

10. How does a congregation or individual join LCMC, or discontinue membership if so desired?

Congregations join LCMC by voting to do so by means appropriate to their congregation. After voting to join, a subscription form can be downloaded from our website. It should be filled out and signed by the proper congregational officers and then forwarded to the LCMC office. Congregations may terminate their association with LCMC at any time simply by informing LCMC of their decision. LCMC is a “no strings attached” association. Further, it makes no claim to property rights, nor does it attempt to influence congregational decision-making.

Individuals may download the form for associate members.

More information can be found at . . .

The LCMC web site, **www.lcmc.net**, has additional information, and includes our Statement of Faith, our constitution and bylaws, educational and promotional material, and the LCMC newsletter. Written copies can be received by contacting the LCMC office.

Additionally, please feel free to contact:

Rev. Mark Vander Tuig
Service Coordinator
mark@lcmc.net

or, the LCMC Board of Trustees at:

lcmcboard@lcmc.net



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LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION FOR CHRIST

C M C Questions & Answers

1. What is LCMC?

LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) is an association of congregations and individuals who are:

- Free in Christ;
- Accountable to one another;
- Rooted in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions;
- . . . And working together to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.

2. What is distinctive about LCMC?

LCMC is a centrist Lutheran church body, recognizing Scripture as the sole source and norm of faith and life, and therefore being a light to, rather than a reflection of, the world.

LCMC is congregationally based. It recognizes that the congregation, gathered around Word and Sacrament, is the church.

LCMC celebrates the priesthood of all believers at every level. LCMC also constantly strives to support and uphold the pastoral ministry of the men and women called to serve its member congregations.

Congregations are entitled to send representatives to the annual gathering and convention of LCMC. Constitutional changes made at the annual convention require approval by two thirds of the member congregations in order to take effect. By-law changes made at the annual convention do not take effect if a majority of congregations register a negative vote.

3. Can a congregation belong to a Lutheran denomination and LCMC simultaneously?

It is our position that congregations may retain membership in Christian denominations as well as associating with LCMC. This understanding is part of what makes LCMC "post-denominational."

LCMC congregations may belong to as many groups as can assist them in fulfilling the Great Commission from Jesus, providing they subscribe to LCMC's statement of faith and constitution.

4. Can LCMC be the only church home for congregations who so choose?

Yes. LCMC has met all legal requirements to be recognized as a Lutheran church body. Additionally, LCMC has adopted ministry standards, offers pension and medical insurance programs for congregational employees, and establishes mission congregations.

5. What are the financial implications of joining LCMC?

Membership in the association imposes no financial obligations on a congregation. The association depends entirely on contributions from congregations and individuals. We suggest giving a portion of benevolence dollars to the general fund of LCMC to help pay for communication, conventions, legal support, and expenses associated with coordinating the activities of our congregations. Additionally, LCMC has two restricted funds available for direct contribution: the Seminary Debt Relief Fund, and the Mission Congregation Fund.

6. Does LCMC have a seminary?

LCMC works cooperatively with a number of seminaries around the country. LCMC has ministry standards that include course requirements for ensuring its pastors have a solid confessional Lutheran theological education.

7. How do we call a pastor in LCMC?

Congregations may issue a pastoral call to whomever they choose. This may be a certified call or a contract call, as defined by our Ministry Standards. The association expects

pastors and congregations to abide by our governing documents and Statement of Faith. A call packet is available to guide congregations through the process, however, responsibility for performing due diligence lies with the congregation.

8. Does LCMC address social issues?

LCMC views the congregation as the primary expression of the church and generally does not speak for its members. However, in circumstances where the truth of God's Word is being consistently challenged, the association may decide to speak to the issue. Therefore, a Pastoral Admonition on the Sanctity of Marriage has been adopted. It reads:

"We affirm that God created us male and female, and that it is God's will and intention that human sexual expression and fulfillment take place only within the boundaries of marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; and Mark 10:2-9). And, we confess as individuals and as congregations that we have not fulfilled God's will in our decisions, modeling, and teaching."

While neither adopting a social statement nor a pastoral admonition, the medical and benefits plan sponsored by LCMC does not cover abortion.

9. What are districts and chapters?

Districts are amazingly flexible partnerships between congregations. Rather than being assigned to a district, congregations may belong to as many districts as they please, or none at all. Districts may be formed around geography, theology, values, shared interests, congregational characteristics, worship styles, etc. Districts govern themselves within guidelines set by the association but have no national legislative authority. Individuals whose congregations have not joined LCMC or a district may participate as associate members or by forming chapters, according to the guidelines of the district and LCMC.

Activities of districts may include providing tangible support for one another, planning joint events, planting additional mission congregations, and recruiting and training (or providing supervision for the training) of seminarians.