



CERTIFICATION OF COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTERS

Those wishing to be certified as a commissioned lay minister in the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) will:

A. Complete and submit the following to the NALC General Secretary (alittle@thenalc.org):

- Application for Certification in the NALC
- Release and payment for background check in U.S. or background check from RCMP in Canada
- Copy of commissioning certificate or similar document if applicable
- Copy of most recent letter of call/agreement of service
- Reference letter(s) from your pastor/congregational president or president/director of the ministry you serve
- Reference letter from current (or former) judicatory official (bishop, assistant, dean, etc.) if applicable
- Reference letter from colleague in ministry (pastor, deaconess, missionary, etc.)
- Signature page – acceptance of NALC Constitution and compliance with NALC Ministry Standards

B. Prepare and submit written answers to the following questions.

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS

Write in your own words, as if you were answering the questions in an adult Bible study/education class. Limit your response to each question to a couple of paragraphs, and keep quotations to a minimum. If you do quote materials other than your own, please use quotation marks to denote the beginning/end of the quoted material and cite your reference.

1. How do you understand the Bible as the Word of God?
2. Have you read and studied the Book of Concord? What is the meaning and value of the Book of Concord for ministry today?
3. Are you willing to teach the Word of God according to the Lutheran Confessions? How do the Lutheran Confessions shape your ministry?
4. What is the meaning of the distinction between Law and Gospel? How does the Lutheran understanding of Law and Gospel shape your teaching?

5. Explain the Lutheran understanding of the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper.
6. What does it mean to say that one is "reborn of water and the Spirit?"
7. What is the Lutheran teaching concerning the nature of the Church?
8. Explain the understanding that a baptized person is both sinner and saint simultaneously.
9. The Christian tradition confesses that God is one in three Persons; and that Christ is both divine and human. Please explain these teachings.
10. The four Core Values of the North American Lutheran Church are: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused. How are these values consistent with your personal identity as a minister of the Church and your leadership?
11. The Scriptures teach that marriage is a holy estate ordained by God, joining one man and one woman. Explain your understanding of the NALC position on marriage, and how this will shape your pastoral practice as an NALC minister.

PERSONAL AND MINISTRY QUESTIONS

Please be advised that the initial non-disclosure of important personal information and ministerial circumstances (i.e. divorce, request of resignation, etc.) may result in nullification of your certification if made known or discovered at a later date.

12. Describe your ministry experience in the congregations/ministries you have served: What did you learn? How did it go? Would you characterize it as fulfilling, challenging, joyful, depressing, etc.?
13. What are your greatest strengths in ministry? Your weaknesses?
14. What is your personality type? Introverted/extroverted? More interested in facts or feelings? Easily able to communicate/bond with people or needing time to develop relationships? Do you enjoy many acquaintances or focus on a few deep friendships?
15. Provide the names and locations of your undergraduate college and ministry training, and list in chronological order the congregations you have served, and all other positions or jobs you have held. Include the beginning and ending dates of your service at each congregation/ministry/job.
16. The NALC's Standards for Pastoral Ministry do not allow lay ministers divorced more than once to apply for certification. Have you been divorced? If yes, provide the beginning and ending date of the marriage. If a marriage ended in divorce, explain the circumstances that led to divorce. Include information about marital and personal counseling if applicable.

17. Have you ever been accused or convicted of a crime? Have you ever been accused or convicted of criminal and/or inappropriate sexual conduct involving a minor or adult? Have you been accused or convicted of financial malfeasance or been involved in situations of domestic violence? Please answer specifically all questions listed here.
18. Have you ever been convicted of a DUI? Have you received treatment and/or have you recovered from any addiction (alcohol, drugs, etc.)? If yes, please indicate circumstances.
19. What characteristics of the NALC are most appealing to you?
20. Do you have any questions for the leadership of the NALC?