

Bishop

The Bishop carries out a pastoral ministry within the church, serving as pastor for the pastors and congregations of the NALC. The Bishop preaches the Gospel, forgives sins, administers the Sacraments and judges doctrine (Augsburg Confession XXVIII). The Bishop carries out a ministry of visitation throughout the church, is a defender of the faith, and promotes the mission of the church. The Bishop is a member of the Executive Council, which meets quarterly—usually in January, April or May, July and October—anywhere in North America. The Bishop travels extensively on behalf of the NALC.

Executive Council

The Executive Council functions as the board of directors for the NALC, providing leadership for the church between the annual Convocations. The Executive Council consists of the Bishop, four clergy and four lay members who are elected for a four-year term. Terms begin on October 1 in the year elected and end on September 30, four years later. No member of the Executive Council, except the Bishop, may serve more than two consecutive full terms. A partial term of more than two years is considered a full term. The General Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer have voice but not vote on the Executive Council. The council meets quarterly, usually in Jan, Apr or May, July and Oct. Usually an NALC congregation hosts the meeting and the location can be anywhere in North America. Meetings usually begin at 8:00 a.m. on the first day and end by noon on the second day. They are normally held on week days, most often on Tues and Wed, so for each meeting members will be away from home or their “day jobs” at least two and a half days, sometimes three, depending on the travel time to get to a meeting. Participation in the Annual Convocation is also expected, which is another three to four days away from home and work.

Court of Adjudication

The Court of Adjudication hears appeals from disciplinary decisions; resolves questions of interpretation of NALC governing documents; and decides claims that a person or entity has violated these governing documents. The Court of Adjudication consists of seven members—clergy or lay—each elected to a four-year term by the annual Convocation. Terms begin on October 1 in the year elected and end on September 30, four years later. Any member of an NALC congregation shall be eligible for election and service. Usually the court is able to meet online or via a conference call, but an occasional face-to-face meeting may be needed.