Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest in the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations (GACAC). As a College of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Gustavus seeks to share its resources with our ministry partners through the GACAC.

We have produced this Information and Membership Handbook as a way to make the resources we offer the congregations easier for you to access. Please take the time to read through the entire booklet and share it with the appropriate leaders in your congregation. For additional copies of this booklet, please contact the Gustavus Office of Church Relations. An online version is available at gustavus.edu/churchrelations/gacac.

If you would like to make use of the resources in this booklet but your congregation is not currently a member of the Gustavus Association of Congregations, we invite you to consider becoming a part of this valuable relational and resource network. For information on the Association of Congregations and how your congregation can become a member, please see pages 6–10.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about these programs as well as other ways in which Gustavus Adolphus College can be of greater service to your congregation. You are always welcome at Gustavus events, especially at worship with our campus community! We cannot tell you how much of a witness and major encouragement it is to us in our calling as a College of the Church when you take the time to visit the campus and participate in the events and ministries we offer.

Thank you for being our partners in faith and learning!

Blessings,

Rev. Grady St. Dennis
Director of Church Relations
stdennis@gustavus.edu
CONTENTS

The College: a brief introduction: our history and mission .................................................. 4

Worship on Campus ........................................................................................................... 5

The Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations (GACAC) ...................... 6

Mission statement ........................................................................................................... 6

Understanding of Association membership ....................................................................... 6

What is the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations? ......................... 6

How does the congregational connection benefit the College? ......................................... 6

Guiding principles of membership in the GACAC ............................................................. 7

Congregational commitments of membership in the GACAC .......................................... 7

Benefits for congregations of membership in the GACAC ............................................... 8

The Association of Congregations Annual Meeting ........................................................... 8

Association Membership ................................................................................................. 10

How to establish membership in the GACAC ................................................................. 10

Resources for Congregations: The College's Outreach Ministry ........................................ 11

Scholarships ..................................................................................................................... 11

Lutheran Leadership Award ........................................................................................... 12

Matching Congregational Scholarship ........................................................................... 12

Program Participation Scholarship ................................................................................. 12

The Retreat Experience .................................................................................................... 13

Confirmation and Youth Retreats .................................................................................... 13

Adult retreats .................................................................................................................. 14

Individual Clergy Sabbath Retreats ................................................................................. 15

A Weekday-at-Gustavus experience for older adults ....................................................... 15

Gustavus Youth Outreach (GYO) ..................................................................................... 16

Partners Program ............................................................................................................. 17

Partners in Education: Adult education or youth education ............................................ 17

Partners in Music ............................................................................................................. 17

Pulpit Supply .................................................................................................................. 18

Exploring Religious Questions Series ............................................................................ 19

Special Events for High School Youth ........................................................................... 20

STEP UP Leadership Development .............................................................................. 20

Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics .............................................................. 20

SleepOUT ....................................................................................................................... 22

Our Communication Connection ...................................................................................... 23

The Spire ......................................................................................................................... 23

Three Crowns Ambassador Program ............................................................................. 23

Association of Congregations Membership Application ............................................... 25

Quick Reference for Reservations & Contact Information ............................................. back page
ABOUT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION: OUR HISTORY AND MISSION

Gustavus Adolphus College was founded in Red Wing, Minn., in 1862 by Swedish Lutheran immigrant pastor Eric Norelius and is the oldest Lutheran college in Minnesota.

“Gustavus Adolphus College is a church-related, residential, liberal arts college firmly rooted in its Swedish and Lutheran heritage. The College aspires to be a community of persons from diverse backgrounds who respect and affirm the dignity of all people. It is a community where a mature understanding of the Christian faith and lives of service are nurtured and students are encouraged to work toward a just and peaceful world.”

Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Gustavus offers a Bachelor of Arts degree. 72 majors are offered in 25 academic departments and 12 interdisciplinary programs. Current enrollment is 2,357. The average class size is 17 students; the College’s student/faculty ratio is 11:1. About 48% of our students self-identify as Lutheran (all Lutheran denominations included); represent 45 different states and 23 countries. 14% of the student population is comprised of racially underrepresented students. (Statistics as of Fall 2016).

