



2012 Convocation

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Report of the Candidacy Committee

Since the 2011 NALC Convocation, the Candidacy Committee has expanded from five to ten members. Seeking to respond faithfully to the church's need for faithful leaders, the committee works in partnership with the church to guide candidates as they discern God's call to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

At each stage of the process (entrance, endorsement, internship and approval) committee members walk with the candidates to gauge their development using numerous resources: evaluations, transcripts, essays on biblical topics and theological matters, along with reflections on pastoral ministry and the Christian church. References and criminal background checks are also required. There are approximately 60 individuals in the candidacy process at this time, and the committee receives new inquiries into the candidacy process each week.

In addition to our work with seminarians, the committee also leads the interview process for pastors transferring into the NALC from other traditions.

The committee met in October 2011, March and June 2012 to interview candidates. During other months of the year, the committee also conducts in-person and video-conference interviews.

During the week of the August 2011 NALC Convocation, the committee hosted a two-day gathering for NALC seminarians. Seminarians, committee members, Bishop Bradosky and Bishop Spring used this time for Bible study, prayer, relationship building and presentations regarding theology, ministry and discernment. This will be an annual gathering for all our seminarians.

The committee is grateful to the NALC Task Force for Theological Education. This group is in active conversations with theological institutions willing to provide orthodox and confessional Lutheran learning opportunities for our candidates in non-Lutheran seminaries. Furthermore, all seminarians are being assigned NALC pastors who can serve as mentors during their formation for ministry.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee,

Rev. Ken Reed, Chairperson

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Report of the Communications and Publicity Committee

The Communications and Publicity Committee has been meeting since January 2012. Committee members are Rev. David Baer, Rev. Mark Chavez, Donna Evans, David Hahn, Carol Lattier and Ryan Schwarz. Thanks go to former committee member, Terry Rowley (our webmaster).

In February, members of the communications team gathered at Columbus, Ohio, to discuss the communication needs and goals of the NALC. While day-to-day needs were deemed important and would be addressed during the year, the discussion focused primarily on the larger communication issues surrounding growth and management of perceptions of a new denomination.

At this meeting we assumed that short-term critical NALC growth would come primarily from existing ELCA congregations. Being aware that people must have a strong reason to change denominations we felt that the NALC must demonstrate a compelling cause to make that choice. We agreed that what sets the NALC apart from other Lutheran denominations is the **very nature of our discipleship**. It is how we authentically and faithfully follow Christ. **Authentic discipleship** directs the core content of our faith, our lifestyle, the legacy and tradition of our faith and the conviction of belief in membership and leadership. Within the group, our decision was to use the term “**Authentic Discipleship**” as the basis and proofing tool of the group products.

Bishop Bradosky has already developed a clear articulation of authentic discipleship in his many talks/papers on the six components of discipleship. This is the platform from which we can begin to specifically address the communication goals:

- Establish an identity and credibility for the NALC that differentiates it from other denominations
- Motivate Lutherans in North America to become part of the NALC
- Develop processes for timely distribution of NALC news to internal and external audiences.
- Aid the NALC’s overall mission of making authentic disciples of Christ

Specific Products of the Communications and Publicity Committee in 2012:

1. Bishop Bradosky’s comprehensive work in articulating authentic discipleship began to be compiled with a view of publishing the work as a book, with an accompanying study guide. The completed book/study will provide a platform to speak to the media, to NALC congregations and to other entities. It is a tool we can use to establish credibility and to jumpstart the needed conversations. There are also plans to have a DVD of Bishop Bradosky making a live presentation of his discipleship material. **Status:** Bishop Bradosky has completed four chapters and will be selecting an editor and publisher. The goal will be to have the book, study and DVD ready in 2013.
2. Rev. Mark Chavez, David Hahn, Terry Rowley and Anne Gleason are planning for the next version of the NALC website. It will be a content management based platform that integrates the website with the NALC database. Development of the new website will begin this fall and will be completed by the end of the year.

3. Provide a preliminary mentoring document to aid in direct contact and shepherding of prospective members and congregations. The document should address coaching and training and an understood pathway on how to join the NALC among other needs. **Status:** In-work with a release date of January 2013.
4. Hardcopy and online publicity packages for the Bishop, General Secretary, Assistants to the Bishop, and Treasurer. These would be available to each congregation that hosts an official visit approximately 6 weeks before the planned visit in order to assist in publicizing both the NALC and their own local congregation in available media outlets. **Status:** Bishop and General Secretary publicity packages completed and released to their secretaries to coordinate with visit schedules. Assistants and Treasurer packages will be completed by the end of August.
5. Comprehensive media list by geographic area to assist overall NALC publicity (local and national) has been completed and will be given to the NALC secretaries to send with the publicity packages.

