

WHAT IS MUTUAL MINISTRY?



VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



A WAY OF BEING CHURCH TOGETHER

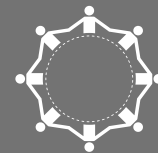
An ecclesiology in which:



we see ourselves and the church as Christ's agents in the world;

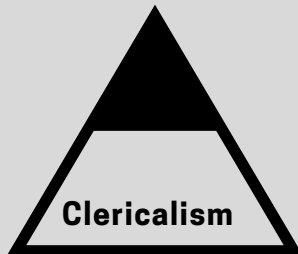


we affirm that each of us is a minister empowered with gifts the Holy Spirit has given;



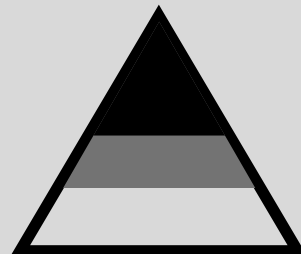
and we, together, are a community of ministers, not a community gathered around a minister (Wes Frensdorf).

LET'S EXPLORE THREE MODELS...



Clericalism

The priest is "THE Minister." All others are passive consumers of ministry congregating around the priest.



The priest is still the primary Minister, but receives assistance from a select group of (hand-picked) laity who serve in lay leadership positions. All others are passive consumers of ministry.

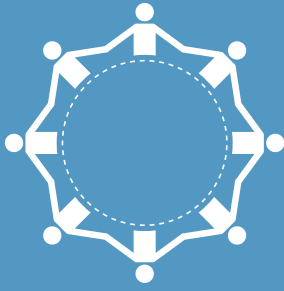


All ministry is Christ's; every baptized person is an active participant, each according to their gifts. The main arena for ministry is daily life.

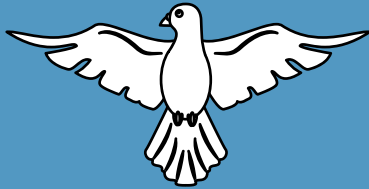
DID YOU KNOW?

Over the past 30 years, this practice of ministry has also been known as: Total Ministry, Shared Ministry, Baptismal Ministry, Collaborative Ministry, & Ministry Development.

MUTUAL MINISTRY IS...



A **ministry paradigm** where leadership is shared according to the gifts God has provided. It is...



- Systematically and intentionally **collaborative**;
- Focused on building **ministering communities**, not communities headed by a minister;
- Invitational **to/with all**;
- **Rooted** in local community – proximity and relationship cultivate invitation;
- Constantly **Discerning**;
- A **Celebration** of the small with **attention** to the margins;
- **Empowering/ Equipping** the natural curiosities and callings that arise;
- **Flexible** – ongoing discernment to be the church with the gifts and callings already there; and
- Serious attention to the “**ministry of all people of God**”

