



The AALC is committed to making disciples of all nations!

More information . . .

The AALC website, www.taalc.org, has additional information and includes our Statement of Faith, our Constitution and Bylaws, and the AALC newsletter, *The Evangel*.

Contacts:

Rev. Fred Balke
Administrative Assistant
fbalke@taalc.org

Rev. Rich Shields
Director of Pastoral Formation
& Congregational Development
rpsields@taalc.org

The American Association of Lutheran Churches
921 E. Dupont Rd., #920 ♦ Fort Wayne, IN 46825-1551
Ph: 260-452-3213 ♦ Fax: 260-452-3215
E-mail: theaalc@taalc.org

Photo Credits: www.christianphotos.net,
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wayzata, MN

10 Frequently Asked Questions of The AALC



1. Who is The AALC?

The American Association of Lutheran Churches (The AALC) is an association of churches and individuals who have voluntarily joined together to:

- Encourage and equip churches to carry out Mission and Ministry in their location.
- Help churches and pastors communicate the changeless Gospel to an ever changing culture.
- Train Lutheran Pastors (strengthen pastors to strengthen congregations).

2. What is distinctive about The AALC?

The AALC is distinctively Lutheran in its core beliefs. Every church and every pastor that voluntarily joins The AALC confesses that they believe the words of Scripture to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice and affirms without reservation the doctrines explained in *The Book of Concord*.

The AALC also maintains a congregational form of church government with each member church allowed to send one delegate per fifty confirmed members to the National Convention.

Finally, The AALC allows its member churches freedom to express their faith and beliefs in the style of worship and music and forms of Christian education that they feel best serves their particular culture.

3. Does The AALC offer a Benefits package for its pastors?

Yes, The AALC offers a complete Pension and Medical Insurance Program through the Pinnacle Planning Group of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Each church is urged to offer this package to its pastor as part of his compensation. Reciprocal agreements with most other church bodies are in effect for pastors and churches that transfer into The AALC.

4. What are the financial obligations for joining The AALC?

Because The AALC is a voluntary association, it depends entirely on voluntary contributions from churches and individuals.

5. Does The AALC have a seminary?

Yes, The AALC supports and operates American Lutheran Theological Seminary (ALTS). We have our own President and Registrar. ALTS is located in Fort Wayne, Indiana on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS). Our students receive their theological training through CTS and their practical training through ALTS. Their field work and their vicarage are done at local AALC churches under ALTS supervision.

6. How does a congregation call a pastor in The AALC?

Churches without a pastor or those who would like to add to their staff contact the National Office. The National Office provides a call list of three to five qualified and certified pastors from The AALC Clergy Roster. The church is then free to interview each man as they choose and issue a call to the one they select.



7. Does The AALC ordain women as pastors?

Our position is that from a scriptural and confessional standpoint, the pastoral office is restricted to men. We do, however, recruit and train women to be trained Deaconesses who are then called by churches to supplement the pastoral staff and to augment the ministry of the local church.

8. Does The AALC address social issues?

The AALC churches in convention have adopted theological positions on *The Sanctity of Life* and *The Union of Marriage*, but for the most part allows the individual churches to speak for themselves on social issues.

9. How does The AALC operate?

The AALC is a National church body with member churches in 23 states. The country is divided into five regions with Regional Pastors and officers to conduct their regional business. The National Office is located in Fort Wayne, Indiana with a staff of Presiding Pastor, Administrative Assistant, Director of Pastoral Formation, and Office Manager. These officers are responsible to an Association Council and a Board of Trustees. The National body meets in convention every two years on even years and the Regions meet in convention on the odd years.

10. How does a church join The AALC?

A church that is interested in joining The AALC first severs its relationship with its former church body and then votes to join The AALC according to the protocol of their own constitution. They subsequently fill out an application form and submit it along with their church constitution for approval to the Association Council. Upon approval they are welcomed into The AALC at the next National Convention. All pastors joining The AALC under go a twelve month period of probation before becoming permanent members of the Clergy Roster.