

WOODLANDS CHURCH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP RESIDENCY OPPORTUNITY AND DESCRIPTION, 2027-2028

Woodlands Church is excited to offer a Ministry Leadership Residency to develop the next generation of church leaders. This 12-month program provides experience and growth opportunities for men and women planning on entering the ministry. Throughout the program, we also work to assist residents in finding full-time ministry opportunities. Success in this program is healthy placement in a God-honoring career.

WHO WE ARE

Woodlands is a vibrant, multi-generational Evangelical Free Church located in Central Wisconsin.

We have been entrusted with:

- attendance of over 1400
- 30+ gifted staff members
- united and gracious leadership
- committed and generous congregants
- an 18 acre property and a 100,000 square foot building

WOODLANDS PURPOSE

"To be a Christ centered community, helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally."



OUR PRIORITIES

Grounded: Building on the Word of God and prayer
Grace-filled: Proclaiming the gospel of grace, and living graciously
Going: Sharing the good news of Christ, and the love of Christ
Growing: Helping all people become more like Christ, in all of life and for all of life
Gathering: Pursuing the Christ centered life together in large and small groups
Giving: Practicing faithful generosity with our time, talents, and treasures.

WOODLANDS CHURCH

190 HOOVER AVE | PLOVER | WISCONSIN | 54467
www.woodlandschurch.org | 715.341.0800



MINISTRY LEADERSHIP RESIDENCY
PURPOSE

To develop and prepare called candidates for local church leadership by providing wide experiential learning opportunities and regular feedback.

RESIDENCY OVERVIEW

A Ministry Leadership Residency differs from an internship in that it seeks to give a broad, whole-church overview of ministry and engagement. Over the twelve month program, residents will gain experience and knowledge necessary for future ministry leadership - especially pastoral ministry.

In particular, Woodlands seeks to leverage its capable Ministry Leadership Team and excellent staff and facilities to train the next generation of ministry leaders. We hope to empower residents to learn freely during their time here. Each resident will be paired with a residential mentor (an experienced lay church leader), pulling from the deep ministry experience within our congregation.

A significant portion of a resident's time will be spent with other residents, observing and discussing various ministry areas. Residency involves exposure, experience, and evaluation of regular church ministries (including Sunday Morning, NextGen ministries, small groups, care, and outreach ministries, and facility, office, and finance areas). In addition, residents will be engaged in multiple learning opportunities, reading widely and gaining formal biblical, theological and Christian ministry training.

Broadly speaking, while gaining knowledge and experience throughout the entire program, the first half of the residency program will include an evaluation of the resident’s call into and preparation for ministry; the second half would then include support in finding, applying for, and preparing for a specific ministry placement or seminary upon completion of the residency program.



VALUE

Gained Experience:

- Pastoral care - including job-shadowed hospital visits and premarital counseling, wedding officiation, and funeral support.
- Involvement in Kids, Youth, and Adult teaching and ministry leadership.
- Participation in the preparation, production, and connections leadership necessary for an effective Sunday morning experience.
- Woodlands partners with other regional churches to provide additional experience at different ministry scales and invovlement levels. These are rich opportunities.
- Residents will be engaged in a spiritual formation curriculum, developing healthy habits and patterns of spiritual development which will stead them for a lifetime of ministry.

Gained Knowledge:

- Experiences will be synthesized through regular conversations within the residential cohort and with mentors.
- Candidates will be enrolled in a Ministry Certificate program through an accredited seminar, and will be guided through writing their licensure paper for EFCA ministry accreditation through the Gateway program.

REQUIREMENTS

- Candidates for Residency will have an undergraduate degree.
- There is no age or gender requirement. Residents may be single, or married.
- Candidates should be able to articulate a specific call into local church ministry - this is an experiential learning opportunity, not a “taste and see” exploration.
- Candidates should agree with the EFCA Statement of Faith and align with Woodlands Church’s Purpose and Priorities (https://woodlandschurch.org/who-we-are/). Any tensions with the Statement of Faith will be discussed during the application process.
- Candidates must be available to engage with this program during regular working hours - 9am - 4pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and 8am-noon on Sundays, with flexible availability in the evenings and on weekends. During various seasons, candidates will have regular responsibilities on weekday evenings.
  - Residents are encouraged to seek additional part-time employment, if needed for living expenses. If additional funds are needed, support may be raised from a sending church, family, or friends.
  - It is not recommended that residents be pursuing additional educational advancement during their residency (online graduate degrees, etc). If this will be the case, an extended conversation needs to be had to ensure this is an appropriate time to pursue residency.
- Residents are expected to provide their own transportation and phone.

WOODLANDS CHURCH

190 HOOVER AVE | PLOVER | WISCONSIN | 54467
www.woodlandschurch.org | 715.341.0800



PROVISIONS

- Woodlands will work with candidates to find a housing opportunity from within the congregation (at no cost to the resident).
  - The resident and housing will sign a clarifying agreement to help this be as worthwhile as possible.
- Residents will be provided a computer and a base copy of Logos Bible Software.
- Woodlands will cover the costs for the fully accredited Ministry Certificate and Gateway programs.
- Candidates will be allowed (and encouraged) to raise additional support. Woodlands may help the candidate in this process.
- Woodlands will work with residents to find appropriate full-time church ministry work immediately after completing the residency program.
- Residents will be allowed two weeks of vacation, in addition to the week between Christmas and New Years. Additional schedule accommodation is possible as needed.

SCOPE

Residency is a 12-month, 40 hour-a-week program. It runs from July 18, 2027 - June 18, 2028.

- Residential cohort, including ministry embedding (10 hr/wk)
- Individual ministry experience, including teaching (10 hrs/wk)
- Learning and development (8 hr/week)
- Mentorship, spiritual formation, and discipleship (6 hr/wk)
- General church involvement (6 hrs/wk)

APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE PROCESS

To apply, visit https://woodlandschurch.org/residency, make a copy of the Google Doc Application and complete it. Then, email the application and your resume to residency@woodlandschurch.org by April 30th.

After we review your application, we'll reach out to let you know if you fit our program and next steps. Our acceptance process will complete no later than May 31, 2026. We will work to let you know if you're accepted as soon as possible. Applications may close early.

WOODLANDS CHURCH

190 HOOVER AVE | PLOVER | WISCONSIN | 54467
www.woodlandschurch.org | 715.341.0800