

## Who can benefit from this experience?

- those who are ready to explore a bi-vocational model of ministry
- those who have already made this transition and want a forum in which to develop further skills and support.

The 8-month span allows time for the shifting of perspectives and patterns, some exploration and experimentation, and the formation of colleague support relationships. Readings are provided in preparation for each session and practicum assignments follow each class to enhance understanding and application.

**SESSIONS:** meet the third Thursday of the month, beginning April 19, 2018 through November 15, 2018, 9:30—3:30pm.

**LOCATION:** Portage Presbyterian Church, Portage, WI

**COST:** **\$950** can be paid in full or in 2 installments due March 23 and August 16, 2018. Includes lunch and refreshments on meeting days and access to leadership for individual coaching during the 8 months.

**REGISTRATION:** For application materials and questions, contact [Linda@sandburconsulting.com](mailto:Linda@sandburconsulting.com)  
Phone: 608-847-5597

\*\* REGISTRATION \*\*  
DEADLINE  
MARCH 23, 2018

**LEADERS:** **Rev. Dave King** served small-membership congregations in rural WI for 35 years while working jobs as the elected township clerk, farming, installing flooring, and substitute teaching. **Rev Linda Kuhn** served over 30 years as an intentional interim pastor while balancing home-life, teaching, and putting food on the table. Both have been active in the formation and leadership of the Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers, a professional organization for bi-vocational ministers. As **partners in Sand Bur Consulting, LLC**, they lead training programs for interim ministers and lay pastors, help transform congregational conflict, offer workshops on the missional church, and guide churches through mergers, closures, and size transitions.

## Bi-Vocational Ministry Incubator

### NAVIGATING MINISTRY WITH A CHANGING CHURCH

EXPLORE WAYS TO SERVE A CHURCH THAT CAN NO LONGER AFFORD YOU



OFFERED BY SAND BUR CONSULTING, LLC

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★ APRIL - NOVEMBER, 2018 ★

A program of eight monthly day-long gatherings designed to help inform, form, and support faithful and effective bi-vocational ministers and their work with congregations through presentations, skill-building, tool development, peer support, and coaching/mentoring with a cadre of experienced professionals.

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTRY IS NOT ABOUT  
WORKING FOR LESS OR DOING PART OF A JOB.  
IT IS ABOUT DOING MINISTRY IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

*"Bi-vocational ministry is not about giving a congregation half a loaf. Rather, it is about offering a different kind of bread."*

- Tom Dietrich

## PREMISES UNDERLYING THIS PROGRAM

Increasingly, congregations can no longer afford a full-time, fully-supported pastor. And pastors are needing to wrestle with tough questions about how to sustain themselves while being faithful to their sense of call. The Church is changing; the shape of ministry is changing.

We think these times require a different way of thinking about ministry and a specialized set of skills, attitudes, and support. This bi-vocational incubator experience is designed to offer pastors a safe space in which to dig deeper into the theology of "call" and vocation, hone skills for doing ministry in a different way, develop tools to guide a congregation into making a transition into a more shared model of ministry, and find the courage to explore options for financial self-support.

Included in the cost is an individual confidential consultation with the Rev. Dr. Ross Peterson, former director of the Midwest Ministry Development Center, to assess personal strengths, challenges and questions in relation to a bi-vocational model of ministry.

With this approach, the sacred/secular division becomes artificial and all the world becomes an arena for ministry. When done well, bi-vocational ministry leads to a sense of freedom, the congregation feels empowered, outreach is expanded, and all experience a renewed sense of discipleship.

This program is offered inter-denominationally, recognizing that there are shared issues in bi-vocational ministry models that bridge denominational lines.

*"You yourselves know that I worked with my own hands to support myself and those who were with me."*

Apostle Paul, Acts 20:34 ISV

## WE WILL EXPLORE THESE TOPICS AND MORE

**LAYING THE FOUNDATION:** Biblical models, theology of vocation and call, re-imagining "church", "pastor" and "ministry", stories of real-life bi-vocational ministers, role of spiritual discernment

**MARKS OF EXCELLENCE FOR BI-VOCATIONAL PASTORS:** balancing relationships and expectations, exploring personality/work/leadership styles, maintaining support, honing negotiating skills

**COACHING A CONGREGATION INTO A BI-VOCATIONAL MODEL OF MINISTRY:** strategies for starting and supporting the conversation, dealing with expectations, dynamics of change/grief/anxiety, congregational vitality and mission

**EARNING A LIVING & SUPPORTING A LIFESTYLE:** living in a "gig" economy, scoping out possibilities, fostering an entrepreneurial spirit, marketing your skills, budgeting and making ends meet, ensuring benefits

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT:** equipping the missional church, fostering a team spirit, ministry in the workplace, dynamics of church size & community values, knowing when to step out of the way

**MANAGING EXPECTATIONS:** the culture of the church, personal and family values, coping with demands, dealing with tensions, helpful and useful tools for evaluating, feeding your soul

**HELPING YOU AND THE CHURCH STAY SANE AND HEALTHY:** developing appropriate boundaries, feeding your soul, juggling multiple balls, managing time and setting priorities, re-negotiating terms of call, self-care and family care as aspects of vocation

**DENOMINATIONAL IDENTITY:** maintaining support and connections, normalizing the bi-voc ministry model, building professional confidence

**PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER:** professional self-image & validation, continuing support & education, the realities of risk and trust, role of spouse/partner/family, living into a new reality