

**ADVENTURING WITH
CHRIST IN THE CHURCH
STAFF VOCATIONS**

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Adventuring with Christ in the church staff vocations by Wilton E. Bergstrand & Marjorie Axelton & Carl L. Manfred

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WILTON E. BERGSTRAND & MARJORIE AXELTON & CARL L. MANFRED

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DEDICATION

To the Women's Missionary Society in grateful recognition of its sustained enthusiasm for the cause of church vocations for the laity and for the courageous pioneering it has done in this area, as well as for the tools it has supplied to acquaint the youth of the Church with the adventurous assignments that await them in these callings, this manual is dedicated.

FOREWORD

THERE is no other work on earth which can compare with the work of the Christian Church. There is no other work which has a greater need for a consecrated staff of workers. There is no other work which offers greater opportunities for meaningful service or richer satisfactions in the knowledge that the worker, in partnership with God, is filling an urgent need in His Kingdom.

This manual has a three-fold purpose. As a supplement to the smaller booklet, *Who Will Go?*, it seeks to guide young people in the matter of their important vocational decisions. For those who have already committed themselves in favor of one of the church vocations it offers helpful information for the important period of preparation leading to the day when the church staff worker will enter into his first assignment. The several hundred men and women who are now serving on the staffs of local congregations (and the more than one thousand others who are working on a part-time or volunteer basis) will also profit by studying carefully the information and suggestions contained in this book.

There are also three secondary purposes. Pastors and seminarians will read this book with interest for the insights it contains concerning various areas of parish life, as well as for the tips it offers for good staff relations. Board members in churches employing (or contemplating the employment of) staff workers will also profit by the reading of this manual. Teachers at our colleges and Bible Schools have indicated that *Adventuring with Christ* will help to fill a very real need in connection with their courses or seminars in parish work and for assigned reference reading in their classes.

Obviously, *Adventuring with Christ in the Church Staff Vocations* is not the work of any one or two persons. Its value lies in the fact that it represents the pooling of ideas, observations and experiences of scores of church staff workers who have happily and eagerly shared their findings to make possible the publication of this book.

These friends know from first-hand experience the thrill of adventuring with Christ in the church staff vocations. They want you to know it, too!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ALL who have had the privilege of sharing in the preparation of this manual are grateful to Lorraine Bergstrand of the Youth Office staff for her quietly efficient work in all the phone calls, correspondence, chats and sanctified common sense required in the myriad of details connected with handling the "personnel bureau" of the Augustana Lutheran Church during the first eight years that this has been a Youth Board responsibility. Her thoughtful counsel and glad dedication have been a source of inspiration to hundreds of church staff workers throughout the entire Church.

We are grateful, too, to the other members of the Youth Office staff, to the many pastors who assisted by replying to our questionnaires and especially to the church staff workers who shared so freely and frankly of their experiences by contributing material for this study.

A special word of appreciation is owed to artist Robert Blewett whose illustrations help so much to tell the story of *Adventuring with Christ*.

To these friends, to all who read the manuscript and offered helpful suggestions and constructive criticism and to all who shared or contributed in any other way in the preparation of this manual, we express our sincere thanks.

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