

**Diocese of Fond du Lac S.O.P.
ELCA Lutheran Clergy
Orderly Exchange and Serving Episcopal Congregations**

I. Authority

National Episcopal Constitution, Article VII

A Bishop may permit an ordained minister in good standing in a church with which this church is in full communion as specified by the Canons who has made the foregoing declaration [See Article XIII], or a minister ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its predecessor bodies who has made the promise of conformity required by that Church in place of the foregoing declaration to officiate on a temporary basis as an ordained minister of this church.

No minister of such a Church ordained by other than a Bishop, apart from any such ministers designated as part of the Covenant or Instrument by which full communion was established, shall be eligible to officiate under this Article.

National Episcopal Canons, Title I, Section 2

The Episcopal Church has a relationship of full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America under the terms of "Called to Common Mission," which was adopted by the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church as Resolution A040.

Called to Common Mission B. Actions of The Episcopal Church

15. The Episcopal Church by this Concordat recognizes the ministers ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its predecessor bodies as fully authentic...
16. To enable the full communion that is coming into being by means of this Concordat, The Episcopal Church pledges to continue the process for enacting a temporary suspension, in this case only, of the seventeenth-century restriction that "no persons are allowed to exercise the offices of bishop, priest, or deacon in this Church unless they are so ordained, or have already received such ordination with the laying-on-of-hands by bishops who are themselves duly qualified to confer Holy Orders" ("Preface to the Ordination Rites," The Book of Common Prayer, p. 510). The purpose of this action, to declare this restriction inapplicable to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will be to permit the full interchangeability and reciprocity of all its pastors as priests or presbyters within The Episcopal Church, without any further ordination or re-ordination or supplemental ordination whatsoever, subject always to canonically or constitutionally approved invitation. The purpose of temporarily suspending this restriction, which has been a constant requirement in Anglican polity since the Ordinal of 1662, is precisely in order to secure the future implementation of the ordinals' same principle in the sharing of ordained ministries. It is for this reason that The Episcopal Church can feel confident in taking this unprecedented step with regard to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Called to Common Mission D. Actions of Both Churches. Interchangeability of Clergy: Occasional Ministry, Extended Service, Transfer

22. In this Concordat, the two churches declare that each believes the other to hold all the essentials of the Christian faith, although this does not require from either church acceptance of all doctrinal formulations of the other. Ordained ministers serving occasionally or for an extended period in the ministry of the other church will be expected to undergo the appropriate acceptance procedures of that church respecting always the internal discipline of each church. For the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, such ministers will be expected to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in a manner that is consistent with its "Confession of Faith" as written in chapter two of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. For The Episcopal Church, such ministers will be expected to teach and act in a manner that is consistent with the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church. Ordained ministers from either church seeking long-term ministry with primary responsibility in the other will be expected to apply for clergy transfer and to agree to the installation vow or declaration of conformity in the church to which she or he is applying to minister permanently.

The Orderly Exchange of Pastors and Priests Under Called to Common Mission: Principles and Guidelines, January 2001, 22 pages.

Date Completed **II. General Processes**

- A. The purpose of this S.O.P. is for the orderly administration of ELCA Pastors serving in the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac under Called to Common Mission. Orderly exchange is for the sake of participation in the mission of God, and can be an important sign of our unity in Christ. This particular aspect of full communion seeks to allow and encourage more effective use and deployment of ordained leaders in order to enhance our shared ministry and mission.
- B. The processes outlined in “The Orderly Exchange of Pastors and Priests Under Called to Common Mission” will serve as primary for interpretation. The processes in this document are meant to clarify or provide specificity for the Dioceses of Fond du Lac.
- C. At such time as an ELCA Pastor is considering occasional service or extended service with a congregation, the Bishop will
 - 1. review this document and “The Orderly Exchange of Pastors and Priests Under Called to Common Mission”
 - 2. provide a copy of “The Orderly Exchange of Pastors and Priests Under Called to Common Mission” to the Pastor and/or congregation Search Committee.

III. Procedures to be License for Occasional Service (CCM)

- A. The Bishop interviews the Pastor to
 - 1. learn if the Pastor has been formed and educated for ministry in the ELCA tradition with experience serving in ordained ministry;
 - 2. understand the level of knowledge of and an appreciation for the history, polity, theological and liturgical identity, practices of ministry, and discipline of the Episcopal Church.
 - 3. establish any conditions for licensure that may include, but is not limited to instruction on the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Episcopal tradition, meeting with an assigned mentor, assigning reading.
- B. The Pastor will
 - 1. sign a statement that he or she will “teach and act in a manner that is consistent with the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.” [CCM].
 - 2. request that the ELCA Synod Office where rostered send a Letter of Standing to include ordination information and a statement of standing.
 - 3. ask a colleague in ministry (lay or ordained) from the past two years to send a Letter of Recommendation to the Bishop.
 - 4. provide copies of credentials in the form of a resume with copies of supporting documents (such as transcripts, ordination certificate).
 - 5. complete the diocesan abuse prevention courses online.
- C. The Diocesan Office will begin a background check on the Pastor following its normal processes.
- D. When procedures have been completed, the Bishop will issue a license to the Pastor for Occasional Service in the Episcopal Church.

Date Completed **II. Procedures to serve as Rector, Vicar or Priest-in-Charge of a congregation in Extended Service (CCM)**

It should be noted that this process supplements the regular calling processes followed by congregations.

- _____ A. The Bishop interviews the Pastor to
 - _____ 1. learn if the Pastor has been formed and educated for ministry in the ELCA tradition with experience serving in ordained ministry;
 - _____ 2. understand the level of knowledge of and an appreciation for the history, polity, theological and liturgical identity, practices of ministry, and discipline of the Episcopal Church.
 - _____ 3. explain the Pastor is expected to preach, teach, administer the sacraments, and participate in the governance of the church in a manner consistent with the tradition of the Episcopal Church and diocesan policy.
 - _____ 4. establish any conditions for approving a call that may include, but is not limited to instruction on the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Episcopal tradition, meeting with an assigned mentor, assigning reading.
- _____ B. The Pastor will
 - _____ 1. sign a statement that he or she will “teach and act in a manner that is consistent with the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.” [CCM].
 - _____ 2. request that the ELCA Synod Office where rostered send a Letter of Standing to include ordination information and a statement of standing.
 - _____ 3. ask a colleague in ministry (lay or ordained) from the past two years to send a Letter of Recommendation to the Bishop.
 - _____ 4. provide copies of credentials in the form of a resume with copies of supporting documents (such as transcripts, ordination certificate).
 - _____ 5. complete the diocesan abuse prevention courses online.
- _____ C. The Diocesan Office provides a standard Covenant or Letter of Agreement to the congregation with the following amendments:
 - _____ 1. Provision for pension assessments to the ELCA pension system (for active clergy) that are equal to canonical requirements of the Episcopal system (i.e. 18% of assessable compensation).
 - _____ 2. This statement: “Because the Pastor is serving in extended service under Called to Common Mission and is not under the canonical authority of the bishop diocesan, the Pastor affirms [s/he] will teach and act in a manner that is consistent with the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church that include participation in diocesan life. The Pastor remains accountable to the ELCA for continuation of ministerial status, including any ecclesiastical disciplinary review or judicial process.”
 - _____ 3. This statement: “Responsibility for pastoral care of the Pastor is shared by the the Diocese of Fond du Lac and the ELCA [Synod] with the primary responsibility for pastoral care resting with the Diocese.

This S.O.P. was adopted by the Bishop of Fond du Lac on April 28, 2016 and may be amended from time to time.