

Prairie Fire Frequently Asked Questions

Who is it for? Prairie Fire Preaching Community is not a preaching contest among colleagues. You might not even hear each other preach, unless you decide that's part of it for you. Seasoned preachers or preachers just getting into the practice of routine preaching are invited to apply for this program.

It's such an honor and privilege to preach the Good News. And. It's the AND that gets you. And the next sermon is always waiting to be started on and then preached. It can wear on a person, right? If you're feeling invigorated or just fine or in need of respite - Prairie Fire Preaching Community is for you.

Specifically, we are looking for Rostered ELCA Ministers who can realistically travel to Mt. Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington, MN for quarterly retreats. Prairie Fire Preaching Community is not limited to southern Minnesota participants.

Please only apply if all 4 retreat dates work in your calendar.

Retreat Dates for 2026-2027:

October 26-28, 2026

January 1 1-13, 2027

May 17-19, 2027

August 16-18, 2027

Retreat Experience: The retreats will center around hearing from a preaching expert and 2 experts from other disciplines. Our task as preachers will be to see through their eyes how they view their work and world and make connections to what we can learn from their craft and experiences. We think the impact of all 3 experts will spark creative possibilities for you as you explore your own preaching.

Cohorts: Cohorts will meet in between retreats via Zoom and will gather around themes with a presenter. They will serve as a connection point for colleagues in between retreats as well as a way for accountability with goals you set for yourself.

Location of retreats: Mt. Olivet Conference and Retreat Center, Farmington, MN (south of the Twin Cities)

Time commitment: Because the retreats are the beating heart of this experience, your attendance and participation in those retreats is paramount! Please don't apply if you cannot make the retreats work in your schedule. Cohort meetings in between retreats

are the connective tissue. You'll hold each other accountable with what you're practicing and learning. Retreats + Cohorts = It's A Whole Thing!

Application Timeline: Applications are due by April 30, 2026 to aase@gustavus.edu.

Cost: The cost of \$600 includes 4 retreats, cohort meetings in between retreats, as well as membership in Continuous Growth Pathway and access to all programs.