



Expectations for Pastors Retiring in the North American Lutheran Church

When an NALC pastor is preparing to retire, he or she should send a communication to the Bishop of the NALC at least six (6) months prior to retirement, when possible. This communication should be copied to the Mission District dean, who will begin working with the congregation, when appropriate, to arrange for interim ministry or regular supply.

When a pastor retires, it is expected that the pastor and family will step away from the congregation throughout the call process and during the first six to twelve months of the new pastor's ministry.

This would include the expectation that the pastor and immediate family will worship in another congregation until the transition process is completed, not serving on church council, leadership positions, committee or other ministry involvement.

If the retired pastor and immediate family return to the previous congregation, the norm for involvement will be to attend worship, educational, service and fellowship activities, but not serve in leadership positions of any kind. Further involvement should be at the invitation and discretion of the new pastor.

In the event that there are no suitable biblical, confessional Lutheran congregations within reasonable driving distance, the retiring pastor should consult with the Bishop to discuss the situation.

Exceptions to these expectations should be discussed with the Bishop.