

2013 North American Lutheran Church Convocation
Report Regarding Application for
NALC Full Membership in the Lutheran World Federation

The 2012 Convocation of the North American Lutheran Church approved a resolution seeking full membership in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) by a two-thirds majority. The NALC Constitution requires such a decision to be ratified by NALC congregations.

As of the Feb. 17, 2013, voting deadline, 167 congregations had voted to ratify the Convocation's action, while 61 congregations had voted not to ratify the decision. The LWF resolution was supported by 73 percent of the 228 congregations that voted, exceeding the constitutionally required two-thirds majority of the congregations voting for ratification. Congregations had six months from the close of the 2012 Convocation to complete their vote on ratification.

The updated NALC application for full membership and letter certifying positive completion of our ratification process was sent to the appropriate LWF officials on March 13, 2013. These materials were received and presented to the LWF membership committee and were reviewed by the committee and LWF Council during their annual meeting in June, 2013. Clarification of several issues has been requested, and an appropriate response is being prepared.

The next step will be an on-site visit by an LWF representative for the purpose of developing a personal relationship and a deeper understanding of the life and work of the NALC. At this time, we do not expect action before the next meeting of the LWF Council in June, 2014. This is the normal process of membership application, so we will continue to work through this process in accordance with the LWF resolution adopted by the NALC convocation and ratified by congregational action.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,



The Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel
Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism