

## GRACE IN ACTION

### Discussion Guide: Theology 4

#### *Pastoral Formation, Preaching, and the Ministry of the Gospel*

In pastoral formation during seminary, students learn about the Bible's contents and history. They also learn how to read and interpret the Bible. Regarding scripture, what would you like to learn more about? What resources and opportunities do you have to expand your knowledge?

A partner in pastoral formation is the Synod's Candidacy Committee, which includes clergy (pastors and deacons) and lay persons (non-clergy church members). Why is it important for both clergy and lay persons to be involved in pastoral formation?

*The Gospel* is a focus of this video. There are different ways we use the word *Gospel*. How does discussing the Gospel of Matthew or the Gospel of Mark differ from teaching about the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

The panelists mention that the Gospel is not static. In fact, scripture provides us with four different Gospels that share the good news of Jesus to different groups, in different places, with different backgrounds. Think of sharing Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. How would the tone, focus, and depth of the parable change when teaching preschoolers versus instructing retired military officers? What knowledge and skills are needed to teach both groups as well as other groups of people?

Pastoral formation includes learning to be a public servant of Jesus. For some church leaders, that may include wearing a clerical collar. When in public spaces, what is your first impression in meeting a person who wears a clerical collar? Does your first impression lean positive or negative, and why?

As our world grows and changes, what needs to be included in theological education that was not necessary 50 years ago?

How does God continue to guide the church through pastoral formation of church leaders?