

Why Coaching in the Wisconsin Conference?

Over the last few years our conference has developed a number of ways to support and encourage cohort practicing of ministry among clergy. Our conviction is that these times we are living in invite us to work more collaboratively and collegially than ever before. Coaching is another resource now available to pastors in the conference to support them during these times of rapid change and transition. We also believe that sustaining a cadre of trained and certified coaches, drawn from our rich pool of gifted pastors and lay leaders will lead to increasing congregational vitality and the encouragement of significant shifts from maintenance to mission.

The primary goal of the Wisconsin Conference Coaching Initiative is to provide support and encouragement to pastoral leaders as they engage the challenging, deeply meaningful and rapidly evolving work of ministry. Our ultimate vision is to make short-term, focused coaching available to any pastor serving a congregation whenever he/she identifies that it would be useful or helpful to their ministry to work with a coach.

Pinnacle Leadership Associates (www.pinnaclelead.org) trained the initial cohort of Wisconsin Conference coaches using their **Disciple Development Coaching (DDC)** coaching model. This model was originally developed for use within local congregations as an approach aimed at equipping congregation members to support one another as they grow and developed in faith and discipleship. **DDC** is a peer-based coaching model that provides individuals with basic skills and tools for coaching their peers. Individuals trained in DDC are not professional coaches. Pinnacle has adapted this model for use in our conference as a way of supporting growth and development in pastoral ministry. Another key feature of **DDC** is that it is a train the trainer model. Therefore, by the end of 2018 the Wisconsin Conference will have four coaches who have been trained to teach the **DDC** Model in our conference. This makes this program sustainable and affordable over the long term and we are very excited about that!

For questions or additional information about our coaching effort, please feel free to contact Tisha Brown (tbrown@wcucc.org) any time.