

Lutheran CORE / NALC Talking Points

February 18, 2010

1. These proposals are a way for Lutherans to move 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 will be centered on four key attributes: Christ-Centered; Mission-Driven; Traditionally-Grounded, and Congregationally-Focused.

2. We are committed to helping all 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 deep divisions in the ELCA are the result of the Churchwide Assembly’s actions.
- These proposals are a way for those who uphold traditional Christian teaching — both those who are leaving the ELCA and those who will remain in the ELCA — to remain in fellowship and to work together.

3. Lutheran CORE will continue as an association of confessing Lutherans spanning denominational bodies but will aid in the formation of a new church body.

- 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.
- Lutheran CORE and the NALC will work together in domestic and global evangelism, theological education, and human service.
- Lutheran CORE and the NALC are committed to close partnership with LCMC. The ministries of Lutheran CORE, NALC, and LCMC complement each other — each with a different structure and style.

4. The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) will be a different kind of church body.

- This proposal affirms and 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.
- This proposal 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 will do much of its mission and ministry through 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.
- NALC congregations may also be members of other Lutheran church bodies.

5. 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 teaching of the Bible as understood by Christians for 2,000 years.
- 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.
- 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.
- Leaving the ELCA or ELCIC is not leaving the Church. Lutherans define the Church as “the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel” (Augsburg Confession, Article VII).