The College has always had a strong relational connection to a broad range of communities, not only locally with congregations, but also on the regional, national, and global levels. The same individuals who founded this College also founded other valuable institutions—Vasa Lutheran Church in Welch, Minn.; East Union Lutheran Church in Carver, Minn.; the Vasa Children’s Home which grew into Lutheran Social Services; and the Fairview systems. A quote by Eric Norelius continues to inspire: “Never forget that what we build, we build for one whom we have not yet met.”
WORSHIP ON CAMPUS

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON CAMPUS!
Three ordained chaplains serve the College. During the academic year, opportunities for worship are many, and visitors are always welcome!

• Daily Sabbath | 10 a.m.  
  Monday–Friday  
  No classes are held on campus during this time. (Daily Sabbath on Wednesday is a praise service and a favorite of students on campus.)

• Proclaim! | 9 p.m. | Tuesdays  
  A student-led contemporary worship service usually held in Johnson Student Union

• Sunday Worship | 10:30 a.m.  
  Worship services with Holy Communion are held Sunday mornings when school is in session.

• Evening services weekly or bi-monthly include:  
  Holden evening service, Taizé worship, evening prayer, or Vespers.

Check College calendar online for service information.

The Office of Church Relations and the Office of the Chaplains’ are located in Old Main. When you come to campus to visit or to worship, please stop in to visit.

To alert us to your upcoming visit, we would enjoy a telephone call from you. Please call 507-933-7001, or e-mail church-relations@gustavus.edu.
THE GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS (GACAC)

“"The mission of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations is to strengthen the presence of the Church in the College and the presence of the College in the Church.”

–Association of Congregations Mission Statement

FOR A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR CONGREGATION’S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP:

WHAT IS THE ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS?
The Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations was formed in 1988. At the time of the ELCA merger in 1988, nearly 30 Lutheran colleges and universities previously governed by the LCA and ALC Lutheran church bodies were asked to choose one of three groups to approve their trustees and thereby be involved in their governance: the national churchwide assembly, a regional synod assembly, or an association of congregations convention. Gustavus chose the third option.

HOW DOES THE CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTION BENEFIT THE COLLEGE?
Currently, more than 540 congregations are members of this Association, the only one of its kind in the ELCA. This membership defines the College’s important relational connection with the church. Pastors and lay delegates from the member congregations are our voting members. The Gustavus Association of Congregations elects the College’s Board of Trustees at its annual business meeting each April. Fifty percent of the College’s Board of Trustees, including a minimum of four clergy, must be from Association congregations. The president of the Gustavus Association of Congregations serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees and also as a member of the Executive Committee. The Bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod ELCA also serves on the Board of Trustees. For more information about the Association of Congregations please visit gustavus.edu/churchrelations.
GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE GACAC
The partnership in ministry of the College with Association member congregations depends upon relationship and mutual participation.

• There are no financial commitments for membership in the Association of Congregations.
• Any congregation of the ELCA may join the Association.
• The relationship with Gustavus is neither exclusive nor restrictive—participation does not limit your congregation’s relationship with other colleges.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE GACAC
Congregations manage their Association membership status in the way that suits them best. In some congregations, a pastor takes on the responsibility of membership commitments; in others, a lay person or professional staff member may assume that role. Commitments are basic and important to the College’s church-related status.

• Congregations designate delegates for the annual Association of Congregations Business Meeting held in April. All pastors of member congregations have delegate status; the number of lay delegates is determined by baptized membership—approximately 1:500 members. (See the chart that follows.)
• Congregations annually inform our office (by phone, mail, or e-mail) of staffing and delegate changes in your congregation. Your help in this is needed!
• Delegates attend the annual Association of Congregations Business Meeting. (Guests are welcome, but do not have voting privileges.)
• Delegates serve as goodwill ambassadors in your congregation, both for the College and for Lutheran higher education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baptized Membership</th>
<th># of Lay Delegates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – 750</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>751 – 1250</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1251 – 1750</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Larger congregations are asked to add one lay delegate for each additional 500 members.

Lay delegates come from a variety of roles, including: church council members; volunteer congregational leadership; Gustavus or Lutheran college alumni; parents of Gustavus students; or friends of Gustavus or Lutheran higher education.
BENEFITS FOR CONGREGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE GACAC

Member congregations are entitled to any of the resources listed in this handbook, including:

- Scholarships
- On-campus retreats (youth and/or adult)
- Partners in Education
- Partners in Music
- Gustavus Youth Outreach
- Pulpit supply
- Outreach Partnership resources

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE GACAC ANNUAL MEETING AT GUSTAVUS

When delegates come to campus on a Saturday in April to help us with the business of the College, we want to give back to you in a way that is both meaningful to you and helpful to your congregation. Since the beginning of the Association, it has been our goal to provide a day that is enriching for the participants, both personally and spiritually, and to provide information and tools that your congregation can use. Each year a theme is chosen which celebrates our Lutheran heritage, the congregation connection, and higher education. The GACAC Annual Business Meeting is held on the same day in conjunction with the Faith Conference. Delegates are not required to attend the Faith Conference portion of the day, but are invited and encouraged to do so.

