



Statement on Full Communion

Prepared by the Lutheran CORE/NALC Joint Commission on Theology and Doctrine
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As opportunity presents itself, the North American Lutheran Church may enter into a relationship called “full communion” with another Lutheran church or with another Christian church. The terms of a full communion relationship depend on the character, doctrine, and practice of the churches. In general, however, a full communion relationship includes at least some of the following elements:

1. A common confessing of the Christian faith; including the recognition that each church is an authentic church body within the one church of Christ (according to the Lutheran confession).
2. Depending on circumstances, an agreement regarding specific major issues of doctrine and practice.
3. A mutual recognition of Baptism and a sharing of the Lord’s Supper, allowing for joint worship and an exchangeability of members.
4. A mutual recognition and availability of ordained ministers to the services of all members of churches in full communion, subject to the disciplinary regulations of the other churches.
5. A common commitment to evangelism, witness, and service.
6. A means of common decision making on critical common issues of faith and life.
7. A mutual lifting of any condemnations that exist between churches.