

## ECMN Team Ministry in Minnesota

Team Ministry in Minnesota has multiple expressions, including Total Ministry, Shared Ministry, or Mutual Ministry, depending on the context of a given faith community. For purposes of the Profile, we are using the term “Team Ministry” to encompass all those things.

The roots of ECMN Team Ministry began during World War II when Bishop Keeler developed “Bishop’s Men,” a program to train lay readers to hold worship services in rural areas. In the 1980’s Team Ministry evolved into the shared responsibility of a local team within a faith community in northern and southern Minnesota. The concept spread within the Department of Indian Work (DIW) under the leadership of The Reverends Doyle Turner, John Robertson and Mark McDonald, with a focus on a model of Gospel Based Discipleship. A partnership was formed with United Theological Seminary for a course in Indian Studies. DIW created Kah-O-Sed School in 2002, and four Native American students were ordained in 2005 to serve as “locally ordained” deacons. Total Ministry became part of the Canons of the Episcopal Church in the mid 1980’s. The Rev. Ben Scott led the way southern MN. In 2009, The Rev. Sandi Holmberg became the Canon Missioner for Ministry Development for the Diocese, concentrating on Total or Shared Ministry.

Team Ministry can involve ordained ministers, lay members, licensed ministries and more. Most Team Ministry members are not paid unless they are supply priests in partnership with a team. Priests and deacons ordained through the Team Ministry process may serve anywhere. Today at



least 20 teams are active in ECMN. Bishop Prior moved to a [School for Formation](#) model that utilizes a variety of methods to train teams for their local context. As first generation team members age and retire, planning replacement teams is a significant challenge that must be faced.

Despite a blizzard, members of Holy Apostles Shared Ministry Team show up to support and serve the family of a deceased loved one at a graveside Hmong funeral service