Course title:  LEADERSHIP FOR VITAL CONGREGATIONS AND VITAL COMMUNITIES

Course: ML 409

Lead Instructor: Rev. Dr. Ruben Duran, Director for Congregational Vitality, ELCA; ruben.duran@elca.org; cell: 630-40-8591

Assistant Instructor: Dr. Kris Bjorke, Program Coordinator for Collaborative Ministries, ELCA; kris.bjorke@elca.org

Course Objective: Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to “design a process for enhancing the vitality of a congregation and its surrounding community”.

Course Description: Participants will explore theological tools, evaluate leadership insights, analyze research results and integrate practical resources into the design of a vitalization process for a congregation of their choice. Participants will interact with each other, with churchwide staff, and local practitioners during each session.

Course Design: This class will meet “synchronously” via Zoom on 6 Friday sessions. Additional content and interaction will be done with support from the Brightspace learning management system.

UNITS OF STUDY AND SCHEDULE

September 11th: Orientation to the Course and expectations
                   ELCA Future Directions and Priorities
                   Introduction to Congregational Vitality
                   Praxis: One on One Relational Meetings

October 2nd: Theological Foundations and Principles for Revitalization
                  Designing and Implementing a Congregational Revitalization Process

October 16th: New Vital Congregations: Research and Insights
                   Reading and Engaging the Context
Leading, Equipping and Facilitating a Revitalization Process
Collaboration and Innovation Strategies

November 6th: Cross-Cultural Competencies for Building Vital Congregations
Growing Economically Diverse
Reconciling in Christ Ministries

November 20th: Faith Formation Strategies: Growing Young, Discipleship, Life of Faith
Creating a Culture of Generosity
Vital Congregations: Case Studies

December 4th: Course Summary
Presentation of Final Projects
Closing Remarks

PARTICIPANTS: Seminary students will be graded Pass or Fail. Letter grade is possible if requested in writing before the second session.

Auditors are welcome for a course fee. Some partial scholarships are available.