



POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

- **Bishop**

The Bishop shall be an ordained minister who is a member of the NALC. The Bishop shall serve as the chief pastor and chief evangelist of the NALC, responsible for ensuring the priority of the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20) in the life of the church. The Bishop shall carry out a pastoral ministry within the church, serving as pastor for the ordained ministers and congregations of the NALC. The Bishop shall preach the Gospel, forgive sins, administer the Sacraments, and judge doctrine. (Augsburg Confession XXVIII) The Bishop shall carry out a ministry of visitation throughout the church, will be a defender of the faith, and will promote the mission of the church. The Bishop shall be the chief ecumenical officer of the NALC. The Bishop will, with the concurrence of the Executive Council, authorize all ordinations to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. The Bishop will normally conduct the rite of ordination. A candidate for the ministry may submit a request to the Bishop to appoint a particular ordained minister to preside at the ordination on behalf of the church, which shall be approved absent extraordinary circumstances. The Bishop shall be the chief executive officer of the NALC and will serve in a collegial manner with other leaders of the NALC. The Bishop shall have both voice and vote *ex officio* in all committees, task forces, and similar bodies 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 staggered four-year terms. 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 in person in January, April or May, July and October. The location can be anywhere in North America. Meetings usually begin at 8:30 a.m. on the first day and end by noon on the second day. They are normally held on weekdays, most often on Tuesday and Wednesday, 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, 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.