Rev. Baer and Mr. Rowley continued their outstanding work with the official NALC newsletters and websites.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol H. Lattier

2012 North American Lutheran Church Report of the Court of Adjudication

The Court of Adjudication respectfully presents this report.

I. Cases Handled

No cases were filed, considered, or decided in the last year.

II. Rules Regarding Disciplinary Cases

Under Section 15.04 of the Constitution, the Court is obligated to “draft rules of procedure sufficient to ensure fairness to all interested parties and to enable the Court to reach informed decisions.” With one partial exception, the Court fulfilled this responsibility in 2011. Under Section 14.05 of the Constitution, the Executive Council is to “develop and approve a process for discipline and appeal proceedings.” The Executive Council’s work on this task is ongoing. Once it is complete, the Court will draft rules that are consistent with the NALC Constitution and with the process adopted by the Executive Council.

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We all are privileged to serve and we stand ready to fulfill the responsibilities assigned by the Constitution to the Court of Adjudication. We are, however, gratified that no conflicts have yet required our attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard F. Currey, Esq.
Jon Evans, Esq.
James H. Gale, Esq.
The Rev. Dr. Jeffray Greene
The Rev. Dr. Ralph A. Kempinski
Carolyn Nestingen, Esq.
The Rev. Dr. Ron Warren

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Report of the Joint Commission on Theology and Doctrine

The Joint Commission on Theology and Doctrine met three times this past year. A fourth meeting is scheduled just prior to this year's convocations. What follows is a summary of the Commission's conversations and actions.

1. The Commission planned this year's theological conference and began planning for next year. The theme for 2013's theological conference is: *What does it mean to be the church?*
2. The Commission is keenly aware of the need to raise up a new generation of theologians within the Lutheran community. To address this need, the Commission has invited a number of younger theologians to a special two-day conference, which is meeting in conjunction with this year's convocations. These younger theologians will discuss principal theological issues facing North American Lutheranism and the nature of authority in the church and in theology.
3. The Commission is also concerned about theological education in the North American Lutheran Church and in Lutheran CORE. The Commission recommended to the NALC Executive Council that a task force on theological education be appointed and that a consultant be named to move this matter forward.
4. The Commission adopted a "word of counsel and advice" to the NALC bishop and Executive Council regarding lay worship leadership. This brief document is not intended to be the last word on this subject, but is intended to serve as temporary guidance to NALC leaders as they consider lay persons in the preaching and sacramental ministry of the church.
5. In response to a request from the NALC Executive Council, the Commission has taken on the function of a committee for ecumenical concerns. At all meetings of the Commission there is a review of the NALC's ecumenical relationships. Of particular attention this past year have been relationships with LCMC, the Anglican Church in North America, the Roman Catholic Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and proposals for NALC membership in the Lutheran World Federation. Pastor David Wendel's report provides more details about the NALC ecumenical endeavors.
6. Currently under discussion are a number of other important matters: a way to address abortion and nascent life; a theological framework for the office of deacon; the meaning of altar and pulpit fellowship and full communion; and a process and priorities for how—and whether—the North American Lutheran Church and Lutheran CORE should address pressing social concerns.

Serving on the Commission are representatives from Lutheran CORE and the North American Lutheran Church. Lutheran CORE representatives are Carl Braaten, Stephen Hultgren, Steven Paulson, and Kenneth Sauer. NALC representatives are Robert Benne, David Hahn, Benjamin Johnson, James Nestingen, Eric Riesen, Amy Schiffrin, Henry Schulte, Sue Tolton, and Larry Yoder. Paull Spring serves as convener. Co-chairs are Paul Uring, Lutheran CORE moderator, and John Bradosky, North American Lutheran Church bishop.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Uring
John Bradosky

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Report of the NALC Canadian Commission

In forming the NALC there was a vision of uniting faithful and orthodox Lutherans across the entire North American continent. That vision is moving forward as Lutheran churches in Canada are voting to join the NALC. But, the unity in ministry sometimes is challenged by legal issues as we work across national borders. The NALC Canadian Commission was formed to find ways to maintain our oneness while meeting the legal requirements of two nations.

