

ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK 2014-2016



A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR MEMBER CONGREGATIONS
INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE | St. Peter, Minnesota | 1-800-GUSTAVUS | gustavus.edu

ASSOCIATION WELCOME & GREETING



Dear Friend in Christ,

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.

This new Information and Membership Handbook has been prepared as a way to help us serve you better and help you understand the resources we offer to the congregation and how to access them. We hope you will read through this handbook and share it with the appropriate leaders in your congregation. For additional copies, please contact Church Relations in the Gustavus Center for Servant Leadership. The handbook is also available on the Gustavus website.

If your congregation is an ELCA congregation that would like to make use of the resources in this booklet but is not currently a member of the Gustavus Association of Congregations, we invite you to become 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 4–8.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about these programs as well as new ideas you have 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 great 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. St. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Director for Church Relations and College Chaplain

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ABOUT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION: OUR HISTORY AND MISSION

Gustavus Adolphus College was founded in Red Wing, MN, 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), the degree offered is a Bachelor of Arts. 75 majors are offered in 24 academic departments and 3 interdisciplinary programs. The average class size is 15 students; the College’s student/faculty ratio is 11:1. Our student body of 2,471 students self-identifies as 51% Lutheran (all Lutheran branches included); they represent 41 different states and 20 countries (15% of the student population are minority students).

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, MN; East Union Lutheran Church in Carver, MN; 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 Alumni Hall, Johnson Student Union
- Evening services weekly or bi-monthly include:
Holden evening service, Taizé worship, evening prayer, or Sacred Space. (Check calendar online.)



Besides serving as college chaplain, the Rev. Grady St. Dennis is Director for Church Relations in the Center for Servant Leadership. When you come to campus to visit or to worship, please stop in to visit with Pastor Grady or with the Assistant Director for Church Relations, Sara Masters. Both have offices in the Center for Servant Leadership, in the Johnson Student Union.

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, now 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. To view the Association of Congregations Covenant Statement which further defines the College’s relationship with the Church, please visit the College’s website: 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.

Baptized Membership	# of Lay Delegates
1 – 750	1
751 – 1250	2
1251 – 1750	3

*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 personally and a help to your congregation. Each year a theme is chosen, typically celebrating our Lutheran heritage, the congregation connection, and higher education, and the day is built around that theme.

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

Delegates pre-register for the day; some bring guests (also pre-registered), who may be a spouse, a friend or co-worker in ministry, or a friend to share the day with. There is no charge for breakfast for the delegate and guest(s).

Arrive and check in at **Registration**, and receive a packet of information and voting materials. During our **Business Meeting**, delegates will be welcomed over breakfast by the President of the College and the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The Covenant Award will be presented, recognizing significant contributions to the life and growth of the College and the Church.

Following the breakfast Business Meeting, all are welcome for the **Gustavus Faith Conference**, celebrating the Church-College connection. There is no charge for the Faith Conference, but there will be a charge for the bag lunch.

- **Morning Worship** is held in Christ Chapel and is joyous and uplifting.
- **Faith Conference Keynote Address** will feature a special guest speaker to address the theme.
- **Lunch will be a bag lunch.** You will have the opportunity to visit with others from your congregation and perhaps to connect with old friends and to meet new ones from other congregations. (Pre-registration will ensure we have enough lunches available.)

- **An afternoon session** rounds out the Faith Conference. Our goal is to create a meaningful experience that you can share with others in your congregation, perhaps in a report at a council meeting, in an adult education forum, or in fellowship over coffee.
- **By mid-afternoon**, the event will end with a closing reception—prayer, light refreshments, and a glass of punch or water and time to say good-bye to friends.



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 Center for Servant Leadership–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 21–22.)
- Return the completed application form to the Center for Servant Leadership–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 Church Relations in the Center for Servant Leadership 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 23–24.

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 Center for Servant Leadership–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.

(Continued on page 10)



- **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.

For more information on these scholarships and any other financial aid questions, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 800-GUSTAVUS or online 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 (a donation to their ministry is requested).

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. 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 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.

The congregation is asked to cover expenses of the team: mileage (roundtrip for van transportation, about 62 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. To defray miscellaneous expenses of this outreach ministry (including training and planning meetings), an offering is appreciated.

GYO bookings are available October, November, and January–April (limited availability during spring break, and limited availability during January Interim). A \$30 deposit is required for off-campus bookings, to be applied to mileage costs. An online reservation form is available on the CSL/Church Relations website.

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. A partial menu of topics available will be found online at gustavus.edu/churchrelations.

