

Ten Questions

For the “North American Lutheran Church” (NALC) & “Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ” (LCMC)

1. When were each of these organizations established?

- LCMC became an association of Lutheran churches October 2001
- NALC became an official church denomination August of 2010.

2. How large are these two organizations now?

- LCMC has 592 congregations in the US, 42 states, congregations in 11 countries, has 74 new congregations start-ups, 100 pastors available for call.
- NALC has more than **180** congregations which have voted to join the North American Lutheran Church since the August 2010 convocation. The total includes **157** that have completed the voting process and been received as member congregations of the NALC, and remainder have passed at least one congregational vote indicating their intention to join the NALC in the future. Five to seven inquire of Bishop Spring each week.

3. As we leave the ELCA, what can we expect from LCMC and NALC?

- LCMC and NALC will be what the ELCA now claims to be: under the authority of the scriptures, Lutheran, confessional, evangelical.
- LCMC and NALC will not shrink back from a traditional law/gospel Lutheran theology.
- LCMC and NALC both uphold the common confession. (see

4. What would the benefit be to join both LCMC and NALC?

- If Hope joined both the LCMC and the NALC we would have the benefit of the greater Texas numbers of the LCMC association for fellowship and encouragement towards mission, and the security of the light structure of the NALC denomination to help in times of pastoral transition - along with help with mission identification and encouragement.
- We would be free of the present ELCA distractions of unbiblical sexuality policy, the weight of a heavy three tiered structure, and balance restored regarding Jesus' gospel of redemption and social justice issues.

5. What is the call process for a new pastor with each organization?

- LCMC provides a guided call process clearly described in packet form. (There are 100 rostered pastors available for call.)
- NALC has a Bishop who will guide the process with the congregation.

Both NALC and LCMC have a rostered pastor list.

6. What is the financial responsibility to either organization?

- LCMC suggests giving a portion of benevolence dollars to the general fund of LCMC to help pay for communication, conventions, legal support, and expenses associated with coordinating the activities of our congregations. Additionally, LCMC has two restricted funds available for direct contribution: the Seminary Debt Relief Fund, and the Mission Congregation Fund.
- NALC suggests it needs direct support, especially during its formative years, but ongoing administrative costs will be limited because of the NALC's commitment to a lean structure. The amount is a congregation decision.

7. What commitment has either made to missions and/or any other financial obligations?

- NALC congregations decide which ministries to support with their benevolence giving. The NALC will help congregations find the best ways to support Christ's mission in the world. NALC congregations are encouraged to support ministries and mission congregations directly.
- To aid in the church's hands-on evangelism the NALC has a mission director... a gifted evangelist named *Rev. Dr. Buba* (whose father was martyred for the faith in Ethiopia) who will help us to think through and execute evangelism in our local context.
- LCMC's name suggests mission must be a priority: "Lutheran Congregations in Mission For Christ." They ask each congregation to get directly involved in supporting some mission (it could be the ones we already support... we could take on a new one such as "China Service Venture" or some other one.)

8. If Hope joins LCMC or NALC or both now, what process is necessary if we change our minds later?

- Affiliation with the NALC and the LCMC can be dissolved by approving by at least a [X % greater than a simple majority] of those present thus passing a resolution directing that this congregation withdraw from the NALC or LCMC, all provisions of the constitution shall be immediately ineffective. The congregation shall promptly deliver a copy of the withdrawal resolution to the NALC general secretary or the LCMC board.
- Neither the NALC nor the LCMC claim rights to congregation property.

9. Will similar problems we have had with ELCA be replicated in either LCMC or NALC and how is the process to deal with any potential problems different?

- Both the NALC and the LCMC have the added safeguard of a congregation ratifying vote on constitutional and binding policy. (It is Pastor Joel's opinion that if the ELCA would have had to ratify the 09 churchwide decisions regarding sexuality policy than it never would have been instituted.)

10. What might a comparison chart between NALC and LCMC look like?

- The NALC and Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) are committed to working in close partnership. Some have called the two church bodies fraternal twins. LCMC is a vibrant and faithful association of congregations, rather than a denominational church body. Like LCMC, the NALC will be focused on and do its ministry through congregations, but it will have more of a traditional denominational structure to assist congregations in their mission and ministry and in calling pastoral leadership. Congregations can be members of both NALC and LCMC.
- (see chart in list of resources on Hope's Direction page)