It was with excited anticipation that our commission met in Edmonton, AB, Canada, on December 6-7, 2011. Using Ephesians 4 as our devotional and discussion text, we found a solid bond in faith. From our shared center in Christ and commitment to the four fundamental values of the NALC, we went to work on overcoming the legal obstacles that stand in our path. Many of the things already established in the U.S.A. now needed to be established in Canada. We needed to assure charitable tax status and licensing to perform marriages. Pension funds and medical benefits will not work across borders. Contributions that cross the border create a legal issue. Mobility of pastors, seminary training, military chaplains, and mission district connections were all concerns to be addressed.

Many of the items are now in place thanks to the foresight of our Canadian pastors on the commission. Proposals were sent to the Executive Council regarding legal counsel to work out incorporation in Canada. We are also very grateful to the Lutheran Church–Canada (sister church of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod) for its offer to help us get established in Canada.

The highlights of the time together were the two meetings led by Bishop Bradosky introducing the NALC to several hundred people representing more than a dozen congregations. The discussion and questions at those meetings showed that we deal with the same concerns on both sides of the border. Similar tactics are used by bishops and the denominations to create fear and force congregations to stay in the ELCA and the ELCIC. People wanted assurances that the NALC would not go down the same path as the ELCA and ELCIC. Bishop Bradosky outlined how those bodies got to where they are and how building on a different foundation with a different set of values will keep us from repeating their errors. He encouraged those who attended the meetings to lean into the race set before them and leave the past behind. The meetings ended with great enthusiasm as we move forward together.

Since the meeting, the NALC Executive Council has approved the recommendations of the commission and the process is moving forward. Pastor Phillip Gagnon, Pastor Karl Johnsen, and Pastor K. Glen Johnson have been appointed as official spokespersons for the NALC Canada Section. Background checks for pastors are in place. Legal counsel has been obtained to work on incorporation in Canada.

A theological conference was hosted by some of the commission churches in Canada this past April. Bishop Bradosky and other NALC staff members attended this conference and made some important contacts.

Thanks to all who have helped move this process forward. A special thanks to the three members of the commission in Canada who have done the majority of the ground work to get us to this point.

Respectfully submitted,

The Canadian Commission:

Pastor Donald Allman – Chair
Pastor Karl Johnsen – Secretary
Pastor K. Glen Johnson
Pastor Phillip Gagnon
Pastor Victor Langford
Pastor Mark Chavez

2012 North American Lutheran Church Convocation Report of the Nominations Committee

The 2012 Convocation of the North American Lutheran Church will call individuals to serve in two elected positions of the NALC. It was the task of the Nominations Committee to gather the names of those who would be willing to serve the NALC and guide our work together.

The 2012 Nominations Committee met by email in order to gather nominations for the Executive Council and the Court of Adjudication.

The following persons were elected to serve on this committee: Pr. David Baer, South Dakota; Mr. Chris Nevins, Texas; Ms. Rachel Sosebee, Ohio; Pr. Michael Tamorria, Maryland; Pr. Carl Haynes, Chair, North Carolina; and General Secretary Mark Chavez, ex officio, Pennsylvania.

In May a letter with information regarding guidelines and nomination forms was mailed to all NALC congregations, requesting nominations from them. This information was also made available on the NALC website.

Information regarding the names of those nominated for the Executive Council and the Court of Adjudication was published in the July edition of the NALC newsletter.

We want to express our appreciation for those who made nominations and for those who are willing to serve. It is wonderful to have such dedicated people who are willing to serve God through our church body. We give thanks to God for all of them and pray for God to empower those who are elected to serve faithfully to His glory and for the sake of the mission we share as the Body of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Pr. Carl M. Haynes, Chair

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Report of the Task Force for Theological Education

The Task Force for Theological Education began its work at the end of October, 2011. It was given the mission of assisting in the establishment of a theological identity for the North American Lutheran Church. To accomplish this goal it was given the following tasks by the Executive Council:

1. Assess existing master's level programs that foster the mission and theological identity of the NALC with the short term goal of identifying and approving current master's level programs
2. Plan for the long term goal of an NALC seminary
3. Develop plans for further initiatives on lay theological education

The composition of the task force has changed over the intervening months and thanks are due to the following individuals: James Bangsund, Robert Benne, Carl Braaten, Susan Bushard, Rebecca Heber, Roy Harrisville Sr., Richard Merkouris, Russell Saltzman, Amy Schifrin, Nathan Yoder, David Wendel (Executive Council liaison).

The task force submitted a preliminary report to the Executive Council in May. That report contained a list of recommended master's level institutions and professors to be used by the Candidacy Committee in its work.