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

In an effort to make this resource accessible to Association member congregations, CSL-Church Relations will cover the speaker honorarium (\$150) for the first presentation in the congregation each academic year, as resources allow. Honoraria for subsequent presentations, or for a second presentation on the same day, are the responsibility of the congregation. For all presentations, the congregation is responsible for the mileage reimbursement of the speaker (at the current IRS rate per mile), to be 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 five 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.

FAITH CONFERENCE

FAITH CONFERENCE, AN EVENT FOR ALL AT GUSTAVUS

Our annual Business Meeting Day at Gustavus is a day filled with spiritual riches, and not limited to an audience of delegates of the GACAC. Since the beginning of the Association, it has been our goal to provide a meaningful day for all who attend—a day to lift you up personally and spiritually and to provide information and tools that your congregation can use.

Many congregations have numerous members of the congregation attending this uplifting daylong event. Increasingly, church councils use the day to retreat together.

Each year a theme is chosen, typically celebrating our Lutheran heritage, the congregation connection, and higher education, and the day is built around that theme. All are welcome to attend the day's events, essentially a faith conference. These events will begin with joyous morning worship, will include a special keynote speaker, lunch, and end with an afternoon session—all developing a conference theme. There is no cost for the event, with the exception of the price of a bag lunch (*please pre-register so that we have enough bag lunches available*).

To pre-register, see Faith Conference form at www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations or phone 507-933-7001.

The day's events include:

- **Morning Worship** in Christ Chapel
- **Keynote Address**, featuring a very special guest speaker.
- **Lunch** will be a bag lunch outdoors or in one of the dining rooms. You will have the opportunity to visit with delegates and friends from your congregation and other congregations, perhaps to connect with old friends and to meet new ones. (charges apply)
- **Afternoon session(s)**, in the spirit of a faith conference, will provide time for thought, for interaction, and will more fully develop the theme of the day. Our goal is to create a meaningful experience that you can share with others in your congregation, perhaps at a Council meeting, in an adult education forum, or over coffee—and that you will go home spiritually well fed!
- **Closing reception**, light refreshments, and a cool beverage. By mid-afternoon, the event will end. A closing prayer, light refreshments, and a glass of punch or bottle of water and time to say good-bye to friends will send you on your way.



SPECIAL EVENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DAY AT GUSTAVUS

Gustavus hosts Student Leadership Day in the spring, a day of intentional leadership development for both student leaders and youth leaders. All who attend will learn valuable skills and expand their vision and potential for leadership possibilities. The day will feature keynote addresses, worship, and music; youth will also participate in small and large group discussions, facilitated by Gustavus students, where they will share thoughts and bond with one another as they consider how their own leadership skills may be developed for use in their congregations, schools and communities.

For youth leaders, the day will include practical ideas on growing a vibrant youth ministry.

The cost for the day is minimal, to cover the cost of lunch.

To pre-register, see Student Leadership Day form at www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations, e-mail church-relations@gustavus.edu, or phone 507-933-7001.



SLEEP OUT!

Pastor Grady St. Dennis, along with political science professor Dr. Richard Leitch, host the annual SleepOUT 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.

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 Center for Servant Leadership and Church Relations, and other items that help keep us in maintaining our connection with congregations.

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 in 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.

**GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF
CONGREGATIONS APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**



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)

Baptized Membership	# of Lay Delegates
1-750	1
751-1250	2
1250-1750	3
1751-2250	4
Each additional 500 Members	Add 1 Delegate

(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 convention invitation, at their home addresses.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Applicant Title: _____

Date: _____

THANK YOU!

Please return this completed form to:

Gustavus Adolphus College

Attn: CSL-Church Relations

800 West College Avenue

St. 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 Center for Servant Leadership–Church Relations
800 West College Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

To make reservations

Phone: 507-933-7001 or 800-726-6194

E-mail: church-relations@gustavus.edu

Fax: 507-933-6337

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.

CHURCH RELATIONS STAFF IN THE CENTER FOR SERVANT LEADERSHIP



The Rev. Grady St. Dennis '92

Director for Church Relations
and College Chaplain
stdennis@gustavus.edu



Sara Masters

Assistant Director for Church Relations
smasters@gustavus.edu

Our staff is supported by the assistance of a number of student employees. Their knowledge and experience in working with retreats and our outreach programs will help you to have a wonderful experience visiting Gustavus.



CENTER FOR SERVANT LEADERSHIP

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

Church Relations
800 W. College Ave.
St. Peter, MN 56082

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