



Altar and Pulpit Fellowship Executive Council

Approved February 5, 2013

The North American Lutheran Church is a body committed to ecumenical and inter-Lutheran relationships, as indicated in our initial statement approved August, 2011. We take seriously our relationships with other Lutherans and Christians, seeking to develop and foster deep and abiding fellowship in light of Holy Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, the NALC constitution.

This guidance is provided with regard to “altar and pulpit fellowship”. With regard to this term:

1. The practice of altar and pulpit fellowship will be determined by the leadership of the respective congregations. In NALC and mission district settings, the practice of altar and pulpit fellowship will be determined by the respective leadership. This will require proper discernment at the local and larger church levels as we seek to practice the largest sense of Eucharistic sharing, while maintaining confessional and sacramental integrity.
2. First and foremost, this discernment will be conducted on the basis of agreement with and willingness to preach, teach and preside in accordance with the confession of faith of the NALC.
3. The North American Lutheran Church will urge our congregations to welcome participation in our celebrations of Holy Communion all who are baptized in the name of the Trinity and who believe in the real presence of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. Members of NALC congregations may receive the Lord’s Supper in congregations of other Christian bodies, when they can do so in good conscience and in accordance with the confession of faith of the NALC.
4. With approval of local pastor and congregation, and in light of points 1 and 2 above, occasionally, pastors of other Lutheran church bodies may preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in congregations of the North American Lutheran Church. NALC pastors may occasionally preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in congregations of other Lutheran church bodies when they are allowed, in good conscience, to do so in accordance with the confession of faith of the NALC.