

What is Lutheran CORE?

Lutheran CORE (Coalition for Renewal) is a coalition of individuals, congregations, and reform movements. We have agreed to work together as a free-standing synod.

Lutheran CORE's members represent the vast theological middle of Lutheranism in North America -- spanning geographical regions, church bodies, vocations, and political viewpoints.

We are united by our common commitment to the authority of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions in the life of the church.

Who provides leadership for Lutheran CORE?

Lutheran CORE is led by a Steering Committee with representatives from our partner reform movements. Bishop Paull Spring, the retired bishop of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, chairs the Steering Committee.

An Advisory Council of pastors, scholars, and church leaders provides advice and direction to Lutheran CORE on important issues. Bishop Kenneth Sauer, the retired bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod and former chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, chairs the Advisory Council.

Pastor Mark Chavez is the director of Lutheran CORE.

An annual Convocation of members of Lutheran CORE is our chief decision-making body.

Can we join Lutheran CORE whether or not we remain in the ELCA?

Yes. Lutheran CORE is committed to serve both those congregations and individuals who choose to remain affiliated with the ELCA and those who choose to affiliate with other church bodies.

Lutheran CORE carries out functions similar to an ELCA synod and similar to a national church body. Congregations may choose to relate to Lutheran CORE as one of its church body relationships. This is one way to work together in mission and ministry with faithful Lutherans both inside and outside of the ELCA.

Why is Lutheran CORE forming a new church body?

Lutheran CORE is committed to serving those congregations that have determined they are no longer able to remain in the ELCA. The actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly demonstrate that the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions no longer function as norms for the ELCA.

Such a church body is necessary so that those congregations can work together in mission and ministry and because ELCA rules require a congregation to affiliate with another Lutheran church body in order to keep its property. We will assist those who desire to affiliate with this new church body by doing the work necessary for it to be constituted in August 2010.

Lutheran CORE will continue as a free-standing synod for all Lutherans.

L-CORE Steering Committee

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What are the Goals of Lutheran CORE?

The over-arching goal of Lutheran CORE is to be a voice for the Word of God within the church. We are a confessing movement within the church. We work for the reform and renewal of the Lutheran community. We advocate for the authority of the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions for the faith and life of the church.

Lutheran CORE has five goals for our work together:

✚ To uphold the authority of the Bible as the final authority, source and norm of the church's proclamation, faith, and life, in conformity with the Lutheran Confessions and with church constitutions.

✚ To reassert Christ's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations as a priority in the life of the church through emphases on congregational renewal, launching new congregations, and global missions.

✚ To insist upon the priority of the revealed Name of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in worship and educational materials produced by and for the church.

✚ To uphold traditional Christian teaching on marriage -- as a lifelong covenant of faithfulness between one man and one woman -- as taught in Scripture and maintained by the Church throughout the centuries.

✚ To encourage and recruit leaders in congregations, synods, and national church bodies who are committed to these goals.

How can I support the work of Lutheran CORE?

Lutheran CORE is thankful for your prayers and words of encouragement. We are constantly looking to grow our network of supporters in all areas of North America. If you would like to connect with Lutheran CORE in your area, please contact any Steering Committee member.

We also appreciate financial support. Lutheran CORE needs this support to carry out its work as a free-standing synod for all Lutherans. We also are committed to providing ways for Lutherans to do the work of Christ in the world by serving as a vehicle for benevolence giving. All designated gifts are used entirely for the purpose for which they are designated.

You may give online at www.lutherancore.org or send gifts to:

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