

Dear Friend,

The Leadership Program for Musicians was formed in the early nineties. Since that time, it has strengthened the church by developing competent and skillful leaders and teachers. Truly, LPM has helped many musicians over the years bring their congregations to be more confident in singing their praises to God.

Over the years, LPM has faced many of the same challenges that our churches are facing. As the church is struggling with how to be relevant in our fast paced and ever-changing society, so has LPM struggled with how to best offer our gifts and to engage a changing world. While the board of LPM has made several attempts to identify needs and adapt the program, the results have been less successful than we hoped.

At a very recent meeting, the board brought in a consultant to lead us through a period of self-examination. Is LPM meeting a need? Are we duplicating efforts? With very limited resources, are we able to effectively offer our services to the church? These are some of the questions with which we wrestled. The board was very honest in our approach to this conversation, knowing that we are stewards of a great gift.

After much prayer and conversation, the board made the decision to suspend class offerings for the foreseeable future. This was not an easy decision. Many board members, teachers, and students have given their love and energy to this program and we realize that it holds a special place in the heart of the church. We also realize it was an important connection between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The board very much wants the legacy that was begun those many years ago to continue. We are currently exploring ways that the curriculum might be shared within our synods, dioceses, denominations, and related organizations. If you have ideas about how to be good stewards of the curriculum, please let us know.

The board is thankful for everyone who has ever given their heart and talent to the Leadership Program for Musicians. Through the work of this program, you have served the church faithfully, and have planted seeds throughout the world that will continue to bear fruit. We encourage you to see this not as an ending, but as a new beginning. During this Lenten season in particular, we know that, already, God is doing something new, and that we will all be called, somehow, to participate.

Each of us thanks you for allowing us to be a part of this very important and special ministry.

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

Respectfully -

Kyle Ritter, Chair
Scott Weidler
Sue Mitchell Wallace
John Weit
Julie Grindle
Tim Getz
Jessica Nelson
The Reverend Charles Dupree