

# **Lutheran CORE / NALC Talking Points**

*August 2010*

## **1. Lutheran CORE and the NALC are moving forward in carrying out the true mission of the Christian Church.**

- We are committed to “Keep the main thing, the main thing.” We are committed to the true mission of the Church — Christ’s Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.
- We are leaving behind past struggles to reform the ELCA and moving forward in carrying out the mission of the Church — sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Both Lutheran CORE and the NALC are centered on four key attributes: Christ-Centered; Mission-Driven; Traditionally-Grounded, and Congregationally-Focused.

## **2. The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) is a new church body for Lutherans who uphold the authority of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.**

- The NALC will uphold the authority of the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions.
- The NALC embodies the theological center of Lutheranism in North America.
- The NALC is much more than a reaction to the errors of other church bodies. The NALC is moving forward in faith and mission for the sake of the Gospel.
- Members and congregations of the NALC will have direct involvement in the decisions and life of the NALC.
- The NALC unites confessing Lutherans by drawing on the strengths of various strands and theological emphases of Lutherans in North America. Each tradition offers something to the whole while affirming and recognizing gifts from the others.
- The NALC provides a way for congregations to work together in mission — a denomination with limited bureaucratic structure but with enough structure to enable our shared mission in the world.
- NALC will be a classical Lutheran denomination equipped for ministry in the modern world.
- NALC congregations may also be members of other Lutheran church bodies as long as the *congregation* upholds the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions in their teaching and practice.
- The NALC and LCMC are committed to working in close partnership. The ministries of Lutheran CORE, NALC, LCMC and WordAlone Ministries complement each other — each with a different structure and style.

### **3. Lutheran CORE will continue as a unity movement for confessing Lutherans regardless of church body affiliation.**

Lutheran CORE is committed to helping traditional Lutherans in North America to remain united in faith and mission.

We are committed to trying to maintain the unity of as many confessing Lutherans as possible. The divisions in the ELCA are the result of the ELCA's actions.

Lutheran CORE will seek to serve all who share a commitment to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions — those in the ELCA, those in the ELCIC, those in the NALC, and perhaps those in other church bodies such as LCMC who may wish to work together in areas of common mission.

NALC will do much of its mission and ministry in cooperation with Lutheran CORE to help maintain unity between those who stay in the ELCA and those who leave and to carry out mission and ministry efficiently.

Lutheran CORE and the NALC are committed to close partnership with confessional Lutherans in the United States and around the world. We are especially grateful for the support and partnership of Lutherans in Africa and Eastern Europe.

### **4. We are not leaving the ELCA. The ELCA has left us.**

Lutheran CORE and the NALC are continuing in the Christian faith as it has been passed down to us by generations of Christians. The ELCA is the one that has departed from the teachings of the Bible as understood by Christians for 2,000 years.

The problems in the ELCA are about an ongoing movement away from the authority and teaching of the Bible throughout the ELCA. The ELCA sexuality decisions are a symptom of the disease of this movement away from traditional Christian teaching.

The actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly have been seen by many ELCA members as evidence that Bible no longer functions as the ultimate norm for the faith and life of the ELCA.

The July 25 synod worship service receiving lesbian, gay and transgender pastors into the ELCA demonstrated changes in the theology of the ELCA go beyond sexuality. Biblical and traditional expressions of the Christian faith were removed from the service. Instead, God was addressed as *Mother* and female pronouns were used for God.

The actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly have created divisions within Lutheran congregations and caused financial difficulties for many congregations and synods. Individuals and congregations are considering how they can remain faithful and be good stewards of the resources that God has given them. Lutheran CORE and the NALC are trying to help those in the ELCA who continue to uphold the authority of Scripture to find ways to continue to maintain Christian teaching as revealed in Scripture and confessed by generations of Lutheran Christians and to maintain unity in faith and mission.