The schedule for the day is subject to change, but includes the following:

**GACAC Annual Business Meeting:** Delegates pre-register for the day; some bring guests (also pre-registered) to share the day. Guests might include a spouse, a co-worker in ministry, or an interested friend. Typically, a meal is shared during the business meeting. There is no charge for the delegate or guest. While guests are welcome to attend, voting privileges are reserved for registered delegates. (For more information on congregational delegates, see page 7.)

Prior to the business meeting, you will check in and receive a packet of information and voting materials. During our business meeting, a welcome will be given by the President of the College and the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The Covenant Award, recognizing significant contributions to the life and growth of the College and the Church, is presented. Delegates will vote on any business matters before the Association.
Faith Conference: All are welcome to attend. However, pre-registration is requested for all participants so that we can plan accordingly. The Faith Conference begins with a joyous morning worship service in Christ Chapel featuring Gustavus musicians and a guest homilist. Immediately following worship, we will hear from keynote speakers selected based on the theme of the day.

To pre-register for the GACAC Annual Business Meeting and/or the Faith Conference see registration information at gustavus.edu/churchrelations or phone 507-933-7001.

Example schedule for day's events:

9:30 a.m.  Worship in Christ Chapel
10:30 a.m.  Featured Speaker
11:30 a.m.  Featured Speaker
12:30 p.m.  Faith Conference concludes
(Those attending only the Faith Conference depart. Delegates attending the GACAC Annual Business Meeting check in at Alumni Hall in Johnson Student Union)

12:45 p.m.  Check-in/Registration for GACAC Annual Business Meeting

1 p.m.  GACAC Annual Business Meeting with luncheon for delegates and guests

2:30 p.m.  Conclude for the day
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

HOW TO ESTABLISH MEMBERSHIP
Membership in the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations is free of charge and open to all congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Congregational membership should be requested by your pastor or council president.

To establish membership for your congregation, simply complete an application form and return it from your church office to the Office of Church Relations at Gustavus Adolphus College. (If you would prefer to do this quickly and electronically, please contact us at 507-933-7001 for instructions and an application in digital format.)

- Membership may be established either by the decision of your pastor or by a vote of your council or congregation.

- Designate a representative from your congregation who will serve as the contact person for your congregation’s Association membership, responsible for helping to name lay delegates and keeping our office advised of changes in staff and names of delegates, usually done after your congregation’s annual meeting each year. (This person may be your church secretary, might be an alumnus, may be your delegate, or may want to be a Three Crowns Ambassador volunteer. To learn more about the Three Crowns Ambassador program, please see pages 23–24.)

- Return the completed application form to the Office of Church Relations at Gustavus Adolphus College.

- Once established by a congregation of the ELCA, membership and all rights, privileges, and resources available are ongoing. In accordance with the College’s church-related status and the College constitution, membership is limited to ELCA congregations.

If you have questions not answered in this handbook regarding the Association, please contact the Office of Church Relations at Gustavus:
Phone: 507-933-7001 or 800-726-6194
E-mail: church-relations@gustavus.edu

MEMBERSHIP FORM
The membership form is located on pages 25–26.
RESOURCE GUIDE TO OUR OUTREACH MINISTRY

RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONS
As a partner in ministry with Gustavus, Association member congregations are entitled to a number of resources, as they are available. These include (but are not limited to):

Scholarships

Retreats
- On-campus youth retreats (day or overnight)
- On-campus adult retreats (day or overnight)
- Pastor Sabbath retreats
- Weekday-at-Gustavus for older adults

Partners Program
- Partners in Education
- Partners in Music
- Partnership resources
- Pulpit supply

Gustavus Youth Outreach (on campus or in your congregation)

We are pleased to share the resources of Gustavus Adolphus College with our ministry partners through the Association of Congregations. This Resource Guide has been created to provide a listing of the resources that are available for your congregation.

To make reservations, to inquire, or for more detailed information, please contact the Office of Church Relations by phone or at 507-933-7001, or by e-mail at church-relations@gustavus.edu.

