

***"So I'm Interested in becoming a Candidate for
Rostered Leadership in the ELCA.
What do I do first?"***

1. **Plan ahead and start the process now!** The ELCA's Candidacy Process takes time, and a positive entrance decision is required prior to beginning seminary or other candidacy coursework. The entrance process takes about six months, so it is crucial to start the application process as early as possible.
2. **Read the** Letter of Welcome from Pastor Julie Bailey in the packet. Candidacy.
3. **Familiarize yourself with** the Candidacy Process of the ELCA. Check out the information on the ELCA website at <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Vocation/Become-a-Leader.aspx>
4. **Learn more about** the four kinds of rostered leaders (clergy, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers) in the ELCA. Information can be found on the website
5. **Browse through** the Candidacy Resources and Guidelines available through the ELCA's Vocation and Education.
6. **Familiarize yourself** with the forms, interviews, and essays which are part of this process of discernment and formation.
7. **Assess your readiness** for seminary by discerning with your pastor the gifts and areas of growth, your families support, and your financial readiness. Consider what steps need to be taken to prepare yourself in the event that you should be attending seminary.