The task force continues to work on the concept of an NALC seminary. At this time the task force is interviewing candidates for the position of theological education consultant to aid in further development of an NALC seminary.

The task force also submitted to the Executive Council in May a draft outline for lay theological education that includes both local and national initiatives.

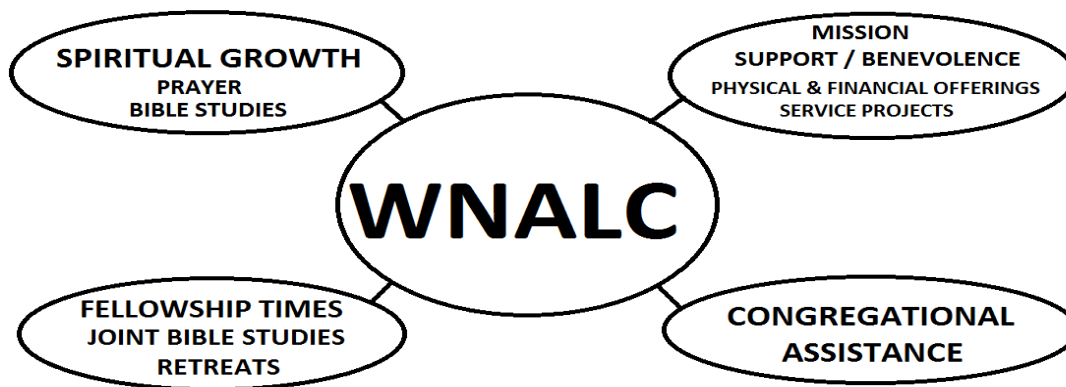
The task force understands the impact that theological education will have on the NALC and is fully committed to providing a faithful plan for theological education that will foster the mission of the NALC. May the Lord bless our current efforts and guide us in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy A. Harrisville III, Chair

2012 North American Lutheran Church Convocation Report of the Women of the NALC

The WNALC – Connecting with our Sisters in Christ to Share God’s Love.



On Facebook, search group pages for Women of the NALC

WNALC.ORG

At a meeting during the 2011 convocation, The Women of the NALC (the WNALC) was officially organized by adopting a provisional constitution. As sisters in Christ, we dedicate ourselves to guide and direct the women of the North American Lutheran Church in their efforts to move forward in faith and mission, through prayer and evangelism, with the Holy Scriptures as the ultimate authority of God. We affirmed our belief and support of the NALC attributes: *Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused.*

The elected leadership of the WNALC is an eight member Women’s Council. The council chose Jeanne Wallace as chair, Jan Williams as secretary, and Kathy Hefner as treasurer. Other members are Norma Adkins, Rev. Connie Bramlett, Anneta Buenger, and Juhree Polkowski. At a meeting in November 2011, with Rev. Mark Chavez, we identified the focus of this ministry. The WNALC desires to assist congregational women’s ministries in their spiritual growth (through Bible studies and prayer), encourage them to provide mission support (through their physical and financial offerings and through service projects), assist in their congregations, and to offer fellowship opportunities with other women’s ministries, including our sisters from other CORE congregations.

After identifying our focus, we worked on the logistical issues of creating a new organization.

We are defined as a ministry organization of the NALC. The NALC constitution does not address our operational functions. On the advice of NALC legal experts, the Women’s Council has developed “Organizational Guidelines” instead of a constitution. This will be presented for adoption at our annual meeting on August 15, 2012.

As an auxiliary ministry of the NALC, the NALC financial administration office handles all our financial transactions. Highly aware of our responsibility as good stewards of our financial gifts,

we have kept our expenses to a minimum, conducting most of our business electronically through email and iMeetings. Financial gifts to the WNALC have totaled \$5,646.00.

To communicate with women about this ministry, the Women's Council created a website to disseminate information and a Facebook group page for women to interact with each other. Women's Council members have met with women across the country, speaking at mission district meetings, discipleship events, and at individual congregational meetings. In doing so, we have been in contact with representatives from a majority of the congregational women's groups. From these meetings, we are learning the needs and desires of our women's ministries and how we can be a help to them.

In 2012-2013, we will continue to develop a communication network with women's ministries, developing a framework within the mission districts. We will start committee work to meet our goals, encouraging participation by the local women's ministries. At our Annual Meeting, our key Bible study will be "Pray without Ceasing." We will hear about prayer projects, Bible study suggestions, mission support opportunities, adopt our Guidelines, and elect new members to the Women's Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Wallace, Chair