



La Crosse Area Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

3462 Losey Blvd. S.
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601-7217
(608) 788-5000
Fax: (608) 788-4916
E-mail: office@lacrosseareasynod.org

Bishop April Ulring Larson

Rev. Lanny Westphal
Assistant to the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May Jesus Christ bless and keep you as you walk through this time of transition in your parish.

An "Advisory Pastor" is a neighboring pastor who can help bridge the gap in a congregation between the resignation of one pastor and the beginning date of the next pastor.

Here are the steps to follow in securing an Advisory Pastor:

1. Given the needs of the parish and the availability of neighboring pastors, I will nominate a pastor who can serve your congregation.
2. When your congregation's council has interviewed the prospective pastor, the pastor and president(s) of the congregation(s) currently served by the pastor and also the congregation(s) which will be potentially receiving the services of the pastor should sign the "Advisory Pastor Covenant" and return it to the synod office for my signature.

In Christ,

Bishop April Ulring Larson

La Crosse Area Synod



Advisory Pastor Covenant

_____,
congregation(s)

with prayers for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to do God's will,

hereby enter(s) into a covenant with

Pastor(s) _____

and the

_____,
congregation(s)

to serve as Advisory Pastor(s) for the period

from _____ to call of a new Pastor.
date

During this period we will together:

- A. Work through the transitional issues which follow the departure of a pastor.
- B. Subscribe to the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA, the La Crosse Area Synod, and the congregation(s).
- C. Examine and strengthen the congregation's relationship with the ELCA and the La Crosse Area Synod, including the congregation's support to the mission of the wider church.

D. Prepare for the arrival of a new pastor

As Advisory Pastor you will be expected, in accordance with the practice and expectations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA):

A. To attend duly called congregational meetings and all council meetings of the congregation(s) and council(s)

B. In coordination with the bishop give pastoral advice and counsel to the congregation(s)

C. To provide the Bishop with a brief monthly oral or written update.

D. To directly provide or help coordinate pastoral care in case of emergencies

F. Agree not to make yourself available for regular call in this congregation. This includes no involvement in the call process unless requested by the Bishop, instead encouraging people to contact the synod office through their council president with questions about the call process.

We, the congregation(s) will:

A. Receive you as our Advisory Pastor, uphold you in our prayers, and accord you our love, respect, and good will.

B. Understand your first priority is to the parish to which you are already called.

C. Under your guidance, schedule supply pastors (and compensate them according to synodical guidelines):

1. To preach at all worship services, weddings, and funerals
2. To teach confirmation and other classes
3. To be on call for pastoral care, visitation, and in case of emergencies
4. To perform other duties as agreed upon

(Note to Advisory Pastor: you may provide any of the above services, if we have requested this in advance, and only if you agree to it. In such instances, you will receive additional compensation according to synodical guidelines.)

D. Agree that we will not consider you for regular call to this congregation.

E. Provide a church secretary.

F. Never request your services during your scheduled vacations and continuing education time. We will be flexible in rescheduling council meetings, if they conflict with your scheduled vacations.

F. Provide \$200/month, plus expenses and mileage

This covenant terminates when a new pastor has accepted a call and begins ministry in the congregation(s). It may also be terminated by the congregation(s), the Advisory Pastor, or the Bishop. When any of the parties wish to terminate the covenant, a two-week notice of such intent shall be given.

Advisory Pastor(s) _____

President(s) of the Congregation(s) _____
who will be receiving the
additional services of the
Advisory Pastor

President(s) of the Congregation(s) _____
currently served by the
Advisory Pastor

Synod Bishop _____

Date _____