Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the philanthropic arm of the Pension Boards, has strengthened congregational ministry in the United Church of Christ (UCC) through the **Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI)**.

NGLI equips, energizes, and empowers younger UCC local church pastors to build vibrant congregations that change lives and further God's mission in the world. It seeks to honor and challenge younger clergy who have accepted the high calling to parish ministry, who demonstrate significant potential, and who view parish ministry as a career path and are willing to make a long-term commitment to service in congregational settings of the United Church of Christ.



"The [NGLI] curriculum is fabulous and wonderful, but the cohort that we have been given is very special and dear to me, and I expect it will be for an entire career. Having young people in the ministry be able to get together and talk about these stages of life and doing that together has just been an incredible opportunity."

— Rev. Emily Davis (NGLI*8),
First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake, IL



NGLI Curriculum

NGLI is a six-year leadership initiative that...

1. begins with an Orientation event where 15 pastors create a cohort to support and accountability to each other throughout the program;
2. is grounded in a four-year core curriculum:
 - a. Year One: **Self-Differentiated Leadership and Bowen Family Systems Theory**, with an emphasis on practicing non-anxious leadership and applying systems theory in a congregational context;
 - b. Year Two: **The Art of Adaptive Leadership**, with an emphasis on leading change in the evolving and increasingly complex context of congregations;
 - c. Year Three: **Building Great Teams**, with an emphasis on developing skills, practices, and orientations that build stronger and more imaginative teams to support the scale of evolution that the church now faces; and
 - d. Year Four: **Leading Congregations to Faithful and Fruitful Ministry**, with an emphasis on a new paradigm of evangelism and spiritual formation that leads to practical strategies for more effective outreach and growth.
3. explores additional leadership principles through four Field Trips—participation in two UCC General Synods to engage the wider church in action; a third field trip to a large mainline congregation to learn practical resources for church growth and faith development; and a final field trip outside of the religious context to learn Design Theory, and strengthen the praxis of creativity and experimentation;
4. offers up to \$2,000 in continuing education funds in Years Five and Six so that pastors can pursue personalized learning goals and objectives;
5. encourages commitment to parish ministry through a \$6,000 contribution to the participant's Annuity Plan account, which becomes fully vested at the completion of the program; and
6. culminates in a Benediction event that celebrates and marks the end of this transformational journey.



Applying for NGLI

Applying to participate in NGLI is a competitive process. Typically, there are two to three times the amount of applications received than the positions available. The ideal candidate will:

- be 35 years of age or under at the point of admission to NGLI
- be authorized for ministry in and on behalf of the UCC by an Association/Conference
- have served a total of five years or less as an authorized minister in a parish
- hold a called position of 20 hours per week or more in a parish setting
- be committed to long-term ministry in local churches of the United Church of Christ

Learn more about the
NGLI application process here:
https://bit.ly/PB_NGLI_APPL

NGLI brings together younger clergy in their first parish to focus on leadership development issues that can undergird them as they navigate into this new future. When we only focus on the future of the church, oftentimes we are thinking about how we can survive, how we can keep our membership strong, how can we keep vitality and relevance as we face the future.

When we look to the **Church of the Future**, we begin to allow the future to help us to evolve new forms of ministry and opportunities for service, and new ways of connecting and meeting the needs of people in a new time.



Learn more:
http://bit.ly/UCBMA_NGLI