

The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



In 2001, The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America entered into a relationship of full communion on the basis of the document “Called to Common Mission,” culminating thirty years of dialogue with one another. In full communion, both churches retain their autonomy and structures but agree to work together for joint mission and witness in the world. Read “Called to Common Mission” at iam.ec/commonmission.

Full Communion

We understand full communion to be a relation between distinct churches in which each recognizes the other as a catholic and apostolic church holding the essentials of the Christian faith. Within this new relation, churches become interdependent while remaining autonomous. Diversity is preserved, but this diversity is not static. Neither church seeks to remake the other in its own image, but each is open to the gifts of the other as it seeks to be faithful to Christ and his mission. They are together committed to a visible unity in the church’s mission to proclaim the Word and administer the Sacraments.

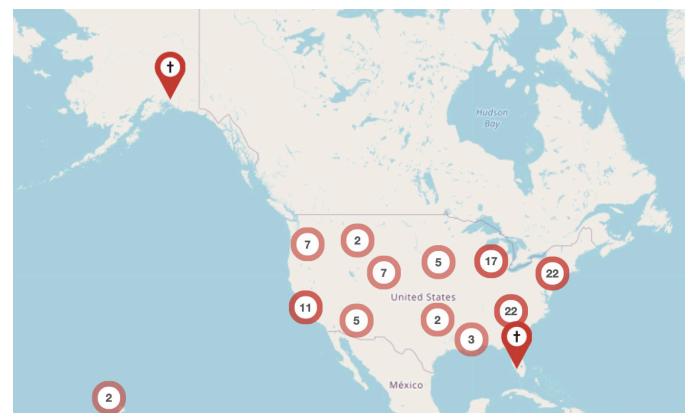
Lutheran-Episcopal Shared Ministries

Lutheran-Episcopal shared ministries are expressions of the full communion relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Episcopal Church. These shared ministries include joint (Federated and

Union) parishes, exchange of clergy, campus ministries as well as shared resources and sometimes even shared staff, as in our two churchwide Washington, D.C., advocacy offices.

Shared Ministries Map

Today there are 65 active parishes serving and sharing the good news of Jesus across the United States. The shared ministries on this asset map include parish churches, campus ministries, public advocacy work, new congregations, and soup kitchens: iam.ec/lemap.



Principles of Orderly Exchange of Pastors and Priests

This document is intended as an aid to synods, dioceses, congregations and church-wide ministry offices in furthering the process of the exchange, on an occasional or extended basis of pastors and priests. This exchange is an important part of the full communion relationship established between The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Read more at iam.ec/oepp.

Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee

The Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee assists in the implementation of this full communion relationship, and supports the ministries listed here through resources and visits, and by providing documents for the exchange of clergy or the federation of congregations: iam.ec/lutheranepiscopal.

Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry

Lutheran-Episcopal Campus ministry includes students from Lutherans, Episcopalians, and other backgrounds alike to point to Jesus and live out his love. All are welcome. Find out what Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry is doing in Baltimore: iam.ec/lecm.



More Resources

Contact our Episcopal and Lutheran staff: The Rev. Margaret Rose, Deputy for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, at mrose@episcopalchurch.org, and Kathryn Lohre, Executive, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations at Office of the Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, at kathryn.lohre@elca.org.

Visit our webpage on the Lutheran-Episcopal relationship at iam.ec/tecelca and the ELCA's Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations webpage at iam.ec/elcaeir.

Meet our committee co-chairs: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Everett Sparks, Bishop of Northern Indiana in The Episcopal Church, and the Rev. Donald P. Kreiss, Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.