

theological conferences. Our commitment is to confine our internal operational budget to the dues paid by member pastors and Confraternity members, with all other contributions going directly to such aid.

In Dr. Martin Luther's essay of 1520 to the "Christian Nobility of the German Estates," Luther encourages the German leaders to direct their financial support and energies *away from* an institution that promotes false doctrine (back then, the Romanists), persecutes faithful pastors, and refuses to be reformed according to Scripture, and positively, to direct it *toward* churches, schools, and other institutions that are right and just.

This the Augustana Ministerium seeks to assist you in doing. Thus, even before our constituting convention we were assisting orthodox Lutheran pastors and congregations in several states through designated and undesignated gifts, as well as helping to fund mission work at home and abroad. That aid has increased since our constituting meeting in September of 2005 and, by God's grace, we look for it to continue to increase, as the need is so great.

To make a tax deductible donation, please make a check payable to The Augustana Ministerium and mail it to:

The Augustana Ministerium
% The Anthony Oncken, Bursar
712 Brandt St.
Grandview, TX 76050

If you have further questions on helping the Augustana Ministerium in regard to financial matters, please contact our Acting Bursar, the Rev. Anthony Oncken, at (224) 627-0405.

If you have theological or general practical questions or wish to join the Augustana

Ministerium, please contact our Legate, the Rev. Dr. Kent Heimbigner, at (817) 426-0783.

If you are (or know of) an orthodox Lutheran pastor in need, you may contact the Rev. Andrew Eckert, our Dean of Pastoral Care at (405) 414-1335.



Administrative Council

Superintendent – to be filled at 2025 Plenary
Rev. Dr. Kent Heimbigner, Legate
Rev. Anthony Oncken, Secretary/Act. Bursar
Bursar – to be filled prior to 2025 Plenary
Rev. Eric Stefanski, Dean of Communications
Dean of Education – tbf at 2025 Plenary
Rt. Rev. James Heiser, Dean of Missions
Rev. Andrew Eckert, Dean of Pastoral Care

The Augustana Ministerium

A pastoral association
formed to preserve and
promote Lutheran pastors
and a distinctively Lutheran
Ministry of Word and
Sacrament to Lutheran
congregations

www.AugustanaMinisterium.org

What Is a Lutheran Ministerium?

A Lutheran ministerium is...*a pastoral association formed to preserve and promote Lutheran pastors and a distinctively Lutheran Ministry of Word and Sacrament to Lutheran congregations.* Our commitment, in line with this purpose, is:

- To provide emergency relief for pastors in crisis and need;
- To help small congregations keep their faithful pastors, even though they are unable to pay a pastor a full-time livable wage;
- To help plant new confessional mission congregations and preaching stations;
- To put ordained pastors who are without a call to serve in a particular place or are on CRM status back into ministry as pastors and teachers in the church;
- To establish, publish, and promote such theological conferences, educational resources, and other materials and events as appear helpful for the meeting of our purpose.

Is a Ministerium a Church?

The Augustana Ministerium is not a fellowship of congregations, but an association of pastors. Thus, it is not a synod or church body or a ‘church within a church’, and each member may leave or join synods as his conscience determines, being informed by the Word of God. A ministerium *does* strive to provide support where synods fail to uphold a sound confession of faith and good practice. A ministerium *does* strive to uphold and support faithful pastors. The work of a ministerium is to support and encourage the pure marks of

the Church (the purely preached Gospel and the rightly administered sacraments, Augsburg Confession VII) regardless of synods and ‘denominations’. A ministerium strives to ensure that faithful pastors and their families will not be abandoned or neglected and that faithful orthodox pastors who are persecuted are defended fairly. The Augustana Ministerium, thus, does not seek to duplicate the functions of a synod or other body, but seeks to pick up where synods cannot or currently will not help.

Is this a Political Action Group?

The interest and activity of the Ministerium are directed toward the day-to-day work of the Law and Gospel, Word and Sacrament ministry among Christ’s people; the synod to which a given member belongs can be a good avenue for confessing the faith once delivered to the saints, or a hindrance to doing so. Thus, members of the Ministerium are free to determine their own synod of membership, involvement in synodical politics, etc., as long as their confession is clear in their words and practices.

Thus, the Augustana Ministerium is not ‘political’ in the usual sense of that word. The Ministerium’s energies and resources are directed toward the Church, which consists of the pastor and people gathered around the Word and Sacrament ministry of Jesus Christ. As its membership is not confined to the members of a certain church body, its activities are not directed toward any institution or synod of human making. Rather, it is focused on the marks of the Church and the confession of Jesus Christ, supporting faithful pastors and parishes. True pastoral oversight (which exists through mutual accountability), missions, outreach, preaching, classical education of children, catechesis, pastoral care, Baptism, and the Divine Service are central

to our concerns and activities. Speaking of these things and speaking to the issues when these are compromised or threatened may be *construed* by some as political activity, but we see such confessing of the faith as the necessary work of pastors and theologians.

Politics is *beside* the point; theology and confession *is* the point.

What Is this Ministerium’s Confession?

The Augustana Ministerium requires of her members a *quia* (not *quatenus*) subscription to the entire *Book of Concord*. For this reason, the Augustana Ministerium also holds to the inspiration and inerrancy of the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments, which requires us also to hold to an exclusively male pastoral office in the Church. The Augustana Ministerium also promotes the use of the historical liturgical orders of the Church, which were received by the Lutheran confessors, as indicated in the *Book of Concord*.

What can I do to help bring relief to pastors and congregations who share this confession?

Our activities, to be effective and comprehensive, will require committed resources from both pastors and laity. The Gospel is God’s free gift, but bringing it to the faithful in this world costs money, talent, and time. Naturally, if congregations, pastors, and individuals give generously to our work, we will be able to support the training and sending of more pastors, which means the planting of more churches and schools. The assurance we give to you is this: whatever we receive will go only to support orthodox Lutheran pastors in their ministry needs, relief to pastors in need, funding to orthodox schools, mission congregations, solid Lutheran publishing, and