If you would like to make use of the resources in this guide but your ELCA congregation is not currently a member of the Association of Congregations, we invite you to consider becoming a part of this outreach of Lutheran higher education. Refer to page 8 for details regarding Association membership.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Scholarships are available for students from Association member congregations. Gustavus provides education in the liberal arts and sciences within a spiritual context. The tradition has grown through the years and continues today in the College’s strong relationship with the ELCA. In recognition of the valuable work done by congregations of the Association and their support of Lutheran higher education, and in addition to other scholarships for which a student may qualify, Gustavus provides two very meaningful scholarships to students who are active in their home congregations.
• **Lutheran Leadership Award:** Renewable scholarships of $250-$2,000 are awarded to Lutheran students who are active in member congregations of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations. These students are nominated and recommended by their pastor or an Association delegate. The specific award amount may vary, based on financial need. The application priority deadline is May 1.

• **Matching Congregational Scholarship:** Funds from an established scholarship awarded by a student’s home congregation (regardless of a church’s denomination) will be matched by Gustavus in the amount up to $1,000 annually. To qualify for the match, written notification from the congregation indicating the dollar amount must be received by May 1, annually; and the home congregation must forward the funds to Gustavus each year by September 1 for the student to qualify for the matching funds.

• **Program Participation Scholarship:** High school students who participate in STEP UP Leadership Development and/or Gustavus Academy will be eligible to receive a $500 annually renewable tuition scholarship (up to $2,000).

For more information on these scholarships and any other financial aid questions, please contact the financial aid office at 800-GUSTAVUS or learn more at admission.gustavus.edu/admissions/financialaid/scholarships.asp.
THE RETREAT EXPERIENCE
In relational ministry, few experiences compare to that of a retreat. A well-planned retreat makes time for social connections and sharing, constructive working together, group discussion, intellectual stimulation, and spiritual and physical renewal.

Retreats are our most popular on-campus resource. We welcome our Association ministry partners to campus to enjoy day and overnight retreats. We have programs in place for confirmation-age groups and for high school youth as well as for adults—church councils, staffs, congregational planning teams, men’s and women’s groups, and older adults.

Special memories and bonding connections are made by youth and adults alike during retreats. Encourage friendship-building and renewal in your retreat at Gustavus!

CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH RETREATS
Gustavus welcomes confirmation classes and youth groups from congregations to campus for one-day or overnight retreats during the academic year. Over 1,500 youth retreat annually at Gustavus in our confirmation and youth retreat programs.

Many campus facilities are available for use during retreats. Classrooms are available for meeting space, and use of the athletic facilities (including swimming pool) is usually available. A hostel is available for overnight housing. We will help plan for meals and snacks through the College’s Dining Service, and the group bears responsibility for the cost. A student-to-leader ratio should be 6:1 or better. Your leader will closely work with a Gustavus student coordinator to carefully plan your retreat in advance.

You will be met upon arrival by a Gustavus student, and there will be a brief campus tour as soon as possible after your arrival (in daylight) for all student retreat groups to orient them to locations of campus facilities. Your leaders are responsible for programming. GYO may be available to help with programming during a portion of your retreat.

Reservations should be made a minimum of 6–8 weeks in advance (more if requesting GYO). A group flat rate of $30–$100 will be charged, depending on the size of your group. Meal costs are not included in the retreat rate. A $50 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your requested date and will be applied to final billing. Retreats during the academic year may be booked up to one year in advance.

For reservations, phone 507-933-7001 or contact confirmation-retreats@gustavus.edu

When making reservations, please be sure to indicate date, congregation name and address, contact person and contact information, and group size.
ADULT RETREATS

Gustavus’s Association of Congregations Retreat Center is a welcoming and comfortable place in which to renew relationships or develop new ones, both for one-day and overnight retreats. Groups such as church councils, church staffs, women’s groups, and men’s groups often retreat on campus at the Retreat Center.

The Retreat Center has seven bedrooms and 17 beds. In addition to separate meeting areas for social bonding time as well as for group discussions and constructive work sessions, the facility has a small kitchen for light refreshments, and a conference room equipped with computer, white board, easel, and TV/DVD. A multi-media projector is also available upon request.

Meals are not included in the retreat cost but are available through the campus Dining Service. Our staff is available to help you with accommodations and arrangements for your retreat.

