



THE AUGUSTANA DISTRICT PASTORAL ENDORSEMENT

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The Augustana District provides a Pastoral Endorsement that can be obtained in addition to LCMC's Certification Process. No Augustana District church is required to call a pastor with this Endorsement, nor is any pastor serving an Augustana District church required to obtain the Endorsement. For pastors, the Endorsement should be considered a helpful designation for those who desire to identify and clarify their pastoral and theological commitments. For churches, the Endorsement should be one of but many considerations when they are in a call process. The Augustana District has identified three areas for the Endorsement – a pastor's theological commitments, his or her morality, and his or her professional competencies – and believes that some call committees will find it beneficial that their pastoral candidates have been examined by an outside body in these areas. The Augustana District Pastoral Endorsement requires a threefold process of application, written materials, and an interview.

The application is a resume and cover letter. Resumes need to include all of the traditional information: educational background, work experience, and references. A cover letter should share information about the applicant's current roster status, why he or she wants to be endorsed by the Augustana District, and what his or her family considerations are.





The written materials to be submitted are of two kinds: a) brief answers to some questions, and b) certain documentation.

a.) Please submit brief answers to the following questions:

1. Reflect on the meaning of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed from the Small Catechism.
2. Discuss the "uses" of the law, and how the law/gospel distinction functions in homiletics and ministry in general.
3. What is a pastor?
4. Describe the way you practice ministry.
5. Describe your understanding of power dynamics between and pastor and a congregation.
6. Tell us about your study habits and devotional practices.
7. Disclosure of anything that would appear in a background check, and/or from a previous call, about which we should be aware.
8. A written subscription to Augustana's and LCMC's Statements of Faith, and respective Constitutions and Bylaws.

b.) Please submit the following documentation:

1. A copy of a sermon.
2. For seminary grads, a total of four assessments of your theology, your character and skill sets, and your readiness for pastoral ministry: two from seminary faculty members, one from the internship supervisor, and one from another person.



The interview includes questions and conversation about:

- Describe your ministry experience.
- Describe your strengths and weaknesses.
- Describe some of the pastoral care you've given.
- Describe the kinds of pastoral conduct that can undermine and obstruct a pastor's role as a public figure and servant.
- Examples of misuse of pastoral power issues, and how they adversely affect ministry.
- Describe the law/gospel distinction in general, and how it applies to preaching.
- Is the applicant in compliance with the ministry standards of the Augustana District?

Interviews are conducted by a member of the Board of Theology and Ministry or its designee. Decisions regarding endorsement status are made by the Board of Theology and Ministry.