

Church membership and the Lutheran school principal

1. It is the policy of the LCA that principals of its schools be active communicant members of the LCA.
2. The rationale for this requirement:
 - a. If schools are part of the mission and ministry ('an integral part of the ministry' according to the model constitution) of the LCA those that lead them must be able to identify in all ways with this mission and ministry
 - b. The principal is required to 'perform to the best of [their] ability the specific duties assigned to [them] by Council and in so doing, seek at all times to promote the aims of the school and build up its distinctive Lutheran character' (*)
 - c. School constitutions require that the Lutheran school operates according to the Confessions of the LCA and this means that those who lead them need to have both a working knowledge and an acceptance of them
 - d. The LCA requires that pastor and principal operate in a spirit of mutual ministry
 - e. The principal is required to provide spiritual and theological leadership to the school
3. The LCA is committed to provide quality Lutherans to undertake the position of principal. This requires planning and resources to ensure adequate provision of principals. Directors work with councils, administrators and educators to ensure that this policy enables Lutheran schools to be all that the LCA requires of them.
4. In the event of a school having to appoint an acting principal the following will apply:
 - It is preferable that an active communicant member of the LCA be appointed as acting principal
 - In the event that a suitable LCA person is not available, the school, in consultation with the regional director, will appoint a committed Christian for up to, but no longer than, one school term as acting principal
 - If this appointment needs to be extended beyond one school term, such an extension would be subject to the approval of the respective Bishop, regional director and the LEA Executive Director
 - A maximum period of two consecutive school terms is permissible upon approval. Any extension of this period would require the approval of the LCA Bishop.
 - Any such appointments will be communicated to the National Leadership Team and be endorsed by the respective Bishop
 - The LCA Bishop will be kept informed of such interim appointments by the LEA Executive Director
 - Any acting principals do not assume all the rights of a regularly appointed principal, such as a delegate at LCA General and District Synods

() Principal / school council letter of agreement*