A $75 non-refundable deposit is required for all adult retreats, to reserve your requested date. A group flat rate will be charged for day retreats of groups from Association congregations. The deposit will be applied to final billing. Meal costs are not included in retreat rates. Retreats scheduled during the academic year may be booked up to one year in advance.

For reservations, phone 507-933-7001 or contact retreat-center@gustavus.edu

When making reservations, please be sure to indicate date, congregation name and address, contact person and contact information, and group size.
INDIVIDUAL CLERGY SABBATH RETREATS
Gustavus welcomes individual clergy to the Association of Congregations Retreat Center for a time of personal retreat. Take time for self care! Make time for relaxation, reflection, and intellectual and physical renewal. Come enjoy the comfort and quiet of the Retreat Center. There is no charge for the Association pastor; advanced booking is necessary.

Personal retreats are usually scheduled during the week, and not available when group retreats are scheduled in the Retreat Center. The recreation facility and pool are also available for the pastor (special hours may apply). Meals are available in the College’s excellent Dining Service at the pastor’s cost. The cafeteria is open all day, from 7 a.m.–11 p.m., during the academic year. Our staff is available to help you with accommodations and other arrangements needed.

To be noted: The Retreat Center is not available during signature events on campus, and not available when a retreat group is scheduled. During June, July, and August availability may be limited based on use of the Retreat Center by Summer Programs. Normal charges apply for an additional guest. Pastors are welcome to enjoy campus events during their stay.

For reservations, phone 507-933-7001 or contact retreat-center@gustavus.edu.

OLDER ADULT RETREATS
A Weekday-at-Gustavus social event for retired adult groups
This special program welcomes retired adult groups to experience a day on campus at Gustavus. The programming for each day retreat is planned by group planners working with our staff. Come to enjoy daily Chapel (during the academic year), interaction with current students from your campus, and lunch.

The experience includes one special highlight/presentation. This might include a presentation by a Gustavus faculty member. After a white-tablecloth lunch in the College buffet, a walk through the art museum might be an enjoyable activity. If mobility is not an issue, a walk through Linnaeus Arboretum might be enjoyable.

The cost is $15 per person for groups of 20 or more. (Additional costs may apply for additional presentations requested.)

For reservations or inquiries, phone 507-933-7001 or contact retreat-center@gustavus.edu.

When making reservations, please be sure to indicate date, congregation name and address, contact person and contact information, and group size.
GUSTAVUS YOUTH OUTREACH (GYO)
Gustavus Youth Outreach is a student-led outreach ministry at Gustavus, a student organization dedicated to sharing the gospel with young Christians. Members come from a variety of Christian backgrounds.

Teams of approximately 10 members meet weekly or bi-weekly on campus. On weekends, team volunteers work with groups both off and on campus. Teams travel to area congregations for evening or overnight bookings with youth groups, or they work with a segment of programming for retreat groups on campus.

Off-campus bookings include planned lock-ins, family nights, retreats for young adults, and worship assistance. Teams utilize a variety of skills, including camp music, Bible studies, skits and games. GYO will help with programming for your event, and the congregation should provide chaperones. GYO teams are not trained to deal with discipline issues.

GYO Booking Options:
1. GYO Youth Ministry Support: GYO student-led teams will help with congregation youth events by sharing faith testimonies, leading games, songs, and bible studies. ($25/hour booked with a 2-hour minimum, plus mileage. Rates are subject to change.)

2. GYO LWR Service Project: GYO student-led teams will organize and lead a youth service project event to pack school kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). GYO will provide all materials, lead youth in service project reflection exercise, and deliver kits to Lutheran World Relief. ($30 flat rate, plus mileage, and $6/school kit packed. There is a minimum school kit pack of 50 school kits and a maximum of 300 school kits. Rates are subject to change.)

In addition, the congregation is asked to cover expenses of the team: mileage (roundtrip for van transportation, about 64 cents per mile or the rate charged by our campus motor pool); meals and housing (if necessary); cost of special materials required; and other expenses of the team while they are visiting. For overnight bookings, a safe, quiet place for the driver to sleep will also be needed.

GYO bookings are available October, November, and January–April (limited availability during spring break, and limited availability during January Interim). A $50 deposit is required for off-campus bookings, to be applied to mileage costs. A booking request form is available at gustavus.edu/orgs/gyo.

