

**CHECK OUT CIRCLE M's  
OTHER SERVICES AT**

[www.circle-m.ca](http://www.circle-m.ca)

**S.T.M. Degree in Rural Ministry and Community Development.** This internationally accredited, distance format graduate degree trains rural clergy for leadership in their communities.

**Certificate in Rural Stress Intervention.** This certificate will train key community leaders in skills and strategies for dealing with a community crisis. Begins 2011.

**Community-based Clinical Pastoral Education.** Program begins in 2011.

**Resource Centre.** This on-line library allows visitors to borrow books, CDs, DVDs, brochures, and other materials. The cost to borrow is postage for mailing items to and from the borrower.

**Conferences.** CiRCLe M holds a rural ministry and community development conference once every two years. Our next conference will be in 2011.



## CiRCLe M Mission

*Our central purpose is rural ministry leadership development*

✚ CiRCLe M will equip rural clergy and lay leaders to help their churches be catalysts for the development of healthy rural communities in Canada.

✚ It will develop and coordinate instruction, research, mentors, materials, and conferences towards this purpose.

✚ It will work to build bridges between rural churches and other institutions/ organizations concerned with the well-being of rural communities including: church structures of various denominations, rural community development programs (both academic and government-based), government rural health initiatives, the Canadian Rural Church Network, and other partners.



### CiRCLe M

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**CiRCLe M**  
Centre for Rural Community  
Leadership and Ministry

## Peer Mentoring for Rural Clergy



*Equipping Rural Churches  
to Build Rural Communities*

Telephone: 306-966-7864

# Peer Mentoring for Rural Clergy

## Why a Mentor?



Wondering how you are going to manage in your new rural parish?

Starting ministry in a rural parish can be daunting for someone who has never served a rural parish before. Rural communities are complex social networks that must be navigated with care. Town and country parishes can be very different than their urban counterparts in customs, expectations and key relationships.

Even those who have previously served a rural parish quickly recognize that rural communities and congregations are highly unique. It takes considerable time to know a community and for them to get to know and trust you. And sometimes clergy serve several congregations and communities in a multi-point parish, requiring much more time to connect well. Yet most rural clergy spend less than 3 years, on average, in their calls.

We would like to help clergy make a gracious and informed entry into their new rural site by pairing them with a local mentor who can help them come to understand the history, key players and important customs of the community.

## Mentoring Team Training

Clergy who apply will be assisted to identify an insightful, long-time member of the community with whom they can form a mentoring team. This person may be a professional—a teacher or doctor, for example—but will not be a member of the clergy person's congregation. This allows for some freedom and confidentiality in their conversations.

Once a mentor has been identified, clergy-mentor teams will come together for a two-day training event that will help them get to know each other in a structured way and provide some tools for intentionally exploring the life and culture of their community. It will also help to set expectations for the mentoring relationship.

## On-going Team Support

During the two years of the formal mentoring relationship, mentoring teams will be brought into contact with each other once a year face-to-face and at other times by email,



conference call, or other means. They will celebrate their rural ministry experiences and share mentoring strategies.

## What does it Cost?

Participants will be responsible for their transportation. Accommodation can be arranged very inexpensively. Since CiRCLe M is a non-profit, we only try to cover basic costs. The training itself will cost \$450 per team per year. However, in some cases subsidy for training and other costs is available from grants that support this program.



*If you would like more information about joining the mentoring program please contact the CiRCLe M director (see below).*

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