For more information about GYO, contact Church Relations. You may e-mail the organization: youthoutreach@gustavus.edu. Bookings are assigned first-come, first served. Mail the request form with your deposit.
PARTNERS PROGRAM

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Adult Education or Youth Education:

As an extension of our outreach ministry, we are pleased to make available presentations for adult forums, adult education classes, high school youth groups, youth leaders, workshops, and seminars. Each presentation is typically 45–90 minutes in length. Congregations can schedule as many presentations as they desire, and as many as the speakers’ schedules can accommodate.

Over 30 speakers are available to bring presentations on a great number of topics (and from a variety of categories) to congregations. Our presenters include professors, instructors, administrators, chaplains and pastors, and even students.

Is there a topic or presentation your congregation is interested in? Categories might include (but are not limited to):

- Art, the arts, and literature
- Bible
- Cultivating leadership
- Lessons from history
- Lutheran studies
- National issues, global issues
- Relationships and skills for living
- Religion, faiths of the world, religious movements
- The inside scoop on being ready for college
- Environmental issues, sustainability
- Health and health issues
- Spirituality
- Stewardship
- Scandinavia/Scandinavians
- Worship & Music

Honoraria for presentations are the responsibility of the congregation. The congregation is also responsible for the mileage reimbursement of the speaker (at the current IRS rate per mile). Both honoraria and mileage are payable directly to the speaker on the day of the presentation.

For inquiries, call our office, or e-mail church-relations@gustavus.edu. To schedule a presentation, please call 507-933-7001; please provide two or more dates of choice for the presenter to consider, as well as length of expected presentation and the number of participants that might be expected in your group or class.

PARTNERS IN MUSIC

Our student musicians are enthusiastic about sharing their talents in worship services or on special occasions. Availability is limited, however, and bookings are requested a minimum of eight weeks in advance to coordinate with student schedules and to appropriately prepare the selections.

Since groups usually must leave campus quite early for set up and sound checks and often do not return until mid-afternoon, congregations are encouraged to
provide musicians with some sort of a meal during their visit. Congregations are responsible for travel costs associated with performances, and the suggested honoraria for the musicians are based on size of performance group and number of services.

Checks should be made payable to Gustavus Adolphus College and given to the students or conductor at the service.

**Ensembles include:**

- **Vocal groups:** Duets, trios, quartets (men’s, women’s, mixed). Soloists also available. Gustavus Choir and Choir of Christ Chapel inquiries will be forwarded, as appropriate, and coordinated with area tours.

- **Instrumental groups:** Ensembles of brass, flute and woodwind, chamber music, string quartets, and others. Soloists and duets. Gustavus Wind Orchestra and Gustavus Symphony Orchestra inquiries will be forwarded, as appropriate, and coordinated with the groups’ area tours.

- **Organists, instrumental, and vocal soloists.**

- **Taizé worship experience:** Taizé worship services are contemplative in nature, using music, silence, and prayer to provide space for worship in the simple, ecumenical tradition of the Taizé community in France. Partners in Music can provide a Taizé worship experience for your congregation or work with your musicians to create one. *(Supply pastor compensation applies.)*

- **Choral Music Clinics** may be possible by our professors of music and directors. The professor can work with congregational choirs, or they might participate in church music consultations with parish worship committees. *(Partners in Education guidelines apply.)*

For reservations or inquiries, phone 507-933-7001 or e-mail church-relations@gustavus.edu.

**PULPIT SUPPLY**

Gustavus has a limited number of pastors and lay preachers available for pulpit supply in congregations. Normal honorarium (as published by Synod) and mileage (as per IRS guidelines) are acceptable compensation.

Most successful requests are made at least one month in advance. Please contact us with your requests and specific information about service time(s), and whether an ordained person is required for the assignment.

For reservations or inquiries, phone 507-933-7001 or contact church-relations@gustavus.edu.
EXPLORING RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS SERIES

In the fall 2008, we launched a new program—our first not-for-credit minicourse for adults, held in four sessions on Monday evenings on campus. In many congregations, Sunday morning forums are the only opportunity for adult education, and a 50-minute adult forum works well for some topics, but other subjects benefit from more sustained attention.

The Exploring Religious Questions Series provides an opportunity for deeper study, bringing a speaker or speakers in for multiple presentations on a given topic, with extra time for questions and discussion, and for those wishing to delve even deeper into the topics, time in between the sessions for related readings.

Some of our past topics have included:
“Sorting Out Conflicting Approaches to the Bible”
“Hope in a Time of Anxiety and Crisis”
“Engaging Natural Science and Religion”
“The Dead Sea Scrolls, Jesus, and Judaism”
“God’s Purpose and Our Role in the World”
“Creeds, Beliefs & Life Today”
“Politics & Religion: Sorting Things Out”
“Christianity & Judaism after the Holocaust”

The minicourse is held on campus twice a year, fall and winter. A minimal cost is charged, and due to limited seating, participants are asked to register in advance. Most materials are included, as well as evening refreshments.

Information about upcoming series, including registration form, is available on the campus website at www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations. For questions, phone 507-933-7001.
SPECIAL EVENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

STEP UP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
Gustavus offers a leadership development resource for high school youth. STEP UP is a day-long experience that introduces youth to college level concepts of leadership and helps them develop a stronger personal plan for continuing to grow as a leader. The day includes three seminars focused on actively engaging students as they learn valuable skills and expand their vision for potential leadership possibilities. Participants receive a certificate from Gustavus Adolphus College acknowledging the completion of the STEP UP leadership curriculum. The cost for the day, per student, is minimal (to cover cost of lunch and t-shirt). Adult chaperones attend at no charge.

Students who participate in STEP UP Leadership Development and/or Gustavus Academy attend Gustavus will be eligible to receive a $500 annually renewable tuition scholarship (up to $2,000).

Pre-registration is required. For more information about the schedule, speakers, or to register please visit: gustavus.edu/churchrelations/stepup, or contact Church Relations at 507-933-7001 or email stepup@gustavus.edu.

GUSTAVUS ACADEMY FOR FAITH, SCIENCE, AND ETHICS
We are excited to offer a summer learning opportunity for high school students in your congregation. Gustavus Adolphus College was recently awarded a Theology Institutes for High School Youth grant from the Lilly Foundation to create the Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics. The Gustavus Academy offers participants opportunities to: experience a variety of Lutheran spiritual and liturgical practices; reflect on their faith, discern their gifts, and explore their sense of calling; read and discuss biblical and theological texts; interact with leading scientists and outstanding theologians who are contributing to creative alliances between religion and science and helping to solve ethical problems; hear presentations by top scientists and theologians who grapple with ethical questions and can speak thoughtfully about connections between their faith, work, and daily life; and strengthen communication skills.

We will select high school students with leadership potential from the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations to participate in the Gustavus Academy. The selected students will become Academy Fellows and will participate in a weeklong summer program on the Gustavus campus. Scholarships are available to assist with program fees and/or travel costs.

By exploring intersections among faith, science, and ethics, our theology institute will attract and serve the needs of many young people today. Furthermore, by
housing the program at an ELCA-related college with networks across the wider church, the Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics will also help build up a national cadre of young and wise leaders who can speak from the heart about their faith and values, advocate for justice here and abroad, and use their gifts and talents to contribute to the common good.

You may nominate one or more students from your congregation who meet the follow in criteria:

- Outstanding student who has completed 9th, 10th, or 11th grade by June of the program year
- Active in Congregation
- Demonstrates leadership potential
- Interested in theological questions, scientific inquiry, and ethical concerns.

In an effort to assemble a diverse learning community for the Gustavus Academy, please pay special attention to gender, socioeconomic, and race when making nominations.

We will contact all nominated students with an invitation to apply for the Gustavus Academy. Students may also apply without nomination.

Students who participate in the Gustavus Academy and/or STEP UP Leadership Development attend Gustavus will be eligible to receive a $500 annually renewable tuition scholarship (up to $2,000).

For information on the Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics summer program, nomination procedures, and application process, please visit the website: gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy or email faithandscience@gustavus.edu.
SLEEP OUT!
Pastor Grady St. Dennis, along with political science professor Dr. Richard Leitch, host the SleepOUT every other year in the fall, to raise awareness of homelessness and learn about hunger issues, and to think about what is being done and what can be done to end hunger and homelessness in our communities. There is no charge for the event. Participants should wear clothing appropriate for the weather and the event.

Upcoming events are planned for the fall of 2017 and 2019.

The registration form is available online, as well as information and expectations for all participants, at www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations. To register, e-mail church-relations@gustavus.edu or phone 507-933-7001.
OUR COMMUNICATION CONNECTION

THE SPIRE

*The Spire* is the newsletter of Church Relations, helping us in our mission to strengthen the presence of the Church in the College and the presence of the College in the Church. Typically published three times each year, it contains information about featured campus events, upcoming youth and adult events of interest to congregations, news of the outreach of the Office of Church Relations, and other items that help keep us in maintaining our connection with congregations.

Throughout the year we share program and upcoming events information via e-mail. If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please forward your name and e-mail to church-relations@gustavus.edu.

THE THREE CROWNS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

What is a Three Crowns Ambassador?

The mission of Gustavus (as well as the other Lutheran colleges) complements congregational ministry. Gustavus makes numerous resources available for congregations because we consider ourselves to be your partner in ministry. The challenge we face, however, is in effectively communicating the availability of these resources to congregations.

The Three Crowns Ambassador Program is a program established so that every Association member congregation might have a designated representative to shepherd their congregation’s relationship with Gustavus. Ambassadors support Gustavus by serving as goodwill ambassadors for the College and Lutheran higher education in the congregation. The Three Crowns Ambassador Program provides a clear structure for these efforts.

The real power of the Church-College connection is embodied in our very real, personal relationships and involvement in actual Church-College events. The church-relatedness of Gustavus is intentional as well as a key part of the College’s foundation. In this relationship, we strive to find new ways of working more closely to help each other live out our callings. Ambassador volunteers help to keep their congregation informed of resources available and of events, which is central in our mission to strengthen the presence of the Church in the College and the presence of the College in the Church.

**Being a Three Crowns Ambassador involves three core responsibilities:**

- **Advocate** for Lutheran higher education in general and Gustavus in particular.
- **Maintain** the clergy and delegate list for your congregation, and personally **encourage** attendance at the GACAC Annual Meeting and Faith Conference.
- **Promote** participation and involvement at key Gustavus community events.
How is the role of Three Crowns Ambassador different from a delegate?
Both roles are extremely important. Both are advocates for Gustavus and for Lutheran higher education. The delegate is a voting representative of the congregation at the annual meeting, in a relationship clearly outlined by the constitution and by-laws of the Association in regard to the College’s governance. For some delegates, annual attendance of the Business Meeting is the limit of the commitment. For other delegates, who wish for a deeper relationship, the Three Crowns Ambassador role provides the framework for growing a more engaged connection with Gustavus.

If you would like to serve your congregation as a Three Crowns Ambassador to Gustavus, please contact us at 507-933-7001 or e-mail church-relations@gustavus.edu.
Congregation Name: _________________________________________

Mailing Address: ___________________________________________

Synod: _____________________________________________________

Office Phone Number: _______________________________________

E-mail Contact Address: _____________________________________

Baptized membership of congregation: ________________________

Clergy and Staff Roster: Include Name/Title/Telephone/E-mail
(clergy/ordained & lay staff)
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

Lay Delegate Allotment

The number of lay delegates is determined by the following guidelines:
(Note: All pastors have delegate status)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baptized Membership</th>
<th># of Lay Delegates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–750</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>751–1250</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1250–1750</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1751–2250</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each additional 500 Members</td>
<td>Add 1 Delegate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(application continued on back)
Congregation Lay Delegates:
(Include Name/Home Address/City/State/ZIP/Telephone/E-mail)

_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

Updates to the above staff and lay delegate list will be requested in January each year. Staff will receive communication at the church address. Lay delegates will receive communication, including the annual business meeting invitation, at their home addresses.

Signature of Applicant: ________________________________

Applicant Title: ________________________________

Date: ________________________________

THANK YOU!

Please return this completed form to:
Gustavus Adolphus College
Attn: Church Relations
800 West College Avenue
Saint Peter, MN 56082
QUICK REFERENCE FOR RESERVATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

For all program or general inquiries, to make reservations, or to receive additional information regarding any of the resources listed in this booklet, please contact:

Gustavus Adolphus College
The Office of Church Relations
800 West College Avenue
Saint Peter, MN 56082

Phone: 507-933-7001 or 800-726-6194
E-mail: church-relations@gustavus.edu
Website: gustavus.edu/churchrelations

When making reservations, please be sure to indicate date, congregation name and address, contact person and contact information, and group size.

Adult Retreat Programs
507-933-7001
retreat-center@gustavus.edu

Confirmation Retreats Program
507-933-7001
confirmation-retreats@gustavus.edu

Exploring Religious Questions Series
507-933-7001
church-relations@gustavus.edu

Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics
507-933-7001
faithandscience@gustavus.edu

Gustavus Youth Outreach
507-933-7001
youthoutreach@gustavus.edu

Partners Program
507-933-7001
church-relations@gustavus.edu

STEP UP Leadership Development
507-933-7001
stepup